

# Migrant Rights Centre Ireland Annual Report 2019



## Foreword Chairperson and Director

Through organising and building power, MRCI took bold strategic action to improve the lives and working conditions of migrants in Ireland in 2019. Building on the success of its community work model and in providing relevant and up to date information, advice and support to at risk migrant communities, this year has seen MRCI delivering significant impact in several areas of work.

The launch of a new anti-trafficking project, Migrants against Exploitation, an outstanding piece of work to improve the working conditions of migrants in key industries where work is dangerous, exploitative, precarious and low-paid and the kick off of the new project to develop a Social Enterprise in Homecare - The Great Care Co-op – which hit a number of key milestones in 2019 were some of the main highlights of 2019. We continued to work with migrants the labour market to tackle sectarianism, racism and exploitation along the border region in the context of Brexit.

This year saw increased work in the area of undocumented rights. MRCI supported undocumented students and their families to access the undocumented student scheme which transformed the lives of thousands of people. We made huge progress, to introduce a solution for undocumented children and young people. We produced the first ever study on the situation of undocumented children and young people and supported the leadership of young people from Young Paperless and Powerful (YPP) to speak out about their situation, to media, politicians and policy makers. There is however much more work to be done in 2020, to develop and bring in an inclusive scheme.

Ireland held local and European elections in 2019. Although people from a migrant background represent 17% of our population, they are underrepresented across Irish politics. MRCI has worked in solidarity with other organisations, to ensure migrant participation in the electoral campaigns, both as voters and candidates, and organised migrant forums with political representatives in attendance, to raise issues of concern.

A worrying development in 2019, was the rise of Far Right actors and narratives in Ireland. What were once disparate and unorganised interactions and connections between groups and individuals are now more structured and organised. MRCI worked across civil society to inform and build analysis to address this new threat.

MRCI is committed to learning and working in solidarity with others. As part of this work we held a learning exchange in July bringing together organisations from the US and the UK to learn from each other and to build strong ties and relationships particularly in the area of exploitation and rights for undocumented migrants. A significant highlight in 2019 was the MRCI Justice Gala, with over 520 in attendance, the biggest ever. MRCI also hosted Walter Barrientos and Cristiana Jimenez of United We Dream, who spoke at the Justice Gala.

This was also the first year since countries across the world adopted the Global Compact on Migration. While Ireland supports the Global Compact, work needs to start towards implementing its provisions and make respecting and promoting the fundamental rights of migrants in Ireland a priority.

These important achievements in 2019 would not be possible without the amazing work of the staff, team, board, volunteers, community members, funders, donors and supporters. We sincerely thank all of them.



Raluca Anucuta  
Chairperson



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.

### How We Do our Work

From its inception, MRCI's emphasis on community work has been critical in bringing about the empowerment and participation of migrant workers on issues that concern them.

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.

Community work is concerned with addressing the root causes of inequality through collective action for change. Core to our theory of change is supporting migrants in low waged work to organise, engage in and lead on issues that affect their lives. We operate a sophisticated structure that combines a front-line service, building the capacity of migrant workers by using a community work process and engaging in strategic public awareness, policy and advocacy.

## Strategy

MRCI's Strategic Plan 2017 to 2020 sets three high level themes; Advancing Rights, Supporting Innovation and Growing Impact

### Theme 1: Advancing Rights

Through organising and building power, we will take bold strategic action to improve working conditions in key industries where work is exploitative, precarious and low-paid

### Theme 2: Supporting Innovation

Using new methodologies we will support innovation to address fundamental problems in the labour market and in our communities.

### Theme 3: Growing Impact

Strengthen organisational sustainability and improve our ability to speak directly to ordinary people and help them take action



## Drop in Centre

The Drop in Centre (DIC), opens three days a week - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – and is one of the few remaining Drop in Centre 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.

MRCI's DIC provided information and supports on 2,283 cases in 2019. More men than women accessed our services and the average age was 36. Brazilians remain the top nationality accessing our services, followed by Filipino, Mauritian, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Malaysian, Nigerian, Malawian, Albanian and Bolivian. 1 in 3 people were undocumented.

MRCI continued to provide clear, regular and up to date accessible information to migrants across a range of platforms, in the areas of immigration, workplace rights, housing and social welfare. A key aspect of 2019, was providing outreach and information to undocumented migrants to access the Undocumented Student Scheme 2018/2019. We assisted people to prepare relevant documents and supported a high number of successful applications.

We also assisted a number of Fishers becoming undocumented due to delays in the Atypical Scheme. Provides support and advocacy on complex EU Treaty Rights applications, Section 3 applications and Revocation of Deportation Orders. We also dealt with an increased number of Domestic Violence cases in 2019.



# MRCI DROP-IN CENTRE 2019

Over the past 18 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, with **care and domestic work, restaurants and catering and retail** being the most prominent areas

## GENDER

56% of people who came to our drop-in centre identify as male, 43% as female and 1% of people identified as non-binary

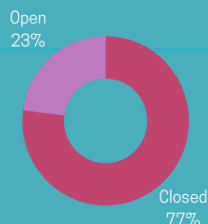


## AVERAGE AGE: 36

Most people we assisted in 2019 were in their 30's - but the oldest was over 70, and the youngest a few days old

## CASE CLOSED?

77% of our cases were closed by the end of the year, but more complex cases take longer. We'll keep working on the remaining 23% 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



Migrant Rights Centre Ireland  
[www.mrci.ie](https://www.mrci.ie) • [info@mrci.ie](mailto:info@mrci.ie)  
 13 Lower Dorset Street, Dublin 1



# MRCI DROP-IN CENTRE 2019

At the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, we provide free and confidential information & support to migrants and their families. This is what 2019 looked like in our drop-in centre

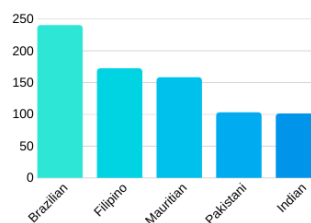


## 2,283 PEOPLE

The number of people who came to the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland for information and support in 2019. Some cases take just 30 minutes; others can last years

## 116 NATIONALITIES

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe and almost everywhere in between: in 2019, people from all over the world came through the doors of our Dublin drop-in centre



The **5 nationalities we saw most** in 2019: Brazilian, Filipino, Mauritian, Pakistani and Indian.

## 69% 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



## 1 IN 3 PEOPLE ARE UNDOCUMENTED

Regularising legal status is our highest presenting case. In some instances we can find a pathway to regularisation - but for most people there is still no legal pathway in Ireland.



## FAMILY & JOBS

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



Migrant Rights Centre Ireland • [www.mrci.ie](https://www.mrci.ie) • [info@mrci.ie](mailto:info@mrci.ie)

## Migrants Forum

MRCI held four Migrants Forum held in 2019, (1) Rental market and housing rights (2) Family reunification, (3) EU and local elections and (4) International Migrant Day, 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The EU and local election forum/hustings on 7<sup>th</sup> of May. This was attended by 65 people with 10 candidates running for EU and local elections. Key issues raised were – access to healthcare, problems with the immigration system, racism and rights for undocumented migrants.

MRCI held its annual December 18th Celebration on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, and we are grateful to Clowns without Borders who performed for the children.



## Strategic Casework

This is a key element of our work, supporting MRCI's campaigns and policy development. Strategic casework requires expert knowledge, is time consuming to meet complex needs. MRCI assists in cases for undocumented migrants and on exploitation. We continued to advocate for vulnerable migrants facing deportations, and successes in 2019 included two undocumented families with children who had been undocumented for 10 and 17 years respectively receiving their papers.

We advanced a number of strategic cases in the workplace rights, provide representation in employment cases. MRCI secured €26,000 in awards for workers, including assisting a mushroom worker to secure significant compensation for employment violations. MRCI advanced work in the area of Informal Insolvency and compensation for workers whose employers walk away from their responsibilities in light of the Glegola Supreme Court judgement to pursue damages to value of award

In 2019, MRCI developed pro bono relationship with a leading law firm Author Cox in area of employment including trafficking compensation.



## Anti-Trafficking for Labour Exploitation

### *Casework*

MRCI provides a National Assessment and Advocacy Service for people who experience trafficking for labour exploitation (TLE). In 2019, MRCI supported 25 victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, providing a high level of intensive supports on housing, immigration, social welfare, housing rights and health and safety. We carried out regular support meetings with people to provide information and assess further needs and supports

### *Justice At Last – Access to Compensation Project*

MRCI is involved in an EU project on access to compensation for victims of trafficking. Two MRCI staff members travelled to an International Exchange Seminar in May 2019 in Brussels. As part of this work, MRCI held a half day seminar on access to compensation for victims of trafficking in June in Dublin. We participated in Justice at last campaign action in October to spread information about access to compensation for victims of crime.



## Migrants Against Exploitation (MAX)

MAX is an innovative pilot training model to engage community leaders and connectors to identify and tackle trafficking for labour exploitation. The aim of the MAX project is to prevent and combat human trafficking for labour exploitation by empowering migrants to know more about worker rights and trafficking for labour exploitation. It is done by providing relevant information to migrant leaders and to support them to better understand this phenomenon, how it manifests and to prevent the most severe forms of exploitation and trafficking.

MAX has successfully completed four weekend training workshops with participants on immigration system, employment rights and trafficking for forced labour and 2 outreach session. Participants' were very passionate, knowledgeable, skilled and connected people. They are already speaking about future of work with MRCI beyond training, and commitment to challenging exploitation.





## Young Paperless and Powerful (YPP)

2019 was an exceptional year for Young Paperless and Powerful (YPP). From young people speaking out in public about the impact of growing up undocumented; to the group's first residential; collaboration with key allies; travel to conference in Brussels; broad support for a pathway to residency from the general public; meeting United We Dream; and An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar stating on record that he supports a regularisation for undocumented children and young people. YPP an dMRIC met with Minister for Justice Charlie Flannagan

MRCI, Children's Rights Alliance and National Youth Council met with key high level civil servants, from the Department of Justice&Equality and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, to discuss the situation of undocumented children and young people growing up in Ireland.

MRCI carried out and launched a survey on undocumented children and young people, to gather previously unheard statistics. Young people from Young Paperless and Powerful (YPP) spoke out about their situation, to media, politicians and policy makers. On World Children's Day, YPP with Uplift, delivered an open letter with over 4,300 signatures supporting the regularisation of undocumented children to the Minister For Justice.

An Evening with Dreamers took place and was a compelling event that gave a platform for the YPP model to be showcased along with young people voicing their experiences and analysis alongside Cristina Jiménez co-founder of United We Dream

YPP has been recognised as best practice in terms of youth work approach with creative and politicising methodology at heart of approach. YPP presented to national seminar with 'What Works' with Department of Children and Youth Affairs & TUSLA earlier in the year.



**Undocumented in Ireland: 'I feel as Irish as they come'**  
Rashmi (24) is campaigning for a pathway to residency for young undocumented people  
irishtimes.com



## Justice for Undocumented (JFU)

Justice for Undocumented (JFU), soon to be ten years old, has been looking at its model of organising and community development. Important developments have included the establishment of JFU strategy group with chair and deputy chair from within JFU, our two Bobby Gilmore Fellows starting a 6 month learning placement with JFU and MRCI, excellent reflection with JFU previous core leaders group on what worked and didn't from their perspective in terms of leadership & membership participation, drafting of membership & leadership development plan and consideration of sub group structure in JFU.

We held four new member meetings to grow our membership, ten strategy meetings with members from October to December (10 – 20 attendees at each) and two training sessions, one the political system and one focussed on messaging and communications. We increased membership of JFU by 20% and deepened leadership through establishing a new strategy group.

Held a postcard action in March 2019 with over 700 undocumented people taking part in the action. Our members designed and led a peer led survey of undocumented people in Ireland. This will provide and in depth picture of the work and skills of undocumented migrants and demonstrate their value to the economy here.

We held a large information session for undocumented migrants with over 150 attendees. We shared information on immigration and employment rights for undocumented people. JFU had a this year with Minister Heather Humphreys In November, two members JFU group have taken up a 6 month learning placement – Bobby Gilmore Fellowship - with MRCI.



**'They have a dream in their heart'**

Mohammed works as an accountant in a large corporation. His residency visa was cancelled in 2017, after he informed immigration services that his marriage had ended. He has been living and studying in limbo ever since, unable to return home to care for his parents.

"My name is Mohammed and I am 31 years old, I'm living in Ireland since September 2008, so nearly 13 years now. I came here as a student. I did my bachelor's degree and I'm doing my professional accounting exams right now," he says.

Mohammed arrived in Ireland with his appropriate documents and made a life here, working 40 hours a week while doing his degree. He later married, but the relationship did not last. "I was married in 2013, and my marriage didn't

Accountant Mohammad has been awaiting a decision on his right to remain in Ireland since 2017. Picture: Dave Meehan

they need to go to the doctor they need to ask somebody else, a total outsider. My dad is still OK, but he is over 60. As the eldest son, I feel

undocumented and see the contribution they make to society and the economy. "If I was talking to Charlie Elphinstone at the Taoiseach, I

**'We treat them as our own parent — that's how we love'**

Debra has seven grandchildren she has never met. Originally from the Philippines, she has lived in Ireland, undocumented for more than a decade, working as a carer.

"I arrived here in Ireland through a tourist visa. I am living here 12 years and now I am 59. When I arrived here, I worked as a cleaner for six years. Then the family I worked for separated, so I got another job as a carer, for a doctor, and when he died, the family passed me to their relative where I work now," explains Debra.

In her first role as a carer, she found herself in the fortunate position of receiving "sick pay" from her employer even though she was undocumented.

"The first time as a carer, they paid me by the hour and more than the minimum wage. They were very kind. If I got sick they would pay me the whole week — very kind. They were very good people. They saw what I did and how I cared for their husband. "When that man died and I go to another person, to a lady who suffers from dementia. Making dementia is

We're undocumented. We're part of Ireland. We're not going anywhere.

## International Learning Exchange - Where Labour Meets Migration: Organising on the Edge.

This summer of 2019, MRCI hosted an international learning exchange funded by Unbound Philanthropies and Social Change Ireland that brought together migrant and worker rights organisations from the UK, US and Ireland with the purpose of deepening our analysis of the issues today in 'labour migration' and exploring tools and methods for campaigning and working together for change. Members of the Justice for the Undocumented, My Fair Home home carers network, Young Paperless and Powerful youth campaign and the Great Care Cooperative all contributed to hosting event and giving presentations of our work.

It was a great opportunity to learn new tools and have important conversations with each other (staff and community) about how we put people at the heart of our work by creating spaces for people to get involved, building proper relationships and invest in them so that we are sharing power and building power for change in our community work/organising model.

In November 2019, MRCI brought over and hosted Walter Barrientos and Cristiana Jimenez of United We Dream. This built on the learning exchange held over the summer and allowed for reflection on our community work model and how we might develop and move forward with it in 2020 and beyond.





## My Fair Home



In 2019, MRCI reconnected with migrant carers through our My Fair Home (MFH) group. We facilitated one to one meetings with leaders and worked to secure resources to develop work in this area. MFH is the only space in Ireland for migrant carers to connect and organise to ensure the valuable migrant perspective is being understood. We held a successful launch in June of this year of My Fair Home, calling for regularisation of undocumented, fair work practices, protections for workers and recognition of homecare workers.

MRCI produced and launched an infographic on demand for homecare in Ireland. We also continued to meet as part of the Home Care Coalition Group to discuss the new Home Care Scheme proposal by the government and how the Scheme might impact on the quality of care that older people receive.



## The Great Care Co-op (GCC)

This innovative project is led by migrant women to advance a new model of local neighbourhood care. This is a European Social Fund project, to build the capacity of migrant women to develop and advance a social enterprise in homecare. This year they achieved a number of key milestones, including legal incorporation of The Great Care Co-op (GCC) in November 2019.

The GCC is Ireland's first worker owned cooperative in home care led by migrant women. Six of the cofounders are now on the Board of Directors.

MRCI staff are working closely with the Directors to support their capacity to build and launch a new organisation and provides one to one supports and training to take on new roles in governance training and across all aspects of the work. In the last 12 months the GCC has successfully developed the pilot model through a design sprint model, identified our brand.



The GCC is reaching out to carers and building strategic relationships with the local communities in Dalkey where they aim to pilot the project. The GCC have worked hard to develop robust systems and policies that promote high standards in care and employment. We secured additional funding for three years under a second ESF fund. The GCC are very grateful for all the support, advice and mentorship received from so many different people throughout 2019 and we want to thank each and every one of them.





## Crossing Borders; Breaking Boundaries

In 2019 work continued on MRCI's on our cross border project, Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries, in partnership with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions Northern Ireland, 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.

We have been reaching out to working along the border in precarious, difficult and dangerous sectors of the labour market to build relationships through one to one work and case work. We have built core relationship with workers in the in service sector and the agri-food sector, including in meat processing and in horticulture.

MRCI has delivered quality casework and held a number of information and outreach sessions to workers throughout the year to build a stronger understanding of their rights and how to access them.





## Policy Work

MRCI made a submission on the General Scheme of the Employment Permits (Consolidation and Amendment) Bill to the Joint Committee on Business, Enterprise and Innovation. The Bill is an attempt to consolidate two the existing Employment Permits Acts and increase Ministerial discretion. MRCI continues to raise concerns over the lack of parity and mobility within in the employment permit system which leaves migrant workers vulnerable to exploitation, and results in labour market segregation where migrant workers struggle to progress out of low paid work. MRCI participated in the NGO submission to the CERD and made a submission on Hate Speech.

MRCI's community work model case study cited in recent publication of Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024. MRCI was cited as good practice in the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's, report on Severe Forms of Exploitation, for the success of the Reactivation Permit.



## Partnership, Solidarity and Civil Society

MRCI is committed to working in solidarity across a range of issues and to uplifting the work of other organisation, initiatives and actions. MRCI participated in the following activities in 2019.

- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** - October 17 – Organised and supported two migrant workers to participate in the event
- **National homeless and Housing coalition (NHHc)** – team member's participated in various marches throughout the year
- **MASI** – Attended one day workshop re potential areas of work for MASI.
- **Community Platform** MRCI collaborated on a values led document for the Local and EU elections for platform members to incorporate into their messaging and manifestos

MRCI provided payroll supports to four organisations in 2019; Amal Muslim Women's Association, Irish Network Against Racism, Sex Workers Alliance Ireland and Uplift.





## EU and International Work

MRCI from its inception has seen the value of working at both national EU and Internal levels. In 2019, we continued to work with the Platform for the Cooperation of Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and with La Strata International. MRCI sits on the board of PICUM.

Participated in a high level seminar of the EU Fundamental Right Agency Report - Protecting migrant workers from exploitation in the EU: workers' perspectives. MRCI's Bridging Visa - or Reactivation Permit as it is now called is cited as good practice in this re

MRCI attend a range of events in Brexit including the All-Island Civic Dialogue organised by the Taoiseach. MRCI joined a cross-border Immigration Project Group run by the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) regarding Brexit and the rights of migrants. We are working in partnership with the Centre for Cross Border Studies on raising the voices of migrants' rights in Brexit negotiations.





## MRCI Justice Gala 2019

We were delighted to have over 520 guests participate in MRCI's annual Justice Gala. The purpose of the night was to celebrate the great work of MRCI groups and to raise much needed money for the organisation.

We had a special action of, Unveiling Masks, to remind ourselves that we are connected, we are all part of a community, and we are all change-makers in our own way. We are all working for a more just and equal Ireland.

Appreciation awards were given out to My Fair Home - Anele Jakiel accepted the award on behalf of the group; Justice For Undocumented- Pedro AcostaYoung, accepted the award on behalf of eh group; Young Powerful, Paperless- Rashmi Wanniarachchi accepted the award on behalf of the group; Migrants against Exploitation- Bomi So, accepted the award on behalf of the group; Social Entrepreneurship Group- Claudia Hoareau accepted the award on behalf of the group amd The Great Care Coop- Nelia Rosemarie Rareza, accepted the award on behalf of the group.

We were very lucky to have very special keynote speakers on the night Walter Barrientos and Cristina Jiménez Moreta from United we Dream who travelled from New York to join us for the evening.

It was an amazing night and we have a special thanks for all who attended and to those who sponsored the Gala.



## Communications + Organizational Development

In 2019 MRCI was visible across all media channels in 2019, with 23 media articles on the rights for migrants. MRCI commissioned a review of its communications and IT infrastructure to engage migrant communities, build participation and develop a membership model which will assist with funding and sustainability. We researched and developed a new website for MRCI. Members of MRCI's groups attended the President of Ireland Garden Party in 2019.

MRCI recruited and inducted five new staff, hosted two student placements and inducted two Bobby Gilmore Fellows. In 2019, MRCI held two team days and two board and team planning days. MRCI reviewed tools and resources, political education content for leadership work (with staff and community).

We carried out a review of MRCI's staff handbook and introduced a new staff induction process into the organisation. MRCI updated our vulnerable adults and child safeguarding policies and Child Safeguarding Statement in line with obligations under the Children First Act 2015. MRCI worked to ensure compliance under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and that all systems, policies, and protocols were in place.





## Governance

MRCI's Board met five times during 2019. MRCI's Board members in 2019 were Raluca Anucuta (Chairperson), Bobby Gilmore, Pat Raleigh, Anastacia Crickley, Kevin Glackin, Michael O'Sullivan, Bernadette Daly, Bill Abom (Vice Chair) and Lucy Peprah. We were delighted to have two new board members Francis Njuguna and Angelisa Zerpa.

The board is supported by a committee structure, which deal with specific aspects of MRCI's operations.

- Finance and Audit Sub-Group members are Michael O'Sullivan, Francis Njuguna, Cathal McAllister and Emma Caparangca. Edel McGinley, Director and Hilary Royston, Finance Manager were in attendance at these meetings. Throughout 2019 MRCI's Finance and Audit Sub-Group met four times.
- Employment Sub-Group members are Bill Abom, Angelisa Zerpa and Raluca Anucuta. Edel McGinley, Director was in attendance at these meetings. Throughout 2019 the Employment Sub-Group each met four times in 2019.





## Special Thanks

Huge thanks goes to the team of MRCI which in 2019 included Edel McGinley, Helen Lowry, Sancha Magat, Hilary Royston, Aoife Smith, Aoife Murphy, Dearbhla Ryan, Jane Xavier, Mairead McDevitt, Brid McKeown, Yasmin Kutub, Neil Bruton, Joel Anderson, Sylwia Nowakowska, Karina Korotkevica, Vicky de Arce, Dzintra, Stanley and Isabel Toolan, Irene Jagoba and Tjanasi Potso.

Special thanks are offered to our interns, volunteers and students from NUI Maynooth, who contributed so much to MRCI during 2019 including Janet Porter.

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

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

A special thanks to all our funders in 2019, without which our work would not be possible





## MRCI's Funders in 2019

- Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI)
- Carmelite Fathers
- Columban Missionary Society
- Dublin City Council
- Donations
- 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.

## Plans for 2020

MRCI will continue to deliver its strategic goals in line with its Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 and will develop a new Strategic Plan in 2020.

- Deliver specialised support and information in MRCI's Drop in Centre on immigration and employment related issues.
- Produce consistent and accessible information using innovative tools and technology (including social media) for migrant workers.
- Monitor trends and issues coming in through the Drop in Centre and represent key issues emerging in relevant policy fora.
- Coordinate a minimum of three Migrant Forums per year on key issues and new trends as they emerge.
- Provide ongoing specialist supports on immigration issues to a range of organisations across the country.
- Provide quality assessments of cases of trafficking for labour exploitation and provide an excellent range of supports and advocacy.
- Provide high level supports to people trafficked for labour exploitation on mental health, housing, social, financial supports and immigration.
- Provide representation before the Employment Rights Bodies.
- Ensure a focus on exploitation of migrant workers and highlight abuses.
- Develop a programme of outreach to combat trafficking for forced labour.
- Advance early identification procedures of trafficking for forced labour.
- Secure broad political support to address the situation of undocumented migrants, children and young people in Ireland.
- Build the participation of undocumented migrants to introduce a regularisation for undocumented migrants and their families in Ireland.
- Deepen and grow the membership base of My Fair Home to advance the terms and conditions in the sector and ensure the input of migrant worker concerns into the regulation of homecare.
- Provide ongoing support to The Great Care-Coop to deliver a pilot for care.
- Enable constructive dialogue and engagement between vulnerable migrants and social partners, politicians & policy makers leading to the better informing of policies being made.
- Continue to play a leadership role across civil society and in the community sector to sustain relationships and develop new collaborations.
- Invest in migrants so they have the confidence and capacity to lead out on core issues.
- Develop mentorship opportunities for migrants in the work of MRCI.
- Embed new IT infrastructure for advocacy and fundraising across the organisation.
- Participate in key activities in The Community Platform and other networks including, the Platform for the international Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM).
- Ensure regulatory compliance in line with Irish Laws and regulations.
- Ensure MRCI is governed in line with best practice.
- Provide payroll and financial support to smaller civil society organisations.





**STAY STRONG.  
KEEP HOPE ALIVE.  
DON'T GIVE UP.**

**BEIR BUA AGUS  
BEANNACHT.**

**- JUSTICE FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED**