



QUAKER COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

The Right to Conscientious Objection in Europe: A Review of the Current Situation

Country Report: IRELAND

Conscription

Conscription has never existed in Ireland.

According to Article 28 of the Constitution and Article 54 of the Defence Act, conscription may be introduced in case of national emergency.

There is no further legislation on conscription and there never has been since Ireland became independent as the Irish Free State in 1922.

Conscientious objection

It is not known if there are legal provisions for conscientious objection for professional soldiers. According to one source, it is believed that soldiers who develop conscientious objection may seek discharge from the armed forces.¹ No further information is available.

¹ Information provided by Peace Pledge Union, quoted in: War Resisters' International: Refusing to bear arms - A world survey on conscription and conscientious objection to military service, 1998.