

Opening Statement

During the recent World Refugee Day celebrations, we conveyed important messages to Minister Helen McEntee regarding improvements to the international protection application processes in Ireland. We proposed granting of Stamp 4 status to applicants who have been in the system for over two years and re-evaluating the classification of certain countries as safe countries of origin. We also called for immediate work rights or a full weekly allowance for applicants who are unable to secure accommodation, as well as the end of the direct provision system, which we believe dehumanizes asylum seekers, stripping them of their dignity and impeding the freedom of young individuals due to stringent measures in direct provision centres. Additionally, the housing crisis faced by asylum seekers, resulting in homelessness, was highlighted as an urgent issue requiring comprehensive action in all our messages. We raised concerns about inequality in the treatment of refugees from different nationalities, citing a significant contrast in resource allocation and access to welfare, which poses a significant challenge for refugees in Ireland.

Lastly MASI is concerned with the approach that IPAS have taken to evict people with permission to stay in the country especially for families and children. This has caused a lot of distress for the people especially with the challenges they face in obtaining houses.

We appreciate the effort the department has made in obtaining accommodation for the Stranded men who ended up living in tents, we were wondering if the minister can give a comment on the plans to prevent this from happening moving forward.

We are concerned with the reports from people with disabilities living in direct provision who are sometimes not taken to account when IPAS staff is dealing with them as far as their needs are concerned.

Ends