



Press Statement: 19 December 2014

Limerick's new Irish citizens celebrated at ceremony in Limerick City Gallery of Art

Limerick's new Irish citizens were celebrated last night at the Limerick City Gallery of Art, with performances from some of Limerick's finest musicians.

The local citizenship ceremony was hosted by Doras Luimní and is the first of what is hoped to be an annual event. Cllr. Kevin Sheahan, Mayor of Limerick City and County, presented certificates to Limerick's newest Irish citizens and stayed for the evening to enjoy the entertainment.

Music ranged from traditional Irish music to Congolese Rumba with performances from Róisín Ní Ghallóglaiigh & Castletroy Comhaltas musicians; Danny Deepo; Denise Chalia, Bart Kiely, Peter Hanagan; God Knows and MuRli; Sunflower group; and Elikya.

In his opening remarks, Cllr. Kevin Sheahan reaffirmed his commitment to human rights and migrant issues, with particular reference to the rights of asylum seekers in Ireland.

Karen McHugh, CEO Doras Luimni, said "Doras Luimni is delighted to celebrate with you all this evening, and in particular to congratulate those of you who received your Irish citizenship. On behalf of Limerick, we would like to welcome to you all as new Irish citizens. This is the first local citizenship ceremony in Ireland and we hope that the Limerick City and County Council can commit to taking this initiative on themselves in the coming years."

McHugh continued, "Doras Luimni has had a particularly busy year, which has been well documented by the media in recent months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the media and the people of Limerick for all the support that we have received throughout this time. There has been a noticeable change in public attitudes and understanding of some of the issues facing migrants, with a particular increased awareness around the issue of Direct Provision. It has been a challenging but positive year in that respect and we hope that we will have your continued support throughout 2015."

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.

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