



**“Doras calls for action on human trafficking in Ireland and the EU.”
18/10/2018**

Countries across Europe come together each year on 18th October to mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day, an opportunity to reflect upon our collective efforts to end human trafficking.

Leonie Kerins, Doras CEO said: *“We are very proud that Doras, together with our partners in the Turn Off the Red Light campaign, successfully advocated for new legislation criminalising the purchase of sex last year, but our work is far from over. We must continue to campaign for an end to trafficking and to support those who have been affected by it.”*

Since the introduction of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017, there have been only three prosecutions and Ireland has still failed to produce a single trafficking conviction in the past five years. Ireland’s anti-trafficking efforts were also criticised this year by the US State Department, who relegated Ireland from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.

Kerins continued *“Ireland’s relegation in the TIP report should be a wake-up call for the Government, and a call to action for organisations who support anti-trafficking efforts and campaigns.”*

The TIP report highlights Ireland’s poor record on prosecutions and convictions, as well as the inappropriate use of Direct Provision centres to accommodate victims of trafficking. The TIP report confirms that, due to mixed-gender housing and a general lack of privacy, such accommodation is unsuitable and could potentially undermine the recovery process.

Kerins said *“Doras has long opposed the policy of housing victims of trafficking in Direct Provision centres, and we maintain that accommodation in Direct Provision centres may cause further harm to victims by exacerbating existing physical or mental health issues. People who have escaped from a trafficking situation require specialised supports and accommodation while they recover from the trauma experienced.”*

Doras provides dedicated support to people affected by human trafficking for sexual or labour exploitation and forced marriage. Our service is safe and confidential, and our doors are always open to anyone who needs assistance to leave or recover from a trafficking situation.

To find out more about the anti-trafficking work of Doras, please visit www.dorasluimni.org

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Notes

- Doras has provided direct support to victims of trafficking since 2011, including legal advice, referrals and psycho-social support.
- Doras actively campaigns at national and international level on anti-trafficking issues.
- The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report is produced by the US State Department each year. The TIP report outlines global trafficking trends and assigns ranks to countries based on anti-trafficking efforts.
<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282798.pdf>
- The TIP report stated that the Irish Government “does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking” but acknowledged that it is “making significant efforts to do so.” p.235
- A new report from the European Commission is being launched this Thursday 18th October 2018 in observance of EU Anti-Trafficking Day. The report will provide guidance on implementing the anti-trafficking directive while taking gender into account.
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