



**Youth Work Ireland**  
*Our Youth, Our Nation, Our Future.*

**Press Release**  
**Youth Work Ireland, Voices of Youth**  
**EMBARGO Midnight Sunday 29th January**

“Hogan Must Respond Positively to Human Rights Commission on Mosquito Devices to Illustrate Governments Commitment to Rights of Children and Young People” says Leading Youth Organisation and Young Bloggers

The Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Phil Hogan T.D., has an ideal opportunity to illustrate the Governments commitment to the rights of children and young people by positively responding to a request from the Irish Human Rights Commission to investigate the use of “Mosquito Devices” in Ireland according to Youth Work Ireland and Voices of Youth, a youth led advocacy blog. The Human Rights Commission has requested the Minister to investigate the use of the devices, which emit a white noise only audible to young people, on foot of a number of reports at European level and by the United Nations. The correspondence from Maurice Manning the President of the Human Rights Commission makes clear that the Commission was “concerned that the devices may have human rights implications for the state”

“This device is supposedly intended for the minority of young people that are prone to anti-social behaviour, but it seems to have the opposite to the desired effect, as it can be described as none other than an anti-social device itself, as it affects not only the “trouble makers” but the majority of perfectly law abiding citizens, be they over 18 or not. Not only does it affect teenagers and young adults that have done nothing wrong, the mosquito alarm targets all young people, including babies, disregarding whether or not they’re doing anything wrong. Small children and infants are especially at risk, due to lengthy exposure to the sound, because the adults themselves do not perceive the noise. We really want Phil Hogan to seriously investigate their use” said Alice Kinsella (18) a blogger with Voices of Youth

“This is a really big issue for many young people around the country and we have a government that has consistently said it is committed to children’s rights and listening to young people. The Human Rights Commission clearly believe there are serious issues at stake here and it has referred to very authoritative bodies such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Clearly such concerns must be investigated if we take children’s rights and the voice of young people seriously. This issue has been flagged before by the Ombudsman for Children yet these devices continue to be used with impunity. We believe Phil Hogan should respond positively to the issues raised by the Human Rights Commission and take action to ban or severely restrict the use of these devices and simultaneously demonstrate a real commitment to young people and children’s rights” Said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

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Human Rights Commission letter here;

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/29830175/DOC270112.pdf>

458 words