



Tender / Project Proposal
Social Policy Report on Decongregation in Ireland

Title:

“Have things moved on?”

-Examining the lived experience and quality of life of people with disabilities who continue to live in congregated settings and potential rights violations under Article 19 of the UNCRPD-

1. Background and Context

The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities (NAS) is a national, independent advocacy service that works to support people with disabilities to exercise their rights and have their voices heard. NAS has a particular focus on people who may be isolated, marginalised, or living in congregated or institutional settings and who communicate differently.

Decongregation remains a critical social policy issue in Ireland, particularly in the context of Ireland's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), national disability strategies, and ongoing reform of disability services. While policy commitments to decongregation have been articulated over many years, progress has been slow, and significant concerns remain regarding implementation, accountability, and outcomes for people with disabilities.

NAS now seeks to commission an experienced **social policy writer/researcher** to support a dedicated Social Policy Project Group in the development of a **substantive social policy report examining decongregation in Ireland**, informed by national and international policy, research, and people's lived experience.

2. Objectives of the Project

The aim of the project is to critically examine the current status of decongregation in Ireland, using a human rights approach which seeks to address the following objectives:

- Analyse the relevant national and international policy, legislation, and practice
- Capture the lived experience of those who have and/or continue to live in congregated settings in Ireland, through consultation with NAS advocates or potential members of the consultative committee.
- Highlight key gaps, challenges, and barriers to effective decongregation
- Reflect human rights principles, particularly those contained in the UNCRPD
- Make clear, practical, and policy-focused recommendations to inform advocacy, policy development, and system reform

3. Methodology

It is envisaged that the project will include the following elements:

Policy and Literature Review

- Review of Irish policy and legislation, the UNCRPD and strategies related to decongregation
- Review of international approaches and comparative policy

- Review of relevant literature including grey literature (e.g. reports, working papers)

Consultation with NAS advocates

- Consultation with NAS advocates on their work with rights holders who live or who have lived in congregated settings.
- Review of NAS data on work in congregated settings

Engagement with Stakeholders

- Engage, as appropriate, with external stakeholders such as academics, advocacy organisations, service providers, experts by experience/disabled people and policy experts (for example, through one-to-one interviews/focus groups)

Analysis

- Analysis of policy documentation, literature, and of findings from engagement with NAS to address the objectives under section 2 above with a focus on policy implementation, policy outcomes, and its alignment with human rights standards.

3. Governance and Project Structure

The project will be:

- **Led by an internal NAS Social Policy Project Group**, who will provide organisational input, guidance, and access to relevant materials and stakeholders.
- **Supported by a Consultative Committee** comprising experts, academics, and individuals with relevant professional and lived experience in disability, social policy, human rights, and decongregation.

The successful tenderer will work collaboratively within this governance structure and will not be expected to lead the project independently.

4. Scope of Work

The appointed social policy writer/researcher will be responsible for:

4.1 Stakeholder Engagement

- Engaging, as appropriate, with external stakeholders such as academics, advocacy organisations, service providers, experts by experience/disabled people and policy experts

4.2 Research and Analysis

- Conducting desk-based research on:
 - NAS advocates work with rights holders who live in congregated settings
 - NAS data on work in congregated settings
 - Irish policy and legislation, UNCRPD and strategies related to decongregation
 - International approaches and comparative policy
 - Relevant academic and grey literature
 - Analysing policy implementation, outcomes, and alignment with human rights standards

4.3 Report Development

- Drafting a clear, accessible, and well-structured social policy report that is in the traditional NAS style of plain English, accessible and person-centred.
- Incorporating feedback and suggestions from the Consultative Committee and NAS Project Group
- Producing a final, publication-ready report suitable for advocacy and policy engagement

5. Deliverables

The researcher/social policy writer will be expected to:

- Draft a clear, accessible, and well-structured social policy report that is in the traditional NAS style of plain English, accessible and person-centred.
- Incorporate the feedback and suggestions from the Consultative Committee and NAS Project Group
- Produce final, publication-ready report suitable for advocacy and policy engagement, which includes:
 - Executive summary
 - Detailed section on the voice of people living/who have lived in congregated settings based on advocate's experience
 - Policy and legislative context
 - Analysis of current practice and progress
 - International comparisons

- Human rights analysis
- Conclusions and recommendations

All of the above should be underpinned throughout by the work of advocates with those in congregated settings alongside the direct voice of those with lived experience of congregated settings, who will sit on the consultative committee. Additional interim outputs (e.g. draft chapters or briefing notes) may be agreed as part of the project plan.

6. Timeline

- Project commencement: **Upon appointment (anticipated Q1 2026)**
- Drafting and consultation period: Ongoing through early 2026
- Final report completion: **No later than June 2026**

A detailed workplan and milestones will be agreed with the successful tenderer.

7. Budget

- The maximum budget for this project is **€5,092 (five thousand and ninety two euro)**
- This amount is **inclusive of VAT** and all associated costs
- Payment will be made subject to satisfactory delivery of agreed outputs

8. Required Expertise

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Proven experience in **social policy research and writing**, preferably in disability, human rights, or social inclusion
- Strong knowledge of **Irish disability policy** and relevant international frameworks
- Experience working collaboratively with multi-stakeholder groups and advisory structures
- Excellent analytical, writing, and synthesis skills
- Ability to produce high-quality work within agreed strict timelines and budget

9. Submission Requirements

Interested parties should submit:

1. A brief **proposal** outlining their:
 - Understanding of the project
 - Proposed approach and methodology
 - Indicative timeline (bearing in mind draft chapters to social policy group and consultative committee)
2. A **CV or organisational profile** demonstrating relevant experience
3. Examples of **previous relevant policy or research publications** (where available)
4. Two referees who you have worked with/for in any previous policy or publications
5. Confirmation of availability to complete the project within the specified timeframe and budget

10. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be assessed based on:

- Relevant experience and expertise
- Quality and clarity of proposed approach
- Understanding of decongregation and disability policy context
- Cost
- Ability to meet project timelines, given proposed completion date.

11. Applications

Closing Date: 5pm on 24th of February 2026

All applications and proposals to be sent by the deadline above to info@advocacy.ie with the subject line "TenderFeb2026"