

## **PILN Bulletin, 24 May 2007**

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In this Bulletin:

- 1. FLAC is recruiting for Policy and Campaigns Officer**
- 2. SICCDA event on challenge of growing sustainable communities, July 07**
- 3. FLAC takes case to the Committee on Social Rights re Free Travel for Elderly**
- 4. Criminal Justice Bill 2007 implications on the right to silence**
- 5. TCD organising conference on 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Irish Constitution**
- 6. Dublin Solicitors Bar Association Bursary to enable students to qualify as solicitor**
- 7. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance – third report on Ireland**

Attached files:

- a) Paper presented by Michael Farrell, Senior Solicitor, to conference on 'The Criminal Justice Bill, 2007: Implications for Law and Practice', School of Law, TCD – 9 May 2007, on 'The Right to Silence and the Criminal Justice Bill, 2007'.**
- b) Article on FLAC's case to European Committee on Social Rights re pensioners' right to free travel.**

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### **1. FLAC advertising position of Policy and Campaigns Officer**

FLAC is seeking a Policy and Campaigns Officer to undertake research and implement campaigns in its core programme areas. A commitment to human rights and social justice issues, an interest in addressing policy issues around social and economic exclusion from a legal perspective required. If you have a legal degree and campaigns experience and would like further information, please contact FLAC on 01-874 5690 or e-mail [info@flac.ie](mailto:info@flac.ie) and we will be happy to provide you with a job description and an information pack. CVs and letters of application should be sent to Noeline Blackwell, FLAC Director General, 13 Lower Dorset Street, Dublin 1 on or before Tuesday 5 June 2007.

### **2. SICCDA event on challenge of growing sustainable communities, July 07**

SICCDA is holding an event entitled: 'A Home for All - The challenge of growing sustainable communities in a changing urban environment through the development of an integrated rights-based strategy – the SICCDA experience'. It is to be held on 3 July 2007 in the Guinness Storehouse, Dublin 8 between 9.30am – 3pm.

The Irish urban environment has undergone major social, economic and cultural changes recently. The impact of the Celtic Tiger on family and community life both for Irish and migrant people needs to be assessed. The conference will examine the rights and responsibilities of all concerned in tackling these negative impacts and in promoting the positives. For further information, contact Marie Bennett in SICCDA on 01-453 6098 or email: [mbennett@siccda.ie](mailto:mbennett@siccda.ie)

### **3. FLAC takes case to Committee on Social Rights re Free Travel for Elderly**

The European Committee on Social Rights has given the Irish Government until 15 June to respond to a complaint by FLAC and the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) over

its failure to extend the free travel scheme to Irish pensioners living outside the State. A small segment of people who live abroad, but who have paid pension contributions and are in receipt of Irish contributory pensions, are excluded from the scheme when they return on holiday or for family visits. Complaints under the Social Charter can only be lodged through a recognised international trade union or NGO. The complaint is made under the Revised European Social Charter and concerns the Government's refusal to extend the free travel scheme for people aged over 66 to Irish pension holders who are not resident in Ireland during their periodic visits to this country. Full article is attached.

#### **4. Criminal Justice Bill 2007 - implications for the right to silence**

Michael Farrell, Senior Solicitor at FLAC, recently presented a paper in TCD on the Criminal Justice Bill 2007 and the right to silence, Part 4 of the Bill, sections 30, 31 and 32. The right to silence is the corollary of the presumption of innocence and is protected by the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 6), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 14.2), and the Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution.

The paper outlines the new provisions around the right to silence and its effects. Drawing on the terms of the actual legislation and the jurisprudence in this jurisdiction, Strasbourg and the UK, the paper suggests nine key safeguards to protect the right to silence. The Bill has since come into operation. Full paper is attached.

#### **5. TCD organising Conference on 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Irish Constitution**

It is 70 years since the enactment of Bunreacht na hÉireann. On 8–9 June 2007, the Law School in Trinity College is marking this event with a conference addressing a number of contemporary issues in Irish constitutional law. A wide range of national and international speakers will address many constitutional doctrines. Speakers will also address the appropriate method of interpreting the Constitution, the philosophical and historical influences on the Constitution, as well as the likely impact of the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003.

Further information is available on <http://www.tcd.ie/Law/Constitutionat70.html>  
Or contact Catherine Finnegan (01) 896 2367, email: [lawevent@tcd.ie](mailto:lawevent@tcd.ie)

#### **6. Dublin Solicitors Bar Association Bursary to enable students to qualify as solicitor**

A Bursary scheme was created by the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association (DSBA). The Bursary is run and operated independently by the trustees. The Bursary is available to those who wish to qualify and practice as solicitors in the Dublin area. The Bursary will cover FE 1 fees and living expenses, Law School fees and living expenses. The sizes of the award may vary depending on individual circumstances.

Further details and application form available from  
<http://www.dsba.ie/News/defaultarticle.asp?NID=263&T=N>

#### **7. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance – third report on Ireland launched**

The ECRI launched its third report on Ireland on 24 May examining racism, xenophobia, and intolerance in Ireland. ECRI recognises that positive developments have been made it also detail continuing grounds for concern.

The National Action Plan Against Racism was launched in 2005 and a number of recommendations made by the Human Rights Audit on the police force regarding combating racism and racial discrimination are currently being implemented. One of the main findings of

the report is that criminal legislation has not been amended to include sufficiently strong provisions for combating racist acts which affect in particular visible minorities and Travellers. Further measures are necessary to raise members of minority groups' awareness of existing mechanisms for seeking redress against racism and racial discrimination.

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human\\_rights/ecri/1-ECRI/2-Country-by-country\\_approach/Ireland/Ireland\\_CBC\\_3.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/ecri/1-ECRI/2-Country-by-country_approach/Ireland/Ireland_CBC_3.asp#TopOfPage)

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