

From: Dialogue Ireland info@dialogueireland.ie

29/01/2020 13:57

Mr Charlie Flanagan,
Justice Minister,
Department of Justice,

BY E-MAIL: Charlie.flanagan@oir.ie

Dear Minister,

I am writing in my capacity as Director of Dialogue Ireland Trust (Registered Charity No. 20045111,) a charity established to investigate cultism and extremism.

[Details concerning third parties have been redacted from this public document]

However, such are the financial implications of taking defamation proceedings before the Courts in Ireland, that they are effectively out of reach for not only charities such as our own, but also for the ordinary man on the street with limited financial resources.

[Details concerning third parties have been redacted from this public document]

I believe this is one aspect of the current Defamation Law reform debate that has not been considered and which, in the era of the internet, is likely to be an ever increasing problem, unless the Defamation Courts become more accessible, albeit without the converse burden of excessive damages awards.

In my opinion, a balance needs to be struck between the two conflicting interests.

Our case is a little different but it raises the issue that as a charity defending the human rights of vulnerable people, how we can afford to address defamation in this jurisdiction? We have had for over 15 years as an unincorporated body a professional indemnity insurance to assist us. One idea might be to have a CRA funded legal aid programme for charities. Our work often is conflictual as large organisations seek to sink us demanding not that we amend a particular post educating the public but rather they want us to remove everything we have concerning their group. Justice Hogan gave us the protection of the constitution where the aim was to remove our ability to assist those we were helping.

<https://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/2012/09/21/final-version-cornec-v-morrice-ors-judgment-by-hogan-j/>

-

Regards

MIKE GARDE MA

DIRECTOR

DIALOGUE IRELAND TRUST

Phone: 353 -1- 8309384 or mobile 353 - 87 2396229

Skype: mikergarde

7/8 Lr Abbey St; Dublin 1

Web site <http://www.dialogueireland.ie>

Blog site <http://www.dialogueireland.wordpress.com>

Registered Charity Number: 20045111

IRELAND and IRISH representative on the
General Assembly of the European Federation
of Centres for Research and Information on Sects
& Cults (FECRIS). <http://www.fecris.org>