



Press statement: 1st July 2015

“Working Group report on Direct Provision lacks vision and ambition”

“An alternative to the Direct Provision system was never considered by the Government’s Working Group on Direct Provision, which was a missed opportunity from the outset. The proposals outlined in the Working Group, if fully implemented without further delay, are to be welcomed as a first-step in the right direction. If implemented fully, there is no doubt that these reforms will have a positive impact on the lives of many individuals who have experienced extraordinary challenges while accommodated in Direct Provision centres across the country. However, the non-committal language used throughout the report and the lack of an implementation timeframe and start date are cause for concern.” said Leonie Kerins, Director of Doras Luimní.

She added “After nearly 10 months of deliberation, it is regrettable that the Working Group failed to take a more ambitious, committed and visionary approach to the reform process. Despite best intentions, the Group’s narrow focus and limited terms of reference did not allow for alternative systems to be explored, which should be considered as a missed opportunity.”

“In addition, these proposals will do very little to address the fundamental flaws at the core of the Direct Provision system. The institutionalisation of thousands of men, women and children is set to continue: accommodated in centres, mostly privately contracted to business people who profit generously at the expense of the asylum-seeking population. While the recommendation regarding residents who have been in the system for five years or more is to be welcomed, thousands of asylum seekers will not benefit from this measure and will continue to live in institutions that have repeatedly proven to be unfit for purpose.”

Doras Luimní continue to advocate for an end to Direct Provision and for the introduction of an alternative system that respects the dignity and human rights of all asylum seekers, allowing independent living in the community and an end to institutionalised living in centres that have repeatedly proven to be unfit for purpose.

We call on the Government to avoid any further delays and to commit to implementing these proposals fully with immediate effect. We also call on the Government to ensure close monitoring and review of the implementation process. The next phase needs to explore an alternative system to replace Direct Provision, that would provide long-term solutions to the key issues raised and that would allow asylum seekers to contribute to society and provide for themselves and their families.

Full analysis of the report will follow.

ENDS

Notes

- Doras Luimní is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation based in Limerick. Our mission is to promote and uphold the human rights and wellbeing of migrants through personal advocacy, integration development and collaborative advocacy campaigns at the local and national level.
- [Full report of the Working Group](#)
- Karen McHugh is available for interview/ comment, at the contact details below.

Contact details

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