The OCO (Ombudsman for Children's Office) has provided its observations on the International Protection Bill 2025 to the Joint Oireachtas Committee.

The statement highlights the office's concerns and recommendations regarding the bill's impact on children and their rights. The OCO emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the legislation, stemming from the Pact on asylum and migration, prioritizes the best interests of children and complies with international human rights standards.

The observations focus on several key areas, including the definition of a child, age assessment procedures, and the provision of supports and services for children seeking international protection. The OCO stresses the need for a child-centered approach in the bill, taking into account the unique vulnerabilities and needs of children in the asylum process.

The submission also underscores the importance of ensuring that the bill is consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other relevant international instruments. By doing so, the OCO aims to contribute to the development of a fair, efficient, and child-friendly international protection system in Ireland.

Source(s)

- Ombudsman for Children’s Office | Ombudsman do leanaí for children (14 October, 2025), [Observations on the International Protection Bill 2025, Joint Oireachtas Committee Opening Statement], https://www.oco.ie/news/observations-on-the-international-protection-bill-2025-joint-oireachtas-committee-opening-statement/

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