

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland Annual Report 2018



2018

Foreword from our Chairperson

I am very pleased, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to introduce the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland 2018 Annual Report. This was another significant for advancing the rights of migrant workers. It is a year that has seen important achievements, growth and great steps towards the future stability of MRCI and migrant rights in Ireland.

2018 produced a watershed moment in the global governance of migration. Governments from across the world adopted the Global Compact on Migration in Marrakesh in December, a culmination of 3 years work. Work will continue in 2019 to ensure its implementation in Ireland.

2018 also saw greater uncertainty with Brexit, coupled with economic growth in Ireland. Ireland is now one of the most diverse countries in the EU. People from a migrant background are an integral part of the Irish labour market making up 15 per cent of the workforce. A review of labour migration in Ireland was carried out. Despite this review, disappointingly the system remains restrictive, complex and two tiered. MRCI has consistently called for a relaxing of rules and an opening up of the work permit system to respond to economic growth. This system lags behind the needs of the labour market and continues to be restrictive for workers.

MRCI supported 2,000 individuals through our Drop in Centre and responded quickly to the new Student Scheme which opened in November 2018. We supported 100s for undocumented people including young people and families to regularise their immigration status.

Work has continued in the key strategic areas of the organisation, responding to the needs of migrant workers and undocumented workers. We launched a new anti-trafficking project, Migrants against Exploitation, a new migrant entrepreneurship course and kicked off our new project to develop a Social Enterprise in Homecare.

We are so proud of Young Paperless and Powerful who took a stand for the rights of undocumented children and young people and launched this beautiful video [*This Is My Life: growing up undocumented in Ireland.*](#)

The team in MRCI grew in 2018 to meet new demand. The Board and team look forward to our future work together with our partners, allies and migrants to work to achieve change and to make Ireland a more equal and just society.

All this would be impossible without our funders, donors and supporters. We sincerely thank all of them however big or small the contribution to our work. You make hope possible and change feasible.

Raluca Anucuta
MRCI Chairperson

Introduction

Welcome to MRCI's Annual Report 2018. From our very first venture into social enterprise to a new and ambitious cross-border project, 2018 was a year of growth and development for MRCI. 22 incredible women graduated from our migrant entrepreneurship course, a ground-breaking collaboration with DCU. We hit the headlines with another successful au pair case, taking the opportunity to again remind all au pairs and employers that au pairs are workers and workers have rights.

Seven new team members joined us in 2018, bringing new energy and ideas to our outreach and casework and strengthening our campaigns for care workers, undocumented migrants, workers in the border region and young people.

We secured a permanent home, moving to 13 Lower Dorset Street in October. Two weeks after the big move, the long-awaited Student Scheme was announced and the Drop-In Centre kicked into high gear even as renovations continued around them. Knowing that this scheme was a unique and life-changing chance for many undocumented workers and families to become documented, we were determined to help as many people as possible to apply. Drop-In Centre opening hours were extended, caseworkers and campaign workers answered hundreds of questions by email, phone and in person, and in the three-month application period, several hundred applications were submitted through MRCI.

And for the many undocumented people who did not qualify for the scheme, the fight continues. Last year, Justice for the undocumented members marked St Patrick's Day by stepping forward and introducing themselves as #TheOtherUndocumentedIrish – standing in solidarity with the undocumented in the United States, and reminding the Irish government that there are undocumented people in Ireland too.

As undocumented children and young people became the focus of anti-deportation campaigns by communities and schools around the country, Young, Paperless & Powerful released a film about their lives, briefed politicians and policymakers, and continued to work so that no child will grow up undocumented in Ireland.

In partnership with three organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland, our Crossing Borders, Breaking Boundaries project tackled discrimination, racism and the exploitation of migrant workers along the border region. This work is ever more relevant as the region braces itself for Brexit.

Through our My Fair Home Group, home care workers are organising online and off. A group of experienced and committed care workers are devising a new and innovative social enterprise to provide quality care and quality jobs in the community. We ended the year with a housewarming for our new home, celebrating with friends and campaigners old and new.

None of this work could happen without our funders, donors and supporters, to whom we are deeply grateful.

Edel McGinley
Director

About MRCI

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) is the leading national community organisation working with migrants and their families in Ireland to promote justice, empowerment and equality.

Our Aim is advance the rights of all migrant workers and their families. **Our Belief** is that lives can be improved when individuals act collectively. **Our Vision** is for an open and inclusive Ireland where migrant workers and their families participate fully and equally. **Our focus** is on promoting the empowerment and inclusion of migrants as at risk of poverty, social exclusion, exploitation and discrimination. **Our Efforts** are inspired by a community work approach which seeks to advance social justice goals by challenging the root causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion.

MRCI is concerned with the inclusion and active participation of migrant workers employed in less-regulated low/minimum-wage work and at risk of poor and exploitative working conditions. We reach out to and support migrants who have been trafficked for labour exploitation, those who are undocumented or at risk of becoming so, non-economically active and underemployed migrants.

MRCI's approach combines front-line services – information provision, access to rights and entitlements, strategic case work, with building the participation and leadership of migrants through action and campaign groups. Our community work approach builds relationships with migrants coming through our service to support their integration and active participation in projects, activities, advocacy, campaigns and policy change.

Priorities for 2018 include;

- Built the participation of young excluded undocumented migrants through the Young Paperless and Powerful project, e.g. through a spoken word event 'Ireland is My Home' and launch of film ['This is my Life'](#) highlighting their concerns.
- Secured the introduction of 2018-2019 *Special Scheme for non-EEA nationals who held a Student Permission in the State during the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2010*
- Developed and published a number of research and evidence-based policy papers and submissions based on MRCI data, low pay, homecare and the future of labour migration in Ireland.
- Built the visibility of migrant rights concerns in civil society on national housing policy
- Grew the scope of MRCI work to roll out a bespoke migrant women's entrepreneurship training course
- Developed a new cross-border project working with migrant workers in precarious sectors of the labour market in the border region
- Increased participation and engagement of low-waged migrant workers with politicians & in policy and legislative development
- Secured a permanent home for MRCI and the future of migrant rights in Ireland.
- Irish Refugee and Migrant Coalition - national coalition of 22 NGOs agreed policy framework with the State to pilot a Community Sponsorship Programme for Ireland
- Brought a migrant rights agenda to the development and agreement of the Global Compact on for Safe and Orderly Migration

Drop in Centre

The DIC, opens three days a week - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - is one of the few remaining DIC open in Dublin and across Ireland to provide information and support to migrants. The DIC continues to be very busy and is a critical access point for migrants seeking support. This enables us to engage vulnerable migrants to support their participation into action groups and campaigns.

In 2018, MRCI's Drop in Centre attended to 1,949 cases from 111 nationalities, with more males (57.2%) than Females (41.7%). The largest number of people accessing our services were from Brazil (12.3%), followed by The Philippines (8.8%), Mauritius (8.1%), Pakistan (5.3%), India (5.2%), China (4.8%), Irish (4.6%), Nigerian (3.5%), South African (3.0%) and Bangladesh (2.9%).

Undocumented people continue to represent one third of our work in 2018 at 34.06 %, which is a slight increase on 2017. People sought information, advice and advocacy on; regularising their legal status (26.7%); Change of legal status (19.3%); work permits (9.4%); Family reunification (7.4%); employment issues (6.6%); social welfare (2.1%); and Housing (1.1%).

We worked with people from a wide variety of sectors, Care, domestic worker, housekeepers, au-pairs (8.0%), restaurant and catering (7.9%), not in employment (5.1%). retail (2.7%), and Hotel and Hospitality (1.4%)



Sancha in the Drop in Centre with Priscillia and Emer

MRCI DROP-IN CENTRE 2018

At Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, we provide free and confidential advice & support to migrants and their families. This is what 2018 looked like in our drop-in centre.

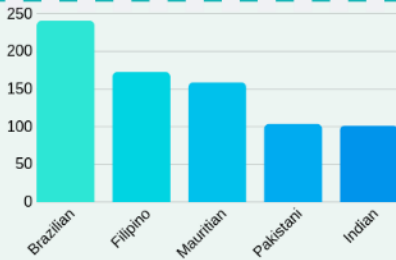


1,949 PEOPLE

The number of people who came to Migrant Rights Centre Ireland for advice, information and support in 2018. Some cases take just 30 minutes; others can last years.

111 NATIONALITIES

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe and almost everywhere in between: in 2018, people from all over the world came through the doors of our Dublin drop-in centre.



The **5 nationalities we saw most** in 2017: Brazilian, Filipino, Mauritian, Pakistani and Indian.

68% FACE-TO-FACE

People can contact us for help by phone and email, but most prefer to speak to a caseworker in person - sometimes you just need to see a friendly face.



FAMILY & JOBS



Family reunification and work permit difficulties were two of the top issues people came to MRCI with last year - and ultimately, family and work are at the heart of most cases we handle every year.

1 IN 3 UNDOCUMENTED

For most undocumented people in Ireland there is still no way for them to become regularised - no line they can join, no fee they can pay, no form they can fill out.



MRCI DROP-IN CENTRE 2018

Over the past 17 years, the drop-in centre has been our first contact with many people who have later become extraordinary campaign leaders.



ESSENTIAL WORK

The people who come to our drop-in centre are concentrated in essential job sectors - **care and domestic work, restaurants and catering, and retail.**

AVERAGE AGE: 37

Most people we assisted in 2018 were in their 30s - but the oldest was 70, and the youngest was just a few months of age.

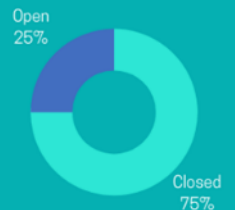


REGULARISATION

In September, the Government brought in a pathway to papers for some undocumented former students. We extended our opening hours and assisted with **497 applications.**

CASE CLOSED?

75% of our cases were closed by the end of the year, but more complex cases take longer. We'll keep working on the remaining 25% for as long as we're needed.



YOUR SUPPORT



It's not just important - it's essential. Our advice, information and support is free to all who need it, and it should stay that way. Go to **[mrci.ie/donate](https://www.mrci.ie/donate)** to support migrant rights.

Most of our cases of trafficking, forced labour and severe workplace exploitation do not come through the drop-in centre and are not represented here - for more on those cases, please go to

www.mrci.ie

Thank you to our amazing caseworkers Sancha, Bianca, Johanna, Emer, Priscilla, and Karina ♥

Migrants Forum

In the first quarter of 2018, MRCI held a migrants forum on housing. Key issues arising included the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Housing Waiting Lists, mistreatment by slum landlords, overcrowding, poor living conditions - damp and mold, illegal eviction notices and threats from landlords. The forum agreed on needing fair rent and rent reduction, fighting slum landlords to improve conditions, the need for public housing and the best way to do that was to get active and organised. MRCI is a member of the National Housing and Homeless Coalition and we participated in two marches organized by this group.

MRCI held its annual December 18th Celebration on Sunday 16th to welcome people to our new building. We welcomed people to the new space and introduced them to new staff. This was very successful and was packed to the rafters. Clown without borders performed for the children.



Clowns without Borders entertaining everyone at the celebration of International Migrants Day



Champa presenting a cake to Edel that was made for MRCI

Strategic Casework

This is a key element of our work which supports strategic campaigns and policy development. We have seen a growth in deportation orders of the people we work with. Revoking these are very complex and require a huge amount of time and expertise to deal with them. These along with responding to cases of exploitation and trafficking for forced labour cases - all of which require high levels of support and interventions – had put a huge amount of strain on MRCI's capacity to deal with all the cases.

Trafficking for Forced Labour Cases

MRCI provides a National Assessment and Advocacy Service for people who experience trafficking for labour exploitation (TLE). In 2018, MRCI dealt with 23 LT cases. The number of cases is growing year on year. As highlighted at a European and international level. The current number of cases of LT identified in Ireland is only the tip of the ice berg as the problem of forced labour is growing.

MRCI provided the following:

- Support to exit TLE situation
- Liaise with An Garda Síochána
- Provide essential supplies i.e. clothing and emergency accommodation
- Carry out assessments on TLE
- Prepare a report for An Garda Síochána
- Refer externally and liaise with specialised services on an ongoing basis in response to the needs
- Assess compensation claims including employment rights violations
- Prepare employment claims for the Workplace Relations Commission
- Provide full representation of employment cases
- Conduct regular support meetings with the person to provide information and assess further needs and supports Refer to action groups and support networks to reintegrate
- Input data into the Case Management System
- Submit data reports to Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

Trafficking for Labour Exploitation

Migrants Against Exploitation (MAX)

In 2018 MRCI recruited an outreach worker to coordinate a preventative project aimed at leaders and connectors in migrant communities. This train the trainer project aims to combat exploitation and trafficking for labour exploitation through innovative outreach with migrant communities. Towards the end of 2018 the MAX (Migrants Against Exploitation) project began with expectations for recruitment and roll out in 2019.

In May 2018, MRCI and Maynooth University held a conference on Severe Labour Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Ireland, to highlight the findings of a joint research project and labour exploitation in Ireland more generally. The event was a great success with a high level of engagement and discussion within the room, and with media coverage on this very complex issue.

EU Project – Justice at Last

MRCI is involved in an EU project on access to compensation for victims of trafficking. MRCI conducted an analysis of trafficking cases to examine existing barriers preventing victims of trafficking for labour exploitation from claiming and obtaining compensation. The research was subsequently forwarded to

external consultants to collate the findings of all project partners and draft three preliminary assessment reports on the particular areas of legal procedures and alternative mechanisms, victim needs, and referral.

Key Actions

- MRCI worked with the external consultants to review and assist with the finalisation of the three reports on legal procedures and alternative mechanisms, victim needs, and referral.
- MRCI also attended Focus Group Discussions in Vienna in June. Representatives from the Workplace Relations Commission and the Legal Aid Board attended these discussions at the invitation of MRCI.
- Attended at 3-day conference with NGO's from 9 other nations across the EU in December to look at obtaining compensation for victims of trafficking.

Justice for Undocumented (JFU)

The arrival of the long awaited 'undocumented student scheme' at end of 2018 removed a key barrier in advancing JFU & MRCI's longer term campaign strategy for regularisation/s as policy solutions. Coupled with an increase in resources (full time campaign development worker) 2018 (particularly the second half) saw a significant increase in JFU membership, 'base building' and leadership development work with undocumented migrants.

In 2018 JFU continued to grow but more significantly invested deeply in 'its base' reigniting and deepening relationships with existing and emerging leaders. By year end JFU had a very active group of over 600 undocumented migrants across Ireland with 50 strong leaders growing JFU campaign with MRCI.

Key Actions

- Four general meetings held focusing on membership and movement away from broad based regularisation ask to series of schemes
- Establishment of new campaign strategy group in JFU; first meeting planned, very well attended with diverse and highly capable make up
- Design and production of a brand new JFU information flyer led by a new JFU member
- Supporting emerging leaders taking on identified roles and responsibilities in JFU
- Community connectors identified and membership plan initiated with JFU member – meeting weekly to grow membership
- JFU leaders worked with MRCI to outreach to their communities on the student scheme cohosting scheme info sessions, supporting applications, participating in national media requests (RTE news, Irish Times)



St Patricks Day

A fantastic social media action for St Patrick's Day was carried out by over 80 members of Justice for Undocumented stepping forward and revealing their undocumented status to Ireland, many for their first time. This was a remarkable action as it engaged new members and built solidarity within the group while also highlighting the hypocrisy of the state. New hashtag #theotherundocumentedirish trended on Twitter and had significant social media traction. Palpable sense of frustration in JFU as many did not benefit from undocumented student scheme as tourist visa overstayers. St Patricks day action selected to tap into this reality and set terrain up for next 'campaign ask'.



Champa and Priya who are long-standing JFU leaders



JFU leaders meeting

Student Scheme

A key achievement in 2018 was the launch of a new Scheme for non-EEA nationals who held student permission in the State during the period 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2010. The scheme permitted qualifying persons to regularise their immigration status. Under the scheme the family unit is considered which MRCI fought for and will affect most of Young Paperless and Powerful. While a great achievement, and it will transform the lives of over 1,000 families, it did not go far enough and we believe that 50% of people were not eligible due to restrictions of scheme who came on student visas.

MRCI played a leadership role in ensuring scheme was taken up in communities through programme of outreach and extended Drop in Centre opening hours.

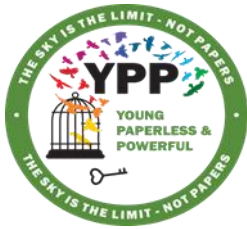
Key Actions to Develop and Implement the Scheme

- DIC extend its opening hours – to Wednesday evenings and provided additional case work for the undocumented student scheme.
- Public information plan developed with 5 outreach sessions on undocumented student scheme – Bangladeshi & Pakistani community, two public open meetings - on average 45 at each-, mosque x 1 and Chinese community x 1
- MRCI continues to document trends and issues to feed back to the department
- JFU continue to meet and work on the next phase of the campaign for JFU as two thirds were excluded from this scheme. .
- JFU support, Justice for the Undocumented Gort, Co Galway - based out of Gort Resource Centre - research resource with undocumented families and children.



JFU members meeting with undocumented workers in Gort

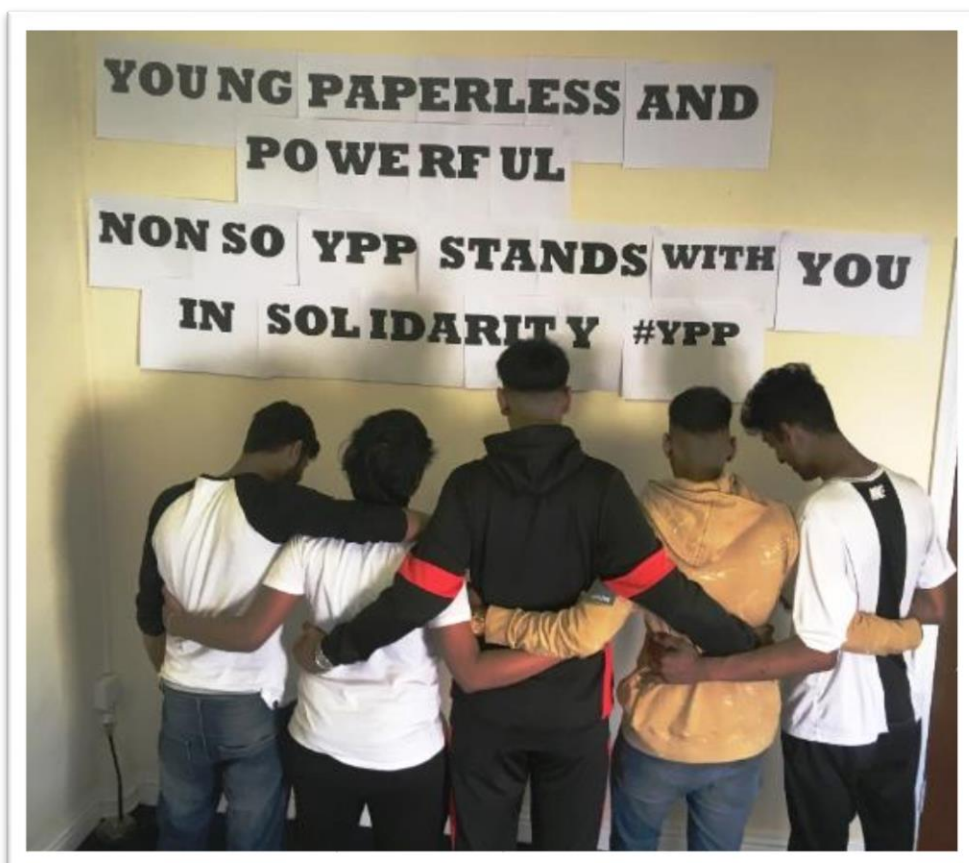
Young Paperless and Powerful (YPP)



A Youth Worker was recruited in April 2018 and it has been fantastic to be able to fully resource this work with a designated worker. The group have met regularly throughout the year, where they share stories in a safe, creative and empowering way; to work together as a group of committed activists; to plan the next steps in the campaign; to have fun along the way with trips to with cinema, music gigs, water activities...and a lot of pizza!!

Key Actions

- YPP launched film ["This is My Life"](#) on 20th November on International Universal Children's Day. This was a culmination of a creative, empowering youth work process and a strategic event. The film has been watched over 10,000 times and widely disseminated to youth, children's rights sector and policy/decision makers
- YPP formally launched their campaign Nov 20th, 2018: calling for a permanent solution so that no child or young person grows up undocumented in Ireland, whether born here or not.
- YPP has had the very helpful support of working with a barrister in terms of legal drafting around legislation being called for.
- YPP created their own logo and hashtag - #undocyouthlrl - for social media, publications and external communications
- The issue of deportation of undocumented children and young people have been to the fore this year, with the cases of Nonso and Eric winning public support. YPP sent out powerful images on social media, in solidarity with these young men.
- YPP continue to seek political opportunities to engage.
- The Labour Party introduced of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Naturalisation of Minors Born in Ireland) Bill in November 2018. MRCI briefed Senators and YPP were in the gallery when it was being debated.
- Agreement to work with Uplift in the new year regarding power building tactics with school teachers, communities and constituents.
- YPP hosted an interactive youth exchange in Dublin, with the [Migrant Children's Project](#) from [CORAM Children's Legal Centre](#), London in December 2018.
- [PICUM guide](#) on regularisation for children and young people launched with a foreword written by YPP member.
- In 2018, there have been 25 YPP meetings and excursions, and over 20 one-to-one supports.
- A member of YPP was interviewed for [RTE Drivetime](#) on the day of the Leaving Cert Results, August 2018.



Homecare, Domestic Work and Au-Pairs

My Fair home

Following on from the impactful and rich work of the Domestic Workers Action Group My Fair Home (MFH) is emerging as the next chapter in MRCI's community development response to situation of migrant carers in Ireland. In 2018 MFH represented the only space in Ireland for migrant carers to connect and organise to ensure the valuable migrant perspective is being understood. With the arrival of new staff resources for MFH (October) relationship building and one to one work with experienced and active migrant carers was prioritised. Following this carers represented MFH at the Home Carers Ireland and Carers Conference, and the Carnegie roundtable discussion on the 'quality of work' highlighting their concerns about work and care standards and need for permits. Whilst representation is important, MRCI has also been focused on ensuring that the My Fair Home network is strong and growing.



Conversation on Care event with Pauline Cullen (Maynooth University)

International Domestic Workers Day was celebrated on June 16th, through a simple social media action and MFH was represented at launch of carers' week. There was increased activity and membership on My Fair Home Facebook group - now over 400 members. Members were active in a simple action to support MRCI submission to the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation's review of economic policy as well as driving the annual mini marathon fundraiser.

MRCI is part of a Home Care Coalition of 27 leading NGOs in the sector calling for a statutory homecare scheme (extension of the Fair Deal to live at home). MRCI participated in a pre-publication meeting of the findings from the Public Consultation on Home Care with Department of Health in June and highlighted key migrant carer concerns in the Home Care Alliance report

MRCI is working with the coalition to influence the Department of Health development and design of the statutory Home Care Scheme, due in 2021. The coalition is presenting to the Department of Health – which includes migrant workers perspective – principles and objectives to consider. The coalition is supporting the call for employment permit for home care and a mechanism to support undocumented home care workers to regularise their situation. This was supported in a Coalition's pre budget press release.

Key Actions

- Poll carried out with MFH members - top 3 concerns – getting papers for undocumented carers, getting work permits for carers and highlighting the value of migrant carers in Ireland
- Increased engagement with Home Carers Ireland (HCI) and 2nd ever carers conference in Ireland. MFH invited to participate and speak
- Ongoing one-to-one meetings with individual carers – handover with new MRCI staff responsible for community development and organising in MFH
- Relationships deepened with care alliance with clear support for core migrant carer concerns - joint press release and photo call on launch of report on regulation of home care
- Care coordination within MRCI clarified – good collaboration between ESF and MFH Care for the Carers event held in December – end of year MFH evening event relationship building exercise and collaboration with Pauline Cullen NUI Maynooth
- Theory of change session on home care – what is the change we want to see on care and strategy to get there



Attending the Home Care Alliance Conference

Au Pairs

As part of a community profile, we are reconnecting with Au Pairs who were engaged in the past to re-build relationships. The situation of Au Pairs was highlighted at the Gender Conference at UCD.

Key Actions

- Au Pair bookmarks were distributed in English Language schools
- Two outreach events took place during the year – a picnic in St Stephens Green with old members; and a coffee morning with potential new members.
- Au Pairs were represented at a one- hour program broadcast at Dublin South FM.
- Au pairs are empowered with up to date reliable information - know your rights
- Au pairs are supported to navigate the WRC and take cases
- MRCI to develop a deeper understanding and analysis of au pair experience in Ireland
- Advance an agreed number of strategic cases to reinforce judgement 'au pairs are workers'

ESF Project Building Better Futures-Building Social Enterprise with Migrant Women

Migrant Women's Entrepreneurship Training

In the first half of 2018 the project was focused on the delivery of the Migrant Women's Entrepreneurship Training project with The DCU Ryan Academy for Entrepreneurship. This included advertising the course, interviewing candidates and selection of most suitable participants for the programme.

Next phase was assessment of start-up stage of each participant, followed by the development of a bespoke entrepreneurship training programme to meet their needs. This was done with Ryan Academy course coordinator and facilitator. The training was delivered over a 3 month period, follow up one to one support was available to all participants to achieve the best possible outcomes and learning. 22 participants successfully completed the training. Post training activities included regular group mentorship workshops, one to one supports, follow up mentorship day with Ryan Academy and a Showcase finale of the start-ups in Q4.

Key Actions

- The Building Better Futures – Migrant Women's Entrepreneurship Training at DCU Ryan Academy took place with nine Saturday workshops for 22 participants.
- There was a closing ceremony with the head of the EU Funds Unit of DOJ.
- A number of group mentorship workshops took place during 2018
- A showcase of the women's start-ups took place in November



The women who participated in the Entrepreneurship Training course

Social Enterprise with migrant Women in Home Care

We established and recruited home care workers into a working group to create a power sharing process between MRCI staff and home care workers to support the development of the social enterprise. The group held 15 workshops in 2018 which covered training, market research and user testing. In Quarter three 2018 we partnered with the Ladder to carry out a design sprint to test and validate our value proposition with potential clients and users of the service. We then tested the model with carers and carried out language testing with users. Evaluation of user testing, and of quantitative and qualitative data, enabled us to validate that there is a gap in the market for our services.

Key Actions

- The project began collaboration with the Ladder who run a Design Sprint with NGOs and start-ups seeking to achieve social impact. This is a six week process working with a multi-disciplinary team
- In October a Listening Day was carried out in Dalkey to test the business idea on users, real clients and families seeking homecare.
- A road map was developed with a timeframe for execution of this social enterprise.



Working group session with Brendan Martin from Buurtzorg UK and Ireland

Peace IV Project

MRCI launched our ambitious cross-border project, Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries, in January 2018 in partnership with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Ulster University, and the Community Intercultural Programme. This project tackles discrimination, racism and the exploitation of migrants in precarious and insecure sectors of the labour market, along the border region of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

During 2018, we recruited two new project workers who hit the ground running to build relationships with black and minority ethnic migrant workers and communities; delivering casework and information sessions in Cavan and Donegal. We also reconnected with the Donegal Intercultural Platform and Cavan County Council, and made a new partnership with the Cavan Cross-Cultural Community, the 4Cs, among others.

Key Actions

- Project work plan developed and agreed from original business plan.
- Stakeholder mapping begun and initial contact made with workers, community groups and local government.
- Delivered casework and outreach sessions in Cavan and Donegal



Yasmin Kutub meeting with Brazilian workers in Cavan

Policy Work

In March the Department announced a review of how they oversee and regulate their labour migration system. It is a very technical submission. MRCI made a submission to the review of Ireland's labour migration policy and employment permit system and mobilised Care Coalition members to support MRCI calls for care to be removed from ineligible category list and for a regularisation for undocumented migrants. ICTU are also supporting these calls in their submission.

MRCI sought the following

- Care including domestic work, care in nursing homes etc being taken out of the ineligible categories of employment
- Graduated Labour mobility - free to move after 2 years similar to the green card
- Reduction in the Salary threshold to a living wage from €30,000 to €27,000

Partnership, Solidarity and Civil Society

Irish Refugee and Migrant Coalition: This work has taken on the focus of Community Sponsorship and a policy framework for Community Sponsorship was agreed in August 2018. The coordinator left in May and MRCI was not in a position to further support this initiative due to funding restrictions. MRCI continues to sit on the Steering Group and the Irish Refugee Council is the current coordinator.

Homeless and Housing Coalition. Housing Protest – Team and migrant workers participated in two housing protests organised by NHH, October 3rd and December 2nd



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17 – Organised and supported two migrant workers to participate in the event

Amal Muslim Women's Association; MRCI's commitment to green housing new organisations supported AMAL in 2018. They were recipients of a once off funding grant allowing for the recruitment of staff for first time. MRCI recommended them for the funding and we are asked to act in a supporting role re organisational development. Joint MRCI AMAL event being organised for early 2019 – solidarity and supports for people from a minority background leading out for change

Low Pay Commission

MRCI continued to sit on the Low Pay Commission until June 2018.

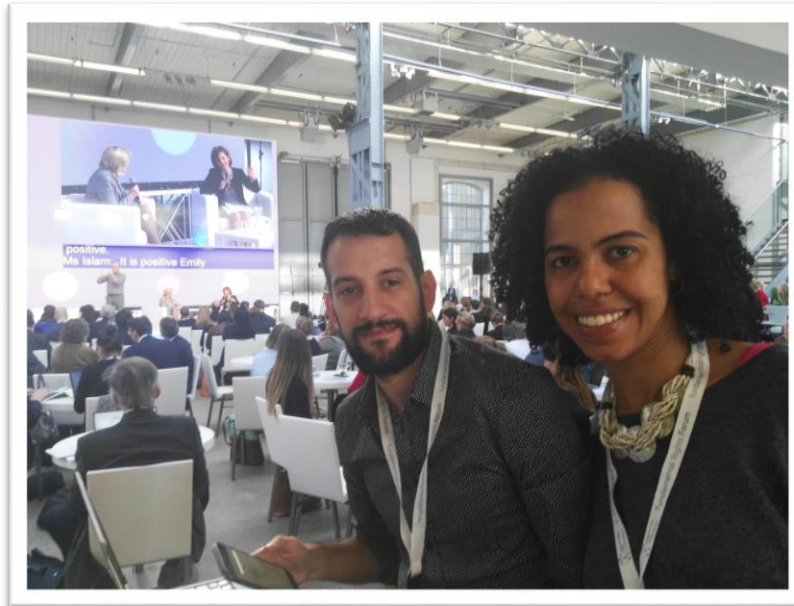
MRCI continued to deepen our solidarity work with the Movement of Asylum Seekers Ireland (MASI) and Amal Muslim women's association. One full day strategy workshop was organised by MRCI for MASI, JFU and MFH activists; identifying common concerns re racism, exploitation and equality. Excellent input provided by Uplift

MRCI continues to provide payroll and financial management for UPLIFT Campaign organisation, Amal Muslim Women's association, the European Network Against Racism Ireland and the Sex Worker Rights Alliance.

EU and International

We continued to work at EU and international levels through PICUM and other networks. MRCI's Director is the Chair of PICUM, working for the rights of undocumented migrants across the EU. MRCI participated in PICUM strategy meeting on regularisations across EU – identifying policy change and best practice in terms of permanent mechanism to regularise undocumented children and young people.

The Global Compact for Safe and Orderly migration was adopted in Marrakesh on 10th and 11th December, with Ireland signing up to this. MRCI worked through PICUM and with the IRMC to bring key areas of concern to the Irish government for inclusion in the final document.



Jane Xavier with Pablo Rojas Coppari at the EU Fundamental Rights Assembly Conference



MRCI Team in solidarity with ENAR Ireland during European Action Week Against Racism

Purchase of 13 Lower Dorset Street

MRCI was delighted to take ownership of 13 lower Dorset St, Dublin 1 on Friday 15th September 2018. We moved into the Building in October 2018 after a number of small renovations to house our DIC. This is a permanent home for MRCI which would not be possible with the support of the Atlantic Philanthropies and the Society of St Columban.



Hilary, Fauziah, Guarev and Helen on the day MRCI got the keys for 13 Lower Dorset Street

Organizational Development

Throughout 2018 MRCI conducted an internal review to reflect work going forward and the resources of the organisation. We focused on organisational development and looking at MRCI as a second generation organisation. We held a team and board day on 1st February which looked at key issues and highlighted gaps and concern for the organisation. We had a number of planning sessions on care, undocumented people, work permits and organisational development. MRCI set up a new management structure, the coordination group which will help with the overall running of the organisation and decision making. A deputy director role was created to support the growth of new team and campaign/community work model.

Key Actions

Held a number of team planning sessions in 2018 to look at strategic priorities and bottle necks.

Conducted training on supervision

Oversaw renovations of the new office

Recruitment of seven new staff

New supervision framework in full operation; new and existing staff in regular supervision with new template, probation period with new team, annual reviews

MRCI's Board met five times during 2018. The Finance Subgroup met four times and the Staff and Employment Subgroup met four times. All subgroups report directly to the Board. MRCI's Board members

in 2017 were Raluca Anucuta (Chairperson), Bobby Gilmore, Pat Raleigh, Anastacia Crickley, Kevin Glackin, Michael O'Sullivan, Bernadette Daly, Bill Abom (Vice Chair) and Lucy Peprah. The Finance subgroup members are Michael O'Sullivan, Cathal McAllister and Emma Caparangca. The Employment subgroup members are Bill Abom and Bernadette Daly.

Special Thanks

Huge thanks goes to the team of MRCI which in 2018 included Edel McGinley, Helen Lowry, Sancha Magat, Pablo Rojas Coppari, Hilary Royston, Aoife Smith, Aoife Murphy, Dearbhla Ryan, Jane Xavier, Jane O'Connell, Mairead McDevitt, Brid McKeown, Yasmin Kutub, Neil Bruton, Joel Anderson, Sylwia Nowakowska and Karina Korotkevica.

Special thanks are offered to our interns, volunteers and students from NUI Maynooth, who contributed so much to MRCI during 2018 including, Renta Depset, Bianca Angela Casado, Johanna Dwyer, Emer Connor, Priscillia Sambiani, Agnieszka Daciow, Aidan Farrelly and Sean Frayne.

A big thanks also goes to our Board of Directors, Bobby Gilmore, Raluca Anucuta, Bernadette Daly, Bill Abom, Michael O'Sullivan, Pat Raleigh, Lucy Peprah and Anastacia Crickley

A big thanks goes to our Employment Subgroup Bernadette Daly and Bill Abom and to the members of our Finance Subgroup Emma Caparangca, Cathal McAllister and Michael O'Sullivan.

Special Thanks to Philip Lee Solicitors for their pro-bono work on our conveyancing.



Bobby and some of the MRCI team meeting Fr Kevin O'Neil (the former head of the Columban Missionary Society) at MRCI offices



Celebrating Fauziah's birthday



Celebrating Bobby's birthday

MRCI's Funders in 2018

Special thanks to all our Funder in 2018

- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI)
- Carmelite Fathers
- Columban Missionary Society
- Dublin City Council
- One Foundation
- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government- Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO)
- The Community Foundation of Ireland
- The Department of Justice and Equality – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
- The Department of Justice and Equality – European Social Fund
- The Department of Justice and Equality - Anti Human Trafficking Unit
- The Department of Justice and Equality - Dormant Accounts
- Tomar Trust
- Tusla- Child and Family Agency
- Special EU Programmes Body- PEACE IV

MRCI confirms its commitment to the principles set out in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. MRCI has a feedback and complaints procedure consistent with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

MRCI Core Objectives and Activities 2019

MRCI developed and launched our Strategic Plan 2017 -2020 last year. We continue to build on the success of our community work model and in providing relevant and up to date information, advice and support to at risk migrant communities. This year MRCI will deliver impact in several concentrated areas of work.

1. To continue to provide information, support and advocacy to over 2,000 cases in our Drop in Centre
2. To continue to provide quality assessments of cases of trafficking for labour exploitation and provide an excellent range of supports and advocacy
3. To advance early identification procedures of trafficking for forced labour
4. To successfully campaign secure the next in a series of schemes to regularise undocumented migrants and their families in Ireland.
5. To support undocumented young people to develop a campaign plan, strategy and actions to introduce permeant mechanism to regularise undocumented children and young people
6. To win broad political support for legalisation to address the situation of undocumented children born in Ireland and those who have come to Ireland, supporting schools and teachers to lead out on campaigns.
7. To design and deliver youth-led migration workshops to train youth workers, and stakeholders.
8. To continue the development of the membership base of My Fair Home to influence the development and design of the statutory Home Care Scheme, due 2021.
9. To launch MRCI's new Social Enterprise in home care led by homecare workers.
10. To continue cross border cooperation and work with migrants along the border through the PEACE IV funded project
11. To support migrants to develop campaigning and community leadership skills
12. With the Community Platform (Network of 30 community organisations) develop a manifesto for the local and EU elections to combat racism and xenophobia and encourage all migrants over

the age of 18 who are resident in Ireland for six months or more to register to vote in May local elections.

13. Embed new IT infrastructure for campaigns and fundraising across the organisation
14. To support the Amal Women's Muslim group to develop their governance systems and strategic plan.
15. To continue to participate at EU and International level on issues that are relevant to the migrants we work with
16. To conduct a mid-term review of MRCI's Strategic Plan 2017-2020