**Nomination of two Irish experts to the “List of Experts Eligible to Serve” on the Advisory Committee under the Framework Convention on National Minorities**

The Minister of State for New Communities, Culture and Equality, Aodhán Ó Riordáin, T.D. is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons for consideration for nomination to the List of Experts Eligible to Serve on the Advisory Committee under the Framework Convention on National Minorities (FCNM).

Ireland will submit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the names and curriculum vitae of two experts who have the required qualifications and capacity to serve on the Advisory Committee. Following this submission, the Committee of Ministers will elect one of these experts to the List of Experts Eligible to Serve on the Advisory Committee.

A rotation agreement in place for membership on the Advisory Committee and Ireland will not be represented by an ordinary member for some time. However, Paragraph 19 of the [Committee of Ministers’ Resolution 97(10)](http://128.121.10.98/coe/pdfopener?smd=1&md=1&did=778974), which lays down in detail the rules governing the appointment of members to the Advisory Committee, provides that when a State Report is being considered and there is no ordinary member from that state, an additional member can be appointed. Ireland’s next State Report is due in September 2015.

Under Paragraph 33 and 34, Additional Members shall only participate in the work of the Advisory Committee in respect of the report of the Party in respect of which they have been elected to the List and shall not have the right to take part in possible votes.

**Role of the Advisory Committee under the FCNM**

The Advisory Committee is the independent expert committee responsible for evaluating the implementation of the Framework Convention in State Parties and advising the Committee of Ministers. The results of this evaluation consist in detailed country-specific opinions adopted following a monitoring procedure. This procedure involves the examination of State Reports and other sources of information as well as meetings on the spot with governmental interlocutors, national minority representatives and other relevant actors.

The Advisory Committee is composed of 18 independent experts. In accordance with Resolution (97)10 of the Committee of Ministers, members of the Advisory Committee shall have recognised expertise in the field of the protection of national minorities. They shall serve in their individual capacity, shall be independent and impartial and shall be available to serve on the Committee effectively. Members must also have a good command of either English or French.

**How to apply**

Expressions of interest should be sent to [acfcnmnomination@justice.ie](mailto:acfcnmnomination@justice.ie) by no later than 5pm Friday 10th July 2015, and should include a curriculum vitae and cover letter outlining the candidate’s suitable qualifications and experience for this position.

Candidates will be assessed against a set criterion by a selection board appointed by the Minister of State for New Communities, Culture and Equality.