

# THE WEXFORD SANCTUARY DECLARATION

## SANCTUARY AMBASSADORS OF WEXFORD, 2020

### OUR REQUEST FOR CHANGES AND REFORMS IN DIRECT PROVISION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

#### 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 with local structures for accountability.
- 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.
- Reform the anomalies, 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.

#### 4. Other Matters

- Enable driving licence issue when work permits issued.
- 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.