

Foreword

Our strategic plan, launched in 2018, divides our work in to four areas: better services assisting more people, innovative integration projects, advocacy for change and achieving a fully funded, well governed and transparent organisation.

SERVICES:

Our Drop in Centre had another busy year. We assisted nearly 1500 people on a wide variety of issues. Significant time was given to helping people living in emergency accommodation who struggled to access basic services and support. In 2018 we welcomed Katie Mannion as Managing Solicitor of our Law Centre. We specialise in handling complex protection claims, this year was no different and we maintained a high recognition rate of 80%.

INTEGRATION:

Our housing work continues to expand. We work with people at all stages of the asylum procedure, particularly those struggling to leave Direct Provision because of the housing crisis. Our housing programme, 'A Place to Call Home', now accommodates more than 70 people who would otherwise be in Direct Provision or homeless. Highlights of our youth work included working with young women in Killarney and a collaborative project with St Andrews Resource Centre in Dublin. Our resettlement work continued to grow and we assisted an incredible 1900 people over the year. Our Education Fund is now in its 5th year. Through donations from the public and companies we have made more than 170 substantial grants increasing access to higher education. Our employment work continued with a particular focus on helping women find work.

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS:

Our communications work included speaking to young people in schools, colleges and universities about the importance of protecting people fleeing persecution. We also communicated to the Irish public the issues and challenges people seeking asylum in Ireland face and had a media presence on average once every 3 days. 2018 was also the first time in more than a decade that we had a full time Advocacy Officer. We worked on the Family Reunification Bill in the Dáil, budget submissions, advocacy around ending direct provision and modelling an alternative and implementation of the Reception Conditions Directive.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

We welcomed Reuben Hambakchere and Daniela Jurj to our Board and developed a new set of governance policies. The diversity of our funders continues to increase. We now have nearly 30 funders supporting our work. From micro grants for discrete projects to three-year support under Pobal's Scheme to Support National Organisations, AMIF funding and the Tomar Trust. We are grateful to all our funders and supporters, without whom we would not be able to do our work.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Over the next year we will continue to implement our strategic plan, some highlights include:

- Launch a new website
- Help communities sponsor refugees
- Expand our housing programme
- Begin new three year youth work and employment programmes
- Publish a report on how the housing crisis has affected refugees and people seeking asylum

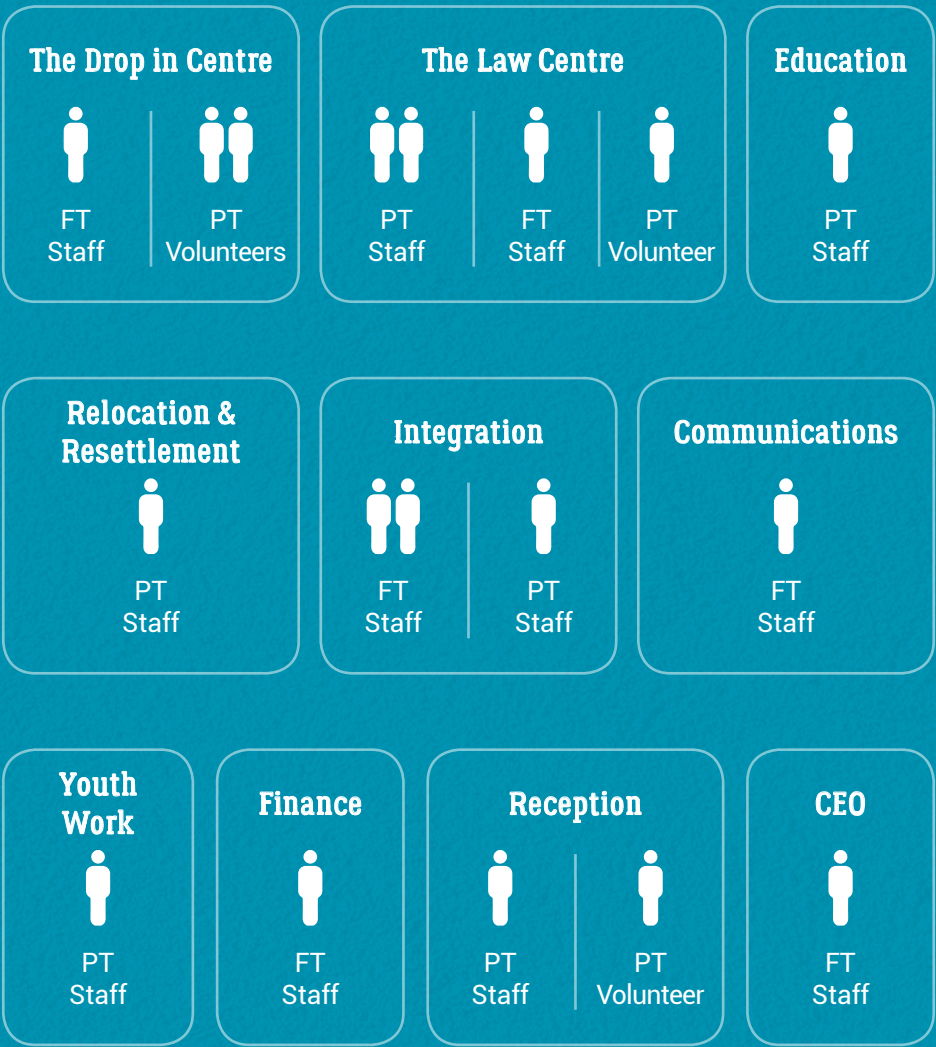
Finally, I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their incredibly hard work and commitment. It is a privilege to work with such an amazing group of people.

Nick Henderson,  
Chief Executive Officer



Promoting & Protecting  
the Rights of Refugees

The Team:



FT=Full-Time PT=Part-Time

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irishrefugeecouncil.ie

Twitter Facebook @IrishRefugeeCo

Irish Refugee Council  
2018 Impact Report

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“If it wasn’t for the Education Fund, I wouldn’t be where I am or the person that I am right now.”



## The Drop In Centre

### SPECIALIST INFORMATION

Over 1479 People from 77 Countries Assisted

400 hours of Assistance Completing IPO Questionnaires

608 New People Engaged with DIC Service

109 People at Risk of Homelessness/ Homeless Assisted

83 People Assisted in Family Reunification Applications

- Asylum Process
- Direct Provision (DP)
- Transition from DP
- Family Reunification
- IHAP

Specialist Case Work

## Education Access

Casework

108 People Given Advice & Support

- Funding
- Course Information
- Grant Information
- Negotiating Fees
- Scholarships

Top Presenting Issues

Financial Support

52 People Given Financial Assistance to Access Further Education

39% Increase in People Supported

Financial Assistance For

- Course Fees
- Transport Costs
- Course Materials
- Laptop/Mobile Data Plans

## Youth Work

Collaborative Projects



20 Nationalities Represented

Killarney Youth Group Formed  
Killarney African Youth Tribe

Our Voice Project

- Connections
- Friendship
- Creative Skills
- Confidence
- Integration
- Fun!

Arts Residential on Sherkin Island

## Relocation & Resettlement

People Assisted over 1900 Syrian, Iraqi & Palestinian People Assisted

Interpreter Training programme

12 French Speakers Trained  
28 Arabic Speakers Trained

- Family Reunification
- IHAP
- Citizenship
- Employment
- Visas

Specialist Case Work

## Team Impact

Approx. 3800 People Assisted via Telephone, Email & Web

62 Public Engagements

14 Events Hosted

37 Regional Outreach Sessions

## The Law Centre

EARLY LEGAL ADVICE (ELA)

61 New ELA Cases

138 ELA Consultations

Specialist Case Work

- Vulnerable Applicants
- LGBTI
- Family Reunification
- IHAP
- Appeals

Successes

23 Nationalities Represented

80% Success Rate

1 New Case Opened

Strategic Cases

3 Ongoing High Court Cases

Collaboration with A&L Goodbody

109 Staff trained under project to date

1396 Pro Bono Hours

## Finance, Governance & Transparency

Staff Team

- Nick
- Luke
- Jonah
- Claire
- Rory
- Heidi
- Aoife D
- Charlotte
- Caroline
- Hassina
- Aoife C
- Greta
- Brian
- Ismay
- Katie
- Rosemary

Volunteers & Interns

10 Volunteers & Interns Trained

CEO Salary

€57,000

Recruited

2 New Board Members

3 New Staff Members

8 Part-Time

8 Full-Time

Full Audited Accounts Available on our Website

### INCOME

- Public Donations
- A&L Goodbody
- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Church of Ireland
- Community Foundation of Ireland
- Community Integration Fund
- Creative Ireland
- Department of Environment Community and Local Gov
- Department of Justice
- Deutsche Bank
- Dormant Accounts Fund
- Dublin City Council
- European Commission
- ECRE
- Gibney Communications
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- IQFA
- Leagas
- Mason Hayes & Curran
- Musgrave Trust
- NetHope
- One for Ireland
- Pobal
- Sisters of Mercy
- St. Stephen's Green Trust
- Tomar Trust

Thank You!

## Communications

Over 3630 New People Engaged on Social Media

15 Press Releases & Over 211 Media Engagements

One media hit every three days

61 New Members

348 New Supporters

## Integration

16 Properties Donated

60 People Accommodated via Housing Project in:

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Dublin    | 19 |
| Kildare   | 6  |
| Limerick  | 5  |
| Cork      | 8  |
| Mayo      | 8  |
| Mullingar | 3  |
| Wicklow   | 2  |
| Waterford | 9  |

Our Table

Our Table Supported & Given Office Space

41 People Assisted onto Employment

380 People Given Housing Advice

Employment Programme for Refugee Women

- 23 Women Trained on Programme
- 41 Women Directly Assisted
- 12 Women in Employment
- 10 Women in Education
- 4 Collaborations with Employers

HAP Tenancies

23 People from DP

15 People from Homeless Service

- Housing List Applicants
- Homeless Services
- Social Welfare
- Tenancy Sustainment

## Advocacy & Policy

1 Pan EU Projects: AIDA



5 Research Papers

6 Submissions

Written & Oral Submission to UNCAT

14 Policy Positions Developed

- Family Reunification
- Budget
- Alternatives to DP
- Education Access
- Right to Work
- Reception Conditions Directive