

THE WEXFORD SANCTUARY MANIFESTO, 2020

OUR REQUESTS FOR REFORMS IN INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION

1. Direct Provision

- Centres should be run by Not-for-Profit organisations, with independent monitoring.
- All managers should receive proper training and there should be more consistency and accountability, with time-limited contracts.
- All emergency centres should be closed or changed to official Direct Provision Centres with agreed standards and provision, as a matter of urgency.
- Minimum standards of IT, study space, self catering, children's play areas and transport to local centres should be established immediately.
- Asylum seekers, especially families, should not be in Direct Provision for more than one year.

2. Asylum Decision Making System

- Speed up the decision making process and enable us to track our cases where delays are happening.
- Allow advocacy by elected representatives such as TDs to the Department of Justice on behalf of individual asylum seekers.
- Reform the delays and hardships caused by the Dublin 3 agreement.
- Once a positive decision is received, reduce excessive delays regarding the minister's letter and issue of GNIB card.
- Easing of process and expense of family reunification, including dependent children over 18.
- Availability of post decision supports to enable moving on.

3. Right to Work

- Reduce waiting time for work permits to a maximum of 6 months.
- Remove embargo on Dublin 3 applicants receiving work permits.
- Enable us to showcase our skills to local businesses and embark on awareness raising programmes for local employers and businesses.
- Enable driving licence issue when work permits issued.

4. Other Matters

- Ensure nationwide consistency of English language supports including EAL supports for school children.
- Including our voices in consultation and reviews of services.
- Enable strong community-based awareness-raising programmes around asylum and immigration, in order to help integration at all levels

PLEASE NOTE: This manifesto was prepared by Wexford Sanctuary Ambassadors over several months and is now being presented to our political leaders and representatives. We welcome the new government programme, and request these measures be considered as interim solutions to the hardships. We also want to assure our leaders of our willingness to help in any way needed, using our skills and experience.