



INDEPENDENT LIVING
MOVEMENT IRELAND

FREEDOM • RIGHTS • EMPOWERMENT

*Achieving a right to Personal Assistance
in Ireland.*

www.ilmi.ie

Follow us on twitter @ILMIreland

FB: Independent living movement Ireland.

Overview

- ILMI – who we are, our vision, our mission.
- What is a PAS?
- PAS campaign
- Achieving a right to PAS in Ireland.

ILMI – Who we are

- ILMI was originally established as the Center for Independent Living in 1992 by and for disabled people.
- Its aim was to ensure that disabled people achieved Independent Living, choice and control over their lives and full participation in society as equal citizens.
- We are a campaigning, national representative organisation that promotes the philosophy of independent living and seeks to build an inclusive society.

- We work to ensure that policy decisions that impact on the lives of disabled people have to be directly influenced by those whose lives are directly affected.
- OUR VISION: To have an Ireland where disabled persons have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives and can fully participate in an inclusive society as equals.

Mission

- We are working **collectively** to create an Independent Living Movement in Ireland which is led by disabled people.
- Promote a rights-based social model of disability, challenging the unacceptable charity /medical model of disability.
- We are working towards the removal of societal barriers that prevent active equal participation of disabled people, challenging the denial of people's rights and the promotion of the philosophy of Independent Living.

SO..... What is a PAS?

- ILMI [#PASNOW campaign](#) which we began last March with consultation with members on the PAS.
- Define
- Legislate
- Invest
- Standardise
- Promote

- NUIG worked with us to develop a “case” for a right to a PAS, which we [published](#) in the Dail earlier in the summer.
- Here are the key points:
- Independent Living is about having the freedom to have the **same choices** that everyone else has in housing, transportation, education and employment.
- IL is about choosing what aspects of social, economic and political life people want to participate in.
- IL is about having control over your life, to have a family, to get a job, to participate socially... All done with the employment of Personal Assistants to provide supports where needed.

- The Personal Assistance Service (PAS) is a tool that allows us to live independently. The PAS
- **enables** us to do all the tasks that we cannot do for ourselves. It provides **us** with the freedom and flexibility we need to live our lives as we choose.
- A Personal Assistant (PA) is hired to assist us with a range of day-to-day tasks that we cannot physically do for ourselves.
- A PA is **NOT** a **CARER!!!**

- With PAS we are in control and direct the PA to carry out tasks both inside and outside of the home, including:
- Personal care, domestic duties, assisting in day-to-day tasks such as shopping, support in the workplace or socialising.
- A PA does not “look after” or “care for” us.
- We delegate these tasks to our PAs and in doing so take back control of our lives.

- In March 2018 Ireland formally ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- Under Article 19 of the CRPD disabled people have the right to live in the community and have access to a range of in-home and other supports, including personal assistance, to support this.
- Currently there is **no legal right** to personal assistance in Ireland.

- In 2017:
- 84 percent of those in receipt of a PA service received less than three hours a day.
- 42 percent of these people were in receipt of between one and five hours a week. This is only an average of 42 minutes a day, despite there being 1,440 minutes in a day and disability being a 24- hour job.

- Sweden has long been regarded as the ground-breaking country and 'gold standard' for personal assistance. It remains the only European country which legally confers a right to personal assistance, although there is some legislation in this area in many countries, such as Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and the UK.

Achieving a Right to Personal Assistance in Ireland

- The report shows that introducing **stand-alone legislation** is the most straight-forward way to recognise the right to personal assistance for disabled people.
- The comparative research conducted for this report shows that legislation will need to focus on the full, active participation of disabled people in society, including in education and employment.
- Ring-fenced funding.

- This must be based on a comprehensive assessment of the individual's needs to determine the amount of personal assistance an individual will receive in order that they have **choice, control and freedom** to participate in society as equals.
- Since last year, ILMI has been working to build cross-party support for a Bill.



INDEPENDENT LIVING
MOVEMENT IRELAND

FREEDOM • RIGHTS • EMPOWERMENT

Thank you

www.ilmi.ie

Follow us on twitter @ILMIreland

FB: Independent living movement Ireland.