

The experience of being forced to do nothing and rely on handouts for the last 8 years is eating away at my soul.

Resident of Direct Provision, Limerick.

Did you know?

Ireland and Lithuania are the only EU Member States to deny asylum seekers the right to work.

EU Reception Conditions Directive



"Member States shall ensure that applicants have access to the labour market no later than **9 months** from the date when the application for international protection was lodged."

International Human Rights & Refugee Law



"The right to work, applies to everyone including refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, migrant workers and victims of international trafficking, regardless of legal status and documentation"

UN CESCR, Article 6.

Benefits of right to work?



- ✓ Tax contributions
- ✓ Self-reliance
- ✓ End institutionalised living
- ✓ Job creation
- ✓ Utilise skills
- ✓ Health & well-being
- ✓ Dignity

ASYLUM SEEKERS

RIGHT TO WORK



Ireland has not signed the EU Directive that sets out minimum standards for reception conditions.

Why?



Ireland's position is that granting the right to work would create a "pull factor", leading to an increase in applications.



There is no evidence to support this argument - only evidence points to "push factors" in country of origin.

- Refugees do not choose when, where and how to flee persecution.
- Almost every other EU country allows the right to work - why should Ireland be any different?
- To deny asylum seekers the right to work has considerable human and financial cost.

END DIRECT PROVISION

GIVE ASYLUM SEEKERS THE RIGHT TO WORK



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Planning and protecting human rights