



Press Statement

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Doras highlight developments regarding the human rights of international protection applicants in 2020 on International Human Rights Day 10th December.

The migrant support and human rights organisation Doras have highlighted the ongoing failure to protect the human rights of international protection applicants in Ireland on International Human Rights Day, 10th December. To address this, Doras is calling on the government to follow through on its commitments to end Direct Provision, starting with the adoption of the recommendations of the Day Report in their upcoming White Paper.

“Hope of systemic change came with the formation of a new coalition government in June”, said John Lannon, Doras CEO, “the commitment to end Direct Provision within its lifetime and the transfer of responsibility for accommodating international protection applicants to the newly formed Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. This was all under a backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which highlighted once again how unsuitable congregated institutional living is, especially for people who are marginalised and vulnerable.”

A report and recommendations of the Advisory Group on Direct Provision, led by Dr. Catherine Day, were widely welcomed in October. Recommendations in the Day Report include: first decision on asylum claim in six months, a new local authority housing model with early access to employment, provision of early vulnerability assessments and legal advice, and HIQA inspections in Direct Provision centres until the system is dismantled by 2023.

“We are hopeful that the Day Report report can the basis for a positive change in attitude in how international protection applicants are treated by the state”, said Lannon. “A new approach to upholding their human rights is urgently needed and is long overdue.”

“With government commitments, as well as a humane reception system offered as an alternative, the focus now has to be on ensuring that these measures are adopted and implemented as soon as possible. Until we see an end to Direct Provision, however, it is vital that the National Standards for Accommodation Centres come into effect as promised on 1st January 2021, and that these are accompanied by independent inspections. Without this, the safety and well-being of asylum seekers is endangered and their most basic of human rights are being denied.”

“Seeking asylum is a human right. The accommodation and services provided to people exercising that right in Ireland must also respect and protect their rights.”

ENDS

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