



Press statement: 7th September 2015

“Doras Luimní call on the Government to develop both immediate and long-term response to the Refugee Crisis.”

Doras Luimní call on the Government to accept and resettle increased numbers of people seeking protection in Ireland, reflecting the scale of the crisis we are witnessing. Every effort must be made to ensure that refugees resettled in Ireland will have appropriate supports and resources allocated to ensure that the resettlement process meets both the immediate and long-term needs of the people seeking protection.

Leonie Kerins, Doras Luimní, “Following the outcry of public support and compassion for those suffering and dying on the borders of Europe, the Government have indicated that Ireland is willing to accept increased numbers of refugees. While we welcome this and urge the Government to immediately follow-through on this pledge, we must emphasise that long-term policies also need to be developed. The Government has indicated that disused army barracks will be used to house refugees in the short-term but we fear that without proper planning forward-thinking policy development, we may see another Direct Provision scandal on our hands.

Kerins added “Knockalisheen Direct Provision centre was a disused army barracks in the early 1950s when it became accommodation for Hungarian refugees fleeing civil war. Today it accommodates over 200 asylum seekers who have fled conflict and war, many of whom have been housed there for up to 10 years and counting. Direct Provision was an emergency solution 15 years ago - we cannot let the same mistakes happen again.”

Doras Luimní have been overwhelmed by the public response to this crisis in Limerick and call on the public to continue advocating for increased refugee resettlement by writing to local TDs.

Kerins said “The people of Limerick have generously donated supplies and funds in support of the relief efforts on the ground. We are asking people who are keen to support the response to the crisis to also write to their local TD calling for immediate and long-term action. The Government have responded favourably to the public reaction so far and we have to keep up the momentum.”

See www.dorasluimni.org for a list of suggested actions on how you can help and for updates on events taking place in Limerick in aid of the relief efforts.

ENDS