

# Governing Accommodation and Housing in the Context of International Protection

11 June 2024





## About the Conference

Housing is a key part of integration of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. The importance of housing for integration has been highlighted by integration research. It was also emphasised in policy in Ireland in the 'White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service' and in the 'Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy for International Protection Applicants'.

This is a two-part conference, convening key Irish stakeholders. The morning session will focus on access to autonomous housing for beneficiaries of international protection. The afternoon session will focus on governing the accommodation of international protection applicants. These two areas have raised significant concerns in Ireland recently in light of increased international protection applications and structural challenges responding to their needs. Addressing these challenges can enable improved outcomes for both international protection applicants and beneficiaries, as well as for local communities.

## About the report

### **Access to Autonomous Housing for Beneficiaries of International Protection in Ireland**

**Keire Murphy and Amy Stapleton**

This report looks at the situation of people who have arrived in Ireland, applied for international protection, and received a positive decision on their application. These beneficiaries of international protection have the same rights to housing and welfare as Irish citizens, but often face significant challenges when they try to move out of government-provided accommodation into autonomous housing. This report presents the supports available to this group, as well as the findings of desk research, stakeholder interviews and consultations on challenges and good practices in relation to this group, highlighting implications for policy.

The research found that this group faces both mainstream and specific barriers. Mainstream barriers include the lack of available social and affordable housing and inadequacy in mainstream supports such as HAP. Specific barriers for this group include language barriers and a lack of information, discrimination and the ad hoc nature of the dispersal system. These barriers have resulted in 6,000 beneficiaries of international protection who could in principle move on to autonomous housing continuing to reside in government-provided (IPAS) accommodation, representing 22% of the total number of residents.

The research identified multiple good practices, including the introduction of permanent, DCEDIY-funded integration teams in local authorities, and multiagency approaches and formal coordination mechanisms.

## About the European Migration Network

The European Migration Network (EMN) is an EU network of migration and asylum experts who work together to provide up to date, objective, reliable, comparable policy-relevant information and knowledge on emerging issues relating to asylum and migration in Europe. The EMN, which was established in 2008 consists of 33 National Contact Points (NCPs) in the EMN Member (EU Member States except Denmark) and Observer Countries (Norway, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Montenegro, Armenia and Serbia), the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs) and the EMN Service Provider (ICF). Each NCP is appointed by their national government, primarily from Ministries of Interior and of Justice, specialised government agencies dealing with migration, international protection, reception and/ or citizenship issues plus universities, research institutes and country offices of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The European Commission coordinates the EMN, assisted by the EMN Service Provider.

## About EMN Ireland

EMN Ireland is the Irish National Contact Point of the European Migration Network and is part of the Economic and Social Research Institute. EMN Ireland is funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Department of Justice See: [www.emn.ie](http://www.emn.ie). The Economic and Social Research Institute produces research that contributes to understanding economic and social change in the new international context and that informs public policymaking and civil society in Ireland. See: [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie).

# Agenda

10.00 *Arrival and Registration*

10.30 **Welcome**

Emma Quinn, Head of EMN Ireland

## **PART 1: Improving Access to Housing for Beneficiaries of International Protection**

Part 1 Chair: Conor O Toole, Associate Research Professor, ESRI

10.40 *Access to Autonomous Housing for Beneficiaries of International Protection in Ireland*

Keire Murphy and Amy Stapleton, Policy Officers, EMN Ireland

11.20 **Highlighting Existing Good Practices in the Housing of Beneficiaries of International Protection**

### *People with Status in IPAS Accommodation*

Darren Ryan, Senior Housing Officer - International Protection Accommodation Service, DCEDIY

### *Integrated Service Model for Homelessness*

Louise Casey, Regional Lead for Homelessness Southeast Region - Waterford Integrated Homeless Services

11.50 **Coffee Break**

12.05 **Panel Discussion:**

Moderator: Conor O Toole, ESRI

Darren Ryan, Senior Housing Officer - IPAS, DCEDIY

Diane Ihirwe, Senior Community Based Protection Associate, UNHCR Ireland

Ara Trianes Salguero, Head of Service of IPAS, Resettlement, Ukrainian and Afghan services, Peter Mc Verry Trust

Louise Casey, Regional Lead for Homelessness Southeast Region - Waterford Integrated Homeless Services

13.00 **Lunch and Networking**

## **PART 2: Effective Responses in Accommodation and Service Provision for International Protection Applicants**

Part 2 Chair: John O'Connor, Chairperson, The Housing Commission

14.00 **Welcome Back**

14.10 *Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy for International Protection Applicants*

Paula Quinn, Principal Officer, International Protection Support Services, DCEDIY

14.40 **Highlighting Good Practices in Accommodation and Service Provision for International Protection Applicants**

### *Engaged Communities for All – Learning from Local Voices*

Eibhlin Byrne, National Lead on Civic Engagement, DCEDIY

### *Interesting International Approaches and Models*

Keire Murphy, Policy Officer, EMN Ireland

15.15 **Coffee Break**

15.30 **Panel Discussion:**

Moderator: John O'Connor, The Housing Commission

John Kennelly, Acting Director of Services, Ukraine & Water Services, Kerry County Council

Paula Quinn, Principal Officer, International Protection Support Services, DCEDIY

Madeleine Allen, Housing and Policy Officer, Irish Refugee Council

Lye Ogunsanya, IUSA Emerging Leader 2022

16.20 **Key Learnings and Close**

16.30 **Drinks Reception (Clayton Conference Centre)**

Conference presentations will be available to download at [www.emn.ie](http://www.emn.ie) following the event.

# Speakers



## Emma Quinn

Emma Quinn is the Head of EMN Ireland, the Irish National Contact Point (NCP) of the European Migration Network (EMN) within the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). She is also joint coordinator of the research area Migration, Integration and Demography at the ESRI. Emma holds Masters and undergraduate degrees in Geography from University College Dublin, as well as diplomas in immigration and asylum law and statistics. Emma has published widely on migration, international protection and integration.



## Conor O'Toole

Dr Conor O'Toole is an Associate Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute. In his current role, Conor has responsibility for research on housing and household financing, enterprise development and corporate finance and banking. Before joining the ESRI, Conor previously worked for the Central Bank and IBM's Global Centre for Economic Analysis, London Economics and Indecon Economic Consultants. He also worked as a PhD researcher at the United Nations University — World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) in Helsinki, Finland. He holds a PhD in Economics from Trinity College Dublin.



## Keire Murphy

Keire Murphy is Policy Officer with EMN Ireland. Keire holds an LLB in Law and French from Trinity College Dublin, and a double MSc in Public Policy and Human Development with a specialisation in Migration Studies from the University of Maastricht and the United Nations University. Prior to joining the ESRI, Keire worked with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva, as well as NGOs in The Netherlands, France, and Lebanon focusing on refugee integration and research.



## Amy Stapleton

Amy Stapleton is Policy Officer with EMN Ireland. Amy holds a Masters in intercultural mediation and migration studies and a BSc (Hons) in international development and food policy, Amy is currently completing her PhD on migrant youth transitions in the School of Social Work and Social Policy in Trinity College Dublin. Prior to joining the ESRI, Amy worked as a project manager and researcher on several international, national and local commissioned projects, including with the EU Commission and the Council of Europe, actively contributing to evidence based European policy making in the field of youth and migration.

## Darren Ryan

Darren Ryan is the Senior Housing Officer, International Protection Accommodation Services in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. His role in IPAS is to assist those with a form of status to progress into the community and he has been in this role since December 2019. Darren previously worked in Dublin City Council in various sections including Housing Allocations, Loans and grants, Estate Management and Dublin Region Homeless Executive.



# Speakers



## Louise Casey

Louise Casey is Regional Lead for Homelessness Southeast Region with Waterford Integrated Homeless Services. Previously Louise worked as an accountant for over 25 years across the private and public sector with a particular interest in Social Inclusion. The role of Homeless Lead is a strategic and solution focused leadership role operating in a challenging environment to support all relevant stakeholders to continuously improve the quality and type of responses to prevent, protect and progress those at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in the Southeast Region.



## Diane Ihirwe

Diane Ihirwe is Senior Community Based Protection Officer with UNHCR. Her work focuses on supporting refugee communities, international protection applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection and informing them of their rights and resources available to them. Diane has co-founded two organisations, the first being Young Mother's Network (YMN) which supports women and children living in direct provision and Roots in Africa-Ireland (RIAINetwork) which focuses on psychosocial supports for immigrants in Ireland. Diane was also a guest lecturer in Maynooth University for two years and has continually contributed to many conversations on diversity, inclusion and equity in Ireland and dreams of an Ireland where we can all thrive regardless of age, gender, social class, ability or race.



## Ara Trianes Salguero

Ara Trianes Salguero is Head of Service of IPAS, Resettlement, Ukrainian and Afghan services with Peter McVerry Trust. Ara managed the provision of supports to individuals in the first self-isolation centre for international protection participants staying in accommodation provided by the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS). Ara then organised the opening and the daily running of various self-isolation centres accommodating new international protection applicants arriving from designated countries. Most recently, Ara has coordinated PMVT Pledged team and the Afghan project. Since 2020, Ara has led PMVT Resettlement team currently covering 11 counties across the Southern region and midlands.



## John O'Connor

John is the Chair of the Housing Commission and former Chief Executive Officer of The Housing Agency. Previous roles included Chief Executive of the Affordable Homes Partnership, and Executive Manager of the Housing & Communities Department in Dublin City Council. He also worked in the construction industry before moving to local government. He is a Chartered Engineer and holds qualifications in other areas including governance and project management. John has served on a wide range of boards and committees; and as chair on a number of these. Currently, he serves on the Programme Board for International Protection.



## Paula Quinn

Paula Quinn is an experienced civil servant, having worked in a number of different department and offices over the last 20 years. Paula joined the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as a Principal Officer in May 2021 and was tasked with the role of leading out on the implementation of a new model of accommodation for International Protection applicants. In addition, Paula has led out on particular areas of work to support the department's humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis including the delivery of a rapid build housing programme in collaboration with OPW.

# Speakers



## Eibhlin Byrne

Eibhlin Byrne is National Lead for Civic Engagement working with DCEDIY and Department of the Taoiseach. She was previously Director of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. In her earlier career she worked as a Senior Manager with DOCCFS delivering family therapeutic services, she served as Director of Educational Welfare in Tusla, the Child & Family Agency and worked in homeless services with Depaul Trust. She chaired the National Council on Ageing and Older People, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland and the Visiting Committee of the Dochas Centre - the women's prison at Mountjoy, Dublin. Previously a Dublin City Councillor, Eibhlin was elected Lord Mayor of Dublin City in 2008. A recipient of the Paul Harris Rotary award for services to the community, she is a former teacher.



## John Kennelly

John Kennelly is Acting Director of Services, Ukraine and Water Services with Kerry County Council. He joined Kerry County Council in 1994 where he has worked ever since. John is a Chartered Engineer and has spent most of his career working in the areas of Roads and Water Services. He has been the Municipal District Manager for Listowel since March 2020, and he has led the Council's response to the Ukraine crisis since January 2023 supporting accommodation initiatives such as the Emergency Refurbishment Programme and the Offer a Home Scheme. He also works closely with the Kerry Community Response Forum who provide integration supports to the largest number of Ukrainians hosted in any county outside of Dublin. He is currently overseeing the expansion of the remit of the recently renamed Kerry Community Integration Forum to provide similar supports to International Protection Applicants and Refugees.



## Madeline Allen

Madeleine Allen is a policy and advocacy officer currently working at the Irish Refugee Council. She holds a master's degree from Glasgow University in Global Migration and Social Justice. With extensive experience in frontline casework in both Ireland and Australia she is committed to centring lived experience in her work. Her areas of interest include housing rights, homelessness, migration and the intersection of these topics. She has contributed to several pieces of research aiming to promote and protect the rights of refugees and all those seeking protection in Ireland. Most recently a report on homelessness amongst newly arrived international protection applicants as well as research on the impact of targeted social welfare reforms on people living in the Direct Provision system.



## Lye Ogunsanya

Lye Ogunsanya is a disrupter and social innovator. Lye Ogunsanya is an IUSA Emerging Leader 2022 and US State Dept IVLP Alumni. He took part in a selection only US State Department Professionals Leadership Program with a focus on Global and Regional Responses to Refugee and Migration Issues. Following that Lye carried out extensive global analysis with submissions to Govt and Philanthropy on sustainable international protection accommodation models. He is the former Chief Executive Officer of Dídean to which Lye currently acts as an advisor consultant. Prior to Dídean, Lye was Portfolio Manager at The One Foundation Dublin where he led change driven programs in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Colombia and the mediterranean. The programmes disrupted the Education in Emergency sector and contributed to precedents for the UN adolescent education programme 'Generation Unlimited'. In the Mediterranean Lye led humanitarian innovation SAR interventions.

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