

Update on the Refugee Crisis.



Some of the Religious women who turned up to support the “Welcome Refugees” campaign on Sandymount Beach on September 12th 2015.

The EU commissioner for migration Dimitris Avromopoulos said “There is no wall you would not climb, no sea you would not cross if you are fleeing violence and terror.” This is so true. The month of September has seen more than 120,000 refugees crossed into Europe. The vast majority of these people are fleeing from war and hunger in Syria, Iraq and the Middle East.

Pope Francis has called on all Catholics to ensure that “every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe host a family, starting with my diocese of Rome.” The response of the IMU-CORI Justice Desk, in collaboration with both Executives, is to conduct a survey to obtain a picture of what our Members would be willing to make available to support the incoming Refugees to Ireland. The survey has been sent to both Executive and completed surveys are to be sent into the Justice Desk. The deadline is the 9th October.

The Government has asked Irish Red Cross to collate offers of public support for victims of the migration crisis arriving in Ireland in the months and years ahead. They will be developing a database that will enable them to profile public offers as means of matching them to the needs of intended beneficiaries. Depending on the results of the survey, and in conversation with the both Executives, the IMU-CORI Justice Desk will then enter into conversation with Irish Red Cross and the Government where appropriate.

Refugees coming to Ireland.

As yet we do not know the date for the arrival of the first group of Refugees. The Government task force has not published its report but the following steps are what is likely to happen:

1. Refugee and Asylum Seekers will be taken from Greece and Italy.
2. Two reception and orientation centres are to be set up (possibly the old army barracks in Mullingar and Clonmel). It is envisaged that people will be there no longer than 12 weeks as most people who come from Greece and Italy are likely to have their papers ready.
3. Placement of people in communities. These will be large towns and cities in Ireland where people are likely to access resources.
4. Establish networks and arrange of support services.

The IMU-CORI Justice Desk participates in a coalition of agencies who are monitoring the Government's response as well as discussing how best to coordinate what each agency has to offer.

We also have formed a network with Spirasi, Crosscare Refugee Service, Columbans, Jesuit Refugee Service and the Lantern Centre which meets on a regular basis to share information and develop strategies on how best to respond to the current issues that arise.

If you need any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for interest.

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