



Press statement – 04 November 2014

Direct provision system increases vulnerability to sexual violence

The recent publication of the Rape Crisis Network Ireland report on sexual violence and the experience of asylum seekers and refugees reaffirms the concerns raised by Doras Luimní about the unsuitability of the direct provision system.

Karen McHugh, CEO Doras Luimní, said "Asylum seekers are being re-traumatised by their experience of living in direct provision. They are an exceptionally vulnerable group, with many having experienced trauma, conflict and persecution in their countries of origin before coming to Ireland."

McHugh added "The dehumanising living conditions in the shared accommodation provided under the direct provision system is wholly inappropriate for survivors of sexual violence, who are trying to recover from traumatic events. Furthermore, we know that women have been targeted for the purposes of sexual exploitation while living in direct provision, and the RCNI report reaffirms this.

Patricia Stapleton, Anti-Trafficking Officer with Doras Luimní, said "We know from working with victims of trafficking that living in direct provision centres prolongs the anxiety and depression that women experience. Also, the controlled environment replicates the trafficking situation and one controller simply replaces another".

ENDS

Editor 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.
- We have a dedicated Anti-Trafficking Office which participates in local and national campaigns against forced prostitution and sex trafficking. We provide a local street outreach programme, in conjunction with Goshh, for women affected by prostitution in Limerick city.
- For more information about our anti-trafficking work, including training and resources, see our website (www.dorasluimni.org) or contact the Doras Luimní Anti-Trafficking Officer (phone 061 310 328 or email p.stapleton@dorasluimni.org). Our submission to the Joint Committee is available online at <http://www.dorasluimni.org/images/publications/dorasluimnisubmissionaug2012.pdf>.
- Doras Luimní is an active partner in the Turn off the Red Light (TORL) campaign which seeks to end prostitution and sex trafficking in Ireland. TORL is comprised of a coalition of

NGOs, civil society groups, trade unions, political parties advocating legislative change to criminalise the purchase of sex. See the www.turnofftheredlight.ie for more details.

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