

Living with Disabilities in America vs. Ireland

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Preliminary Research

- Ireland signed the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006
- Similar family dynamics regarding their wants and needs during times of transition for their family member with disabilities
- There are contradicting laws about the lives of individuals with disabilities
- Laws and social norms are not the same



International Studies Abroad: Service-Learning

- 4 weeks in Galway, Ireland
- Live in student housing
- Volunteer full-time (20-40 hours a week depending on the placement)
- Placed in a community service program
- Complete reflective assignments and group discussions in addition to the full-time service



Ability West

- Mission statement: *Ability West's mission is to empower people with disabilities to live self-directed lives in an equal and inclusive society*
- Non-profit organization
- 13 locations dispersed throughout county Galway
 - Cois na Coille
 - Active Ageing



Why?



What I Learned



Irish vs. American Treatment of Individuals Disabilities

- Funding of non-profit organizations serving individuals with disabilities
- Differences in terms they use
- Lack of services overall
- Progression differences

