



Migrant Rights Centre Ireland Annual Report 2015



Reflection from Bobby

During the 1980s I attended international meetings all over Europe that related to the arrival, presence and integration of immigrants in what was to become the European Union. Representatives of immigrant groups from the future nation states of the European Union related their experiences of living, working and integrating. An emerging picture of immigrant presence in Europe highlighted European colonial history. Colonial affinities with European colonising nations were strong. For example, South Americans and people from the Caribbean who could have emigrated to adjacent United States and Canada chose their former coloniser destinations in Europe that they had an affinity with even if that relationship in many instances was oppressive, degrading and destructive.

However, even if in many instances in what they described as their “mother” countries, they experienced racial, political, social and economic discrimination, they nevertheless were prepared to look forward, integrate and contribute to the networks of life in Europe. This of course is expected as hope is the motivating factor in the migrant journey. Just as Europeans in the past voluntarily, involuntarily and in fear left their homes to populate the colonies, immigrants coming to Europe had to leave their homes too. Some did so voluntarily, others involuntary did so for economic reasons while others were forced to flee from war, like Syrians today.

Europe, after two horrendous world wars was physically and humanly devastated. To recover Europe needed people. Sadly, European nations suffering colonial hangovers did not put in place policies of integration for both immigrants and indigenous populations. These industrial nations experiencing demographic deficits naively assumed that they could repatriate their immigrant population when surplus to need. Of course as economies expanded more immigrants were needed. Yet, integration policies remained in deficit. In economic booms immigrants were appreciated. In economic downturns immigrants doing the usual service jobs were targets of envy.

At these conferences leading up to the institution of the European Union immigrant representatives had high expectations that immigration and integration policies in a “New Europe” would recognise and value the presence of immigrants by putting in place common policies guaranteeing equal rights and the normal protections their own citizens expected for themselves in employment, health, housing, education, political participation, access to citizenship and general welfare. They hoped, as most Europeans did, that a “New Europe” would have a strong progressive inclusive culture of equality and integration.

However, over time an economic, market driven Europe allowed its high social and inclusive ideals to fray. The energy of the European Union institutions to create a European identity and sense of belonging for all dissipated. This allowed pernicious extremism of the past to re-surface. This time it is directed not just against immigrants working in the economy but against the most vulnerable-refugees-reminders of Europe’s sordid past and the core reason for the existence of the Union.

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland continues to network in solidarity with others in Ireland and Europe to keep the ideals of the founding members of the European Union alive by matching the hope in the eyes of immigrants in their journey of hope.

Sincere thanks for your support.

Fr. Bobby Gilmore SSC

Foreword from our Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to introduce the Migrant Rights Centres Ireland (MRCI) Annual Report for 2015.

The annual report highlights the unique role of MRCI as a community work organisation working with and for vulnerable migrants to advocate for rights.

2015 was a particularly successful year for MRCI but for me two of the key successes was firstly our model of working - we continued to lead the way in Ireland and internationally in community work practice and in support the participation & leadership of low waged migrant workers. The second key area of success is MRCI's Justice for Undocumented group which grew to over 1,400 members and the solidarity shown between all of MRCI's action groups including DWAG and the Worker Justice Group.

Another major success in 2015 was our policy and research work. The Worker Justice Group carried out research and launched a paper on low pay and DWAG launched two papers on homecare. We also reviewed the situation of labour migration in Ireland over the past 15 years and launched - a paper setting out a range of recommendations for attracting, retaining and integrating migrants. This was timely as Ireland is at a crossroads in our migration journey and it is important that we look back in order to plan for the future. We know that the work permit system is flawed and that family reunion rights need to be enshrined in legalisation. MRCI is delighted to contribute to the formation of thinking, policies and laws in this area.

The rise of racism and right wing politics across the EU has been a worrying trend in 2015, making it extremely important to stand in solidarity with people experiencing racism and islamophobia. It is therefore important that we continue to collaborate and build alliances with other groups experiencing social exclusion and oppression and to work in solidarity across a range of issues. MRCI is committed to working together to ensure change happens for all groups in society.

We know 2016 will bring its own challenges but all of the MRCI board, team, leaders and activists are committed to ensuring our work is based on the needs of the community we work with and for and that we advance rights for low waged and undocumented migrants in 2016.

We want to thank all our supporters and all the various groups and individuals we worked with in 2015 and for helping to make such a fantastic year.

Hilda Regaspi
Chairperson

Introduction

2015 was another busy year for MRCI. The Drop in Centre provided support, advice and advocacy on over 3,000 cases to people from 115 countries to access their rights and entitlements. The needs of undocumented migrants were to the fore this year, with over 30% of casework in this area.

The Muhammed Younis case has been ongoing for over 5 years. In 2015 the Supreme Court upheld the award of €92,634.42 in unpaid wages and the rights of workers to access the courts regardless of their legal status was strengthened. Another highlight was the High court decision in the P v's Ireland which found that the lack of a mechanism for identification of victims of trafficking is in breach of EU law which led to a review of this system, including policies and practice by the Department of Justice.

The summer of 2015 saw the migrant and refugee crisis with the large scale movement take centre stage at an EU and National level. MRCI deepened its work across civil society through the establishment of a national coalition of NGO's to respond to the Migrant, Refugee and Reception Crisis. Our combined efforts and that of other civil society organisations have seen the Government increase the numbers of people being accepted to Ireland from 1,200 to 4,000. There has however been little action on this in 2015.

The government's response to exploitation and trafficking for forced labour exposed in the fishing industry, in cooperation with The Guardian Newspaper, lead to the establishment of a National Taskforce which recommended the introduction of an atypical regularisation scheme for this group.

Our commitment to ensuring a high level of participation and engagement of migrants impacted by a range of issues remains fundamental in our work. MRCI's leadership development and participation of migrants grew in 2015 and the Justice for undocumented group has deepened its work with over 1,400 members and put regularisation firmly on the political agenda. MRCI built the participation of young excluded undocumented migrants through the Young Paperless and Powerful project and launched a film highlighting their concerns.

2015 saw the development and publication of a number of research and evidence-based policy papers based on MRCI data in the areas of low pay, trafficking for criminal exploitation, homecare provision and the future of labour migration in Ireland. Our work also centred on highlighting the exploitation and discrimination in the treatment of au-pairs. This led to clarification from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Workplace Relations Commission, establishing that au-pairs should be treated as workers.

MRCI continues to be committed to promoting a strong, autonomous and vibrant civil society at national, EU and International levels. Solidary is a cornerstone of our work in 2015 MRCI leaders and activists were part of a range of public actions, rally's, marches and events to address racism, austerity, migrant and refugee rights and housing concerns.

The achievements of 2015 will have real and lasting impact on the lives of migrants at risk of poverty, social exclusion, exploitation and discrimination and we have been privileged to meet amazing people throughout the year. We look forward to 2016 and to bringing about change.

Edel McGinley
Director
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

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 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 build relationships with migrants coming through our service to support their integration and active participation in projects, activities, advocacy, campaigns and policy change.

In 2015, MRCI ran a number of National action groups to build the participation of migrants to effectively advocate to change – the Domestic Workers Action Group, Forced Labour Action Group, Worker Justice Group, Justice for Undocumented and Young Paperless and Powerful group.

Policy priorities for 2015 included (1) advancing a regularisation for undocumented migrants, (2) enforcement of employment rights and protections for vulnerable workers in hidden or precarious sectors, including au pairs, carers, domestic workers, restaurant workers and in fisheries, (3) supporting the participation and leadership of migrants in advocacy and policy change, (4) progressing the identification and protection of victims of trafficking for forced labour, (5) advocating for transparent and coherent labour migration policy, (6) responding to the migration and refugee crisis and (7) supporting a strong and autonomous civil society advocating for social change.

Drop in Centre

MRCI operates a drop-in centre that opens to the public Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; People come from all over the country to seek advice and information and the office is always busy with people coming and going. The drop-in centre is an important part of MRCI's work and often our first point of contact with our migrant activists. This work allows us to build a credible evidence base and link it to campaigns, policy and advocacy work.

MRCI provides information and advice in the following areas:

- Employment permits
- General immigration and residency matters
- Workplace rights
- Trafficking for forced labour
- Undocumented migrants

In 2015 we attended 2,194 cases providing advocacy, support and information to people from 94 different counties.

Presenting Issues throughout the year were; undocumented, family reunification, change of legal status and workplace exploitation including trafficking for forced labor. 2015 saw an increase in undocumented migrants, workplace exploitation, housing and homelessness, domestic violence and social welfare issues.

Key sectors of employment were restaurants, catering, care and domestic work, retail and hotel and hospitality.

Key job sectors in 2015



MRCI

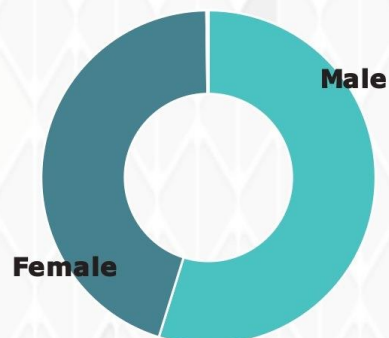
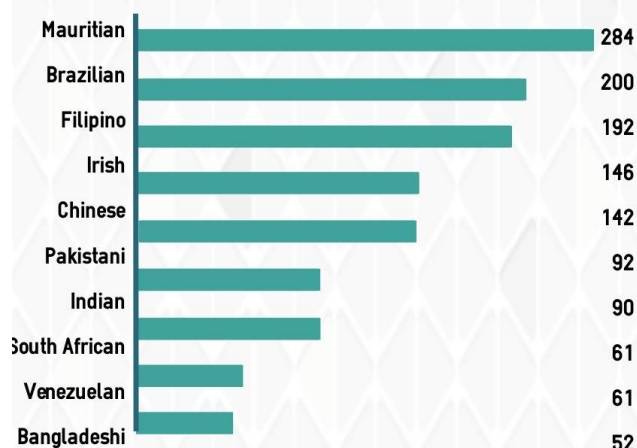
**Migrant Rights
Centre Ireland**

Drop-In Centre 2015

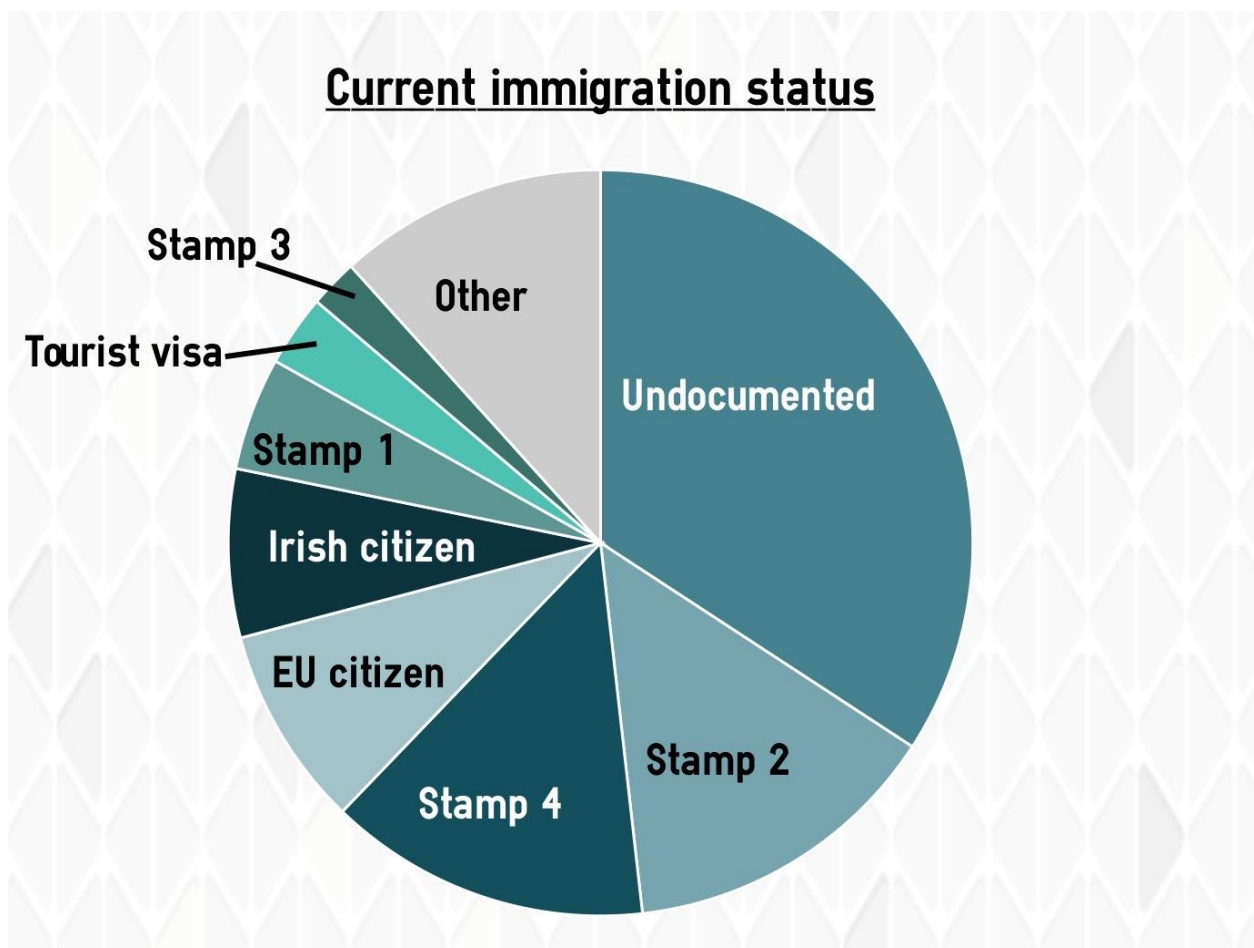
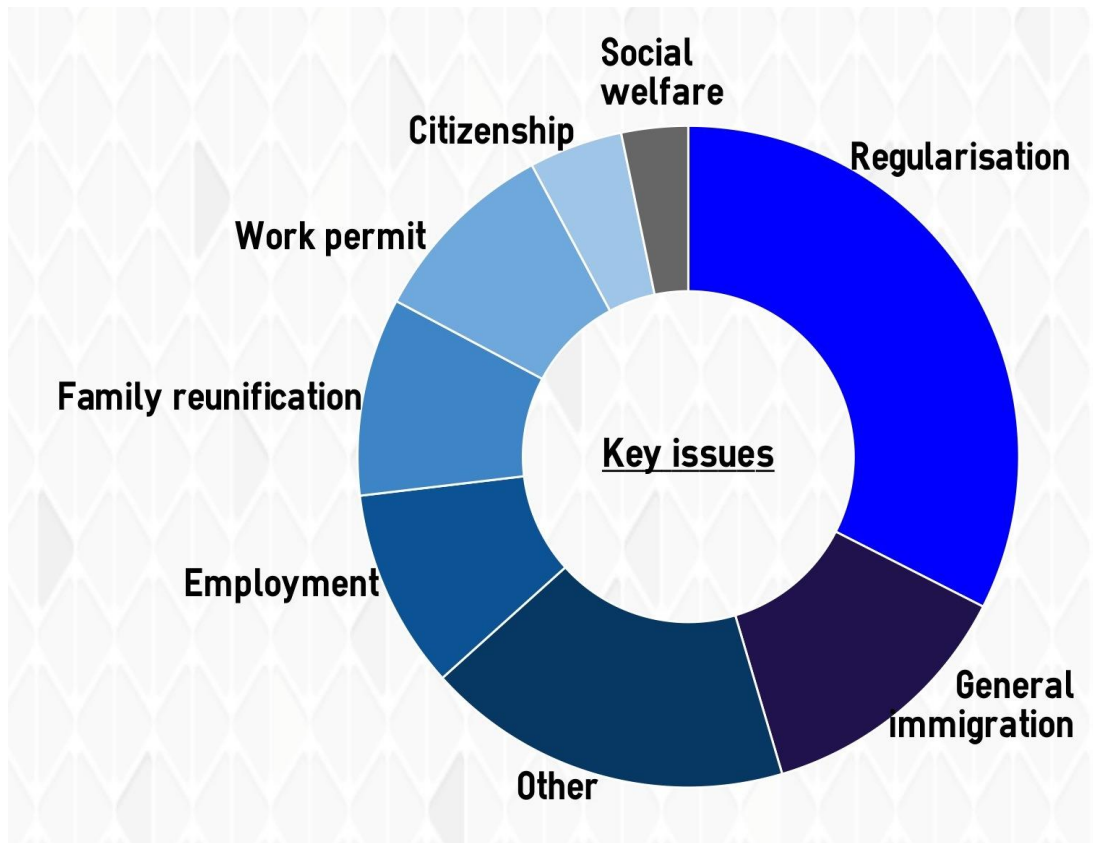
In 2015, MRCI caseworkers handled

2,194 cases

on everything from immigration &
employment to exploitation &
trafficking



Presenting Issues in 2015



Migrants Forum

We held four Migrant Forums this year providing information and ensuring a space for the participation of migrants and their families in policy and legislative development. In January the forum focused on home care provision and the experiences of home careers in Ireland. In March we held a forum focusing on low paid workers to feed into our new paper on low pay. In November we held a forum on migrant power in politics – which concentrated on new Irish citizens registering to vote, using their vote.



Home Care Forum - January 2015



Low pay Forum - March 2015

Then in December we held our annual celebration of December 18th, to mark the 25th year of International Migrant Workers Day. Clowns without borders, inspired us with their performance as we celebrated the day and an end to 2015.



International Migrant's Day celebration at the Mansion House

Forced Labour and Trafficking

MRCI working with MacQuill and company solicitors, established a precedent in the Supreme Court, in the case of Mohammed Younis, whose award of €92,634.42 in unpaid wages was upheld and the rights of workers to access the courts regardless of their legal status was strengthened.

The High Court made a hugely significant decision in a key case. Ms. P. v's Ireland. Ms P, a 54-year-old Vietnamese woman, was arrested having been forced to work in a cannabis greenhouse and was charged with drug offences. Ms P. spent two and a half years in prison pending trial. There were significant concerns of human trafficking in her case and the Garda failed to investigate these claims. MRCI worked with KOD Lyons solicitors and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on the case. The judge found serious failures in the Garda assessment of Ms P. as a victim of trafficking and in the State's victim identification mechanism and Ms P. was awarded compensation. This led to a review of this system, including policies and practice by the Department of Justice.

MRCI continued to assess cases within the prison system as part of the criminal defence for potential victims of trafficking (VOT) who were arrested for cannabis production, a crime they were allegedly forced to commit. Under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, MRCI assessed their cases, prepared expert reports and attended hearings to ensure that human trafficking was raised as part of the defence.

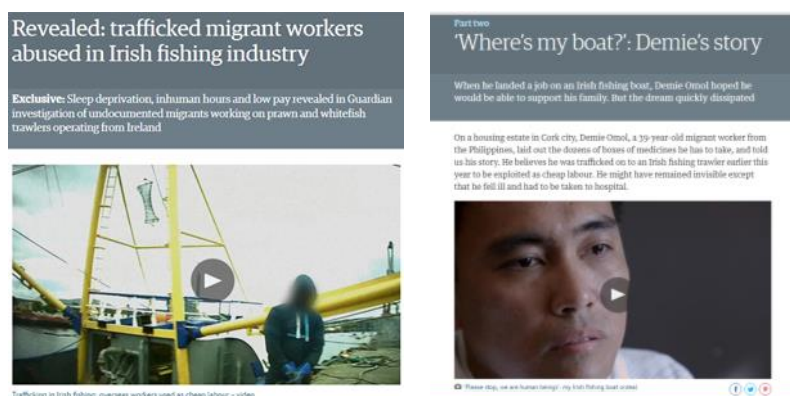
Throughout this period we continued our work on assisting victims of forced labour and trafficking in domestic work, cannabis grow houses, car washes and in fisheries. We are currently working with 45 cases of trafficking for forced labour.

MRCI worked with the Guardian newspaper for over a year on a story to expose exploitation in the fishing industry. This story broke in November 2015, exposing trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/nov/02/revealed-trafficked-migrant-workers-abused-in-irish-fishing-industry>

The fisheries story resulted in the setting up of a taskforce led by Minister Simon Coveney. This taskforce has recommended the introduction of a special scheme to regularise undocumented fishers. MRCI worked with the International Transport Federation and SIPTU to influence the outcome of this scheme.

Members of FLAG also spoke out in the media about their experiences to highlight the ongoing problems with identification of victims of trafficking for forced labour.



Workplace Rights

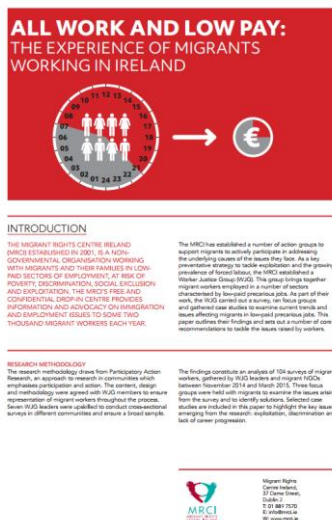
Former chef Mohammed Younis was vindicated in a unanimous Supreme Court judgment which upheld a 2011 Rights Commissioner decision – endorsed by the Labour Court – to award him €92,634.42 in unpaid wages and compensation for 7 years' work in a restaurant. This decision has the potential to



impact on the rights of undocumented migrants to access legal redress, as the judgement states that all people should be able to access the courts for breaches of employment rights regardless of immigration status. This could enable undocumented migrants to again take cases to the Workplace Commission.

MRCI's Director became a member of the newly established Low Pay Commission (LPC). The LPC made a recommendation to Government to raise the minimum wage by 50c in 2016.

The Worker Justice Group met a number of times in 2015 and produced research on low pay. 'All Work and Low Pay: the experiences of migrants in low pay.



MRCI carried out a review of labour migration to Ireland over the past 15 years and set out a range of recommendations for attracting, retaining and integrating migrants over the next 5-10 years. Workers on the move; Past lessons and future perspectives on Ireland labour migration is a significant contribution to the future of Ireland labour migration policy.

Justice for the Undocumented Group (JFU)

2015 was a busy year for JFU, they grew their membership to 1400 migrants from all over the country and the leaders group is very strong, they met regularly throughout the year to plan campaigns and actions. In 2015 the JFU group conducted a lot of outreach around the country, some of the places visited was – Galway city, Gort, Limerick and Newbridge.

JFU has also succeeded in getting over 1000 undocumented migrants to take part in a survey and the results will be launched at an international conference we are organising in May 2016.

There was a big focus on political engagement in 2015 and MRCI & JFU presented to the Oireachtas committee on Justice and Equality in February. Its human rights sub-committee named this as a priority issue. The Oireachtas committee subsequently made a recommendation to the Minister for Justice to support the introduction of a board based regularisation scheme.



MRCI launched a 21 day St Patrick's Day campaign prior to the Taoiseach's visit to the United States. 2,100 emails were sent to him - over 100 emails a day, over this period. A huge banner was also dropped from our building - wishing the undocumented in the U.S. a happy St Patrick's Day from the undocumented in Ireland. This was on the St Patricks day parade route and received a huge amount of attention on both sides of the Atlantic and was a key participatory action for members of JFU.



Celebrating our pre St. Patrick's Day street party in support of JFU and undocumented migrants in Ireland and USA

JFU leaders group continued to meet regularly throughout 2015 and JFU membership continued to grow. Work has concentrated on engaging and growing the coalition of endorsers and in getting them to write to the Minister for Justice.

Endorsers for the introduction of a regularisation of undocumented migrants grew in 2015 to 40.



JFU members sending out a thank you message to endorsers.

In December, JFU produced a film juxtaposing the lives of undocumented people Ireland and the U.S. was launched <https://vimeo.com/149061123>



JFU and supporters – Mansion house Dec 2015

Young Paperless and Powerful (YPP)

The Young Paperless and Powerful project brings together inspiring young people aged between 15 and 23 who are living undocumented in Ireland. All of the young people in the group have grown up and gone to school in Ireland, some have been living here for over ten years. In 2015 YPP used creative arts to explore and share their experiences, and engage with politicians and policy makers to call for action and change.

Throughout 2015 YPP leaders participated in conferences, workshops and spoke to the media, civil society organisations and politicians, highlighting the issues facing undocumented young people. Participating in the group and becoming more politicised about their situation has had a deep impact on the young people involved in YPP. Despite their vulnerabilities including mental health problems, feeling hopeless and anxiety about their parents and families, the YPP group continue to bravely speak out about their situation and campaign for all young undocumented people in Ireland to have a brighter future.

Some of their creative arts included a beautiful and powerful mural in Dame Lane, Dublin 2 and the production of a short film which has been seen by over 20,000 people <https://vimeo.com/132984011>. This process saw the development of support from key youth and children organisations for the campaign and the film had been shown to a range of diverse audiences both nationally and internationally.



Mural created by the YPP group

In 2015 DWAG kicked off a new phase of their development with the 'Labour of Love' campaign. They launched this campaign ahead of International women's day in March. This campaign calls for the recognition of au-pairs as workers and the introduction of an eligible category of employment for domestic work.

DWAG also participated in the May Day rally. In February, DWAG hosted the National Domestic Worker's alliance from the United States, who gave a one day's work shop on mobilising and campaigning. This international work is central to building solidarity across borders with groups who experience the same issues using an empowering approach to their work.



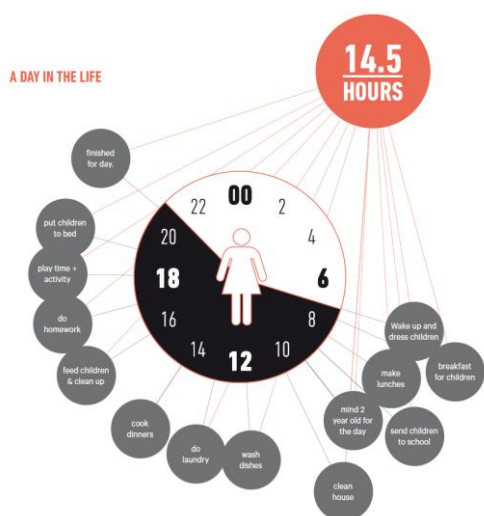
Labour of Love Launch –March 2015



May Day Rally – May 1st 2016

DWAG launched one of their evidence based analysis papers in September 2015 'Whose minding the children: Childcare in the Domestic Work Sector' <http://www.mrci.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Childcare-Paper-20152.pdf>

During DWAG action week in May, after extensive work Minister Bruton made a statement indicating that the term au-pairs does not mean that an employment contract does not exist and that au-pairs are covered by employment law.



Migrant Workers in the Home Care Sector: Preparing for the Elder Boom in Ireland

INTRODUCTION

As Ireland's population ages, the provision of quality home care presents one of the most significant challenges for the state. The unregulated home care industry has experienced unprecedented growth and has led to significant privatisation of the home care market over the last decade. An inevitable outcome of the lack of regulation is a home care sector with high fees, varied quality and standards of home care provision, poor terms and conditions for workers, and growing informality, serviced by migrant workers. Rectifying this situation and preparing for the elder boom will be a defining social justice and equality issue for Ireland over the next 20 years.

Currently, migrants are over-represented in care and domestic work. Labour market demand will continue to draw on migrant workers to meet Ireland's home care needs into the future. The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) has been working with migrant workers employed in care and domestic work since 2001, and is deeply concerned about the vulnerability of this cohort of workers whose voices are absent from the ongoing debate about the provision of quality care in Ireland and who constitute an invisible home care workforce.

This paper outlines the current home care context in the EU and Ireland and highlights equality concerns and labour market disadvantage experienced by migrants employed in the sector. It makes policy recommendations to improve standards of care and employment conditions in the home care sector through the use of a migrant perspective and equality framework. The paper builds on previous research conducted by the MRCI in this area, and is informed by MRCI data and a series of participative workshops with home care workers.

AGEING EU POPULATION: THE CARE CRISIS

Long-term Care (LTC) is the fastest-growing division in the health and social care sector within the OECD. The number of individuals aged 65 and over is projected to almost double over the next 50 years to reach 152 million in 2060. The number of people living with long-term illness and disability is also projected to increase. This has significant consequences for the way healthcare systems respond to patient needs. The increasing numbers of older people with multiple and chronic conditions will require new treatments and new care delivery models, necessitating changes in skill mixes and new ways of working for health professionals. The workforce will have to double by 2050 to keep up with these trends. As the proportion of women (traditionally the informal carers of older people) in the paid labour force increases, and family sizes are smaller, it is expected that less informal family care will be available for older people in the future, and that the State will need to provide more support in this area.¹ Across the EU, labour shortages have been identified in the care sector, where supply – particularly of highly-skilled staff – cannot meet the demand for services.²

¹ OECD (2011) *Help Wanted? Providing and paying for long-term care*. OECD Publishing, Paris.
² Working Group on Long Term Care, 2008.
³ Eurofound (2013) *More and better jobs in home-care services*. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.



Members of DWAG – Launch of Labour of Love – March 2016



Workshop with NDWA – February 2016

MRCI, SIPTU and the Carers Association developed and published employment guidelines in the homecare sector along with a short video

<http://www.mrci.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Migrant-Workers-in-the-Home-Care-Sector-Preparing-for-the-Elder-Boom-in-Ireland.pdf>

Migrant and Refugee Crisis

MRCI with the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) set up and led a national collation of NGO's which brought together migrant and refugee's rights, trade and overseas development, church groups and climate change organisations to work collectively to respond to the Migrant and Refugee crisis which began in early 2015. MRCI have coordinated four statements and held two joint press conferences on this issue.

The coalition also produced a briefing paper in December, '*Protection, Resettlement and Integration Ireland's Response to the Refugee and Migration 'Crisis'*' <http://www.mrci.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Protection-Resettlement-and-Intergration-Ireland's-Response-to-the-Refugee-and-Migration-Crisis-Dec-2015.pdf>

Refugees Welcome Famine Memorial Event

Saturday, the 5th of September, was been declared a Day of Action in solidarity with refugees seeking refuge in Europe. Uplift with MRCI and the IRC organised an action at the Famine memorial which saw thousands come out in solidarity to call on the government to increase the numbers of people it was committing to take.

Refugees Welcome Beach Action

The NGO coalition organized a public action to spell out 'Refugees Welcome' on Sandymount strand in September where over 600 people participated. MRCI was a lead partner on this event.



Organising the Refugees Welcome action – Sep 2016



Ariel Photo Refugees Welcome –September 2016

Belong To Yes Campaign

MRCI was part of the BelongTo Yes coalition and were involved in a number of actions and events. MRCI held a night with leaders and activist on the Marriage referendum making the links between different forms of oppression. It was a privilege to be involved in this amazing campaign for equality, rights and justice for the LGBTI community.



Information eventing with BelongTo & MRCI- May 2016



Yummy Cake – Thank you BelongTo



Celebrating the YES vote – September 2016

The Community Platform

The community platform launched a Futures Document in July outlining a vision for policies, programmes and practices required to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and equal Ireland. This was well received and forms the basis for engagement with the on political manifestos and an investment in services and the community sector.

National Housing and Homeless Coalition

MRCI became a member of the National Housing and Homeless Coalition, calling for a comprehensive national strategy to deal with the National crisis. We were part of the December 1st March and rally.

Solidarity Work

Throughout the year MRCI was involved in supporting a number of events, marches and actions in support of **worker rights, anti-racism, LGBTI rights, housing rights, anti-austerity and anti-poverty** actions including, the International Day Against Racism, May Day rally, Dublin Pride, Traveller Accommodation Rally, October 17th International Day Against Poverty, Right to Water marches, Dunne's Stores Workers March, Cleary's Workers rally's, Climate Change march, End DP Actions and EU day Of Action for Refugees.



Participation and Representation

Throughout 2015 MRCI continued to create the conditions for a broad range of people to participate and take action in our work. Leadership development was supported in a number of ways through the provision of training, participation and being active in campaigns and advocacy. MRCI provided English language classes, communications training, campaign & strategic planning training. Leadership development continues within campaign and actions groups. Justice for the Undocumented grew to over 1,400 members and Domestic Workers Action Group (DWAG) developed new skills in the area of outreach and recruitment, fundraising, group work, research and media.

Jane Xavier spoke at the National Women Council of Ireland (NWCi) Beijing2020 event, Tina Dio contributed at a Sinn Féin International women's day event, and a number of DWAG leaders spoke at NWCi Women's Day Soapbox.

DWAG, au-pairs, the Worker Justice Group, and JFU met regularly throughout the year and participated in many marches and rallies throughout 2015.

In 2015 the Justice Gala organising committee met regularly from September to plan and organise the 2015 Justice Gala in November it was the first time the gala was a joint DWAG and JFU event and it was a fantastic night held at the Clyde Court Hotel in Ballsbridge.



Migrant Power in Politics (MPP)

The MPP project aimed to support and increase migrants' political engagement in the run up to the 2016 General Election and to deepen political candidates understanding of migrant rights issues in Ireland.

Issues migrants feel very strongly about are the urgent need for immigration reform including a regularisation for undocumented migrants, greater protections for vulnerable workers such as au pairs, tackling racism and discrimination – especially in housing, applying for jobs - and protection and progression in the work place. Strengthening the voice and representation of people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds in Irish politics was a key area which people felt strongly about along with ending the systems of direct provision.



Migrants participating in an event to share their opinions on the upcoming general election and the issues they feel most strongly about.

MRCI continued to advance rights for migrants and share analysis and best practice at international level. In November, MRCI presented at the UN conference in Bangkok on good practice in organising and protecting Domestic Workers with an irregular status. MRCI hosted an International Peace Brigade from Mexico, the OSCE and government officials from Armenia re migrant rights and presented to OHCHR on protections for undocumented domestic workers.

Undocumented Work/PICUM

PICUM's general assembly was attended by Edel and Pablo, it focused on developing a firewall principle between rights for undocumented migrants and front line service providers. In September MRCI represented PICUM at a partnership meeting of the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) in Tunisia on the Migration crisis and working in partnership. MRCI presented at the Coram children's project seminar in London, on best practice on working with young people in undocumented campaigning. MRCI showcases the YPP project, mural and film at this.

Trafficking for forced Labour

MRCI made a number of strategic submissions throughout 2015 – the second European migration forum and the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review of Ireland. We participated in the second European Forum on Labour Trafficking in Brussels in May, where the Fine Tune project preliminary findings were presented. Virginia represented MRCI at La Strada International NGO Platform in Skopje in May. Virginija also presented at an expert seminar in Vilnius in October on labour rights for migrant workers and Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Ireland.

Access to health care for vulnerable migrants / Médecin Du Monde

MRCI is part of an EU wide project with Doctors of the world and has contributed to data collection for their international health project.



UN conference in Bangkok on good practice in organising and protecting Domestic Workers with an irregular status

Organisational Development and Governance

MRCI's Board met four times during 2015. The Finance Subgroup met three times and the Staff and Employment Subgroup met three times. All subgroups report directly to the Board. MRCI's Board members in 2015 were Hilda Regaspi (Chairperson), Bobby Gilmore, Pat Raleigh, Anastacia Crickley, Kevin Glackin, Michael O'Sullivan, Bernadette Daly, Rudy Montejo, Bill Abom, Lucy Peprah and we welcomed Raluca Anucuta to the board in 2015. The Finance subgroup members are Pat Raleigh, Michael O'Sullivan, Cathal McAllister and Emma Caparangca. The Employment subgroup members are Bill Abom and Bernadette Daly.

The MRCI Team

In 2015 the MRCI team had a number of team building exercises. These spaces are critical to us to deepen our community work model and develop our collective analysis on relevant issues, while reflecting, planning strategically and collectively in our work.

This work however would not be possible without the MRCI team. Big thanks to Pablo Rojas Coppari, Helen Lowry, Sancha Magat, Aoife Murphy, Edel McGinley, Razieh Nikoomanesh, Virginija Petrauskaite, Hilary Royston, Dearbhla Ryan and Aoife Smith.

Special thanks are offered to the interns, volunteers and students from NUI Maynooth, who contributed so much to MRCI during 2015 including, Richard Duggan, Michelle Mooney, Monika Ashtalkoska, John Mc Fadden, Cherry Leung, Justin Weimer, Carla Maretti, Soraya Sobrevia and Billy Shelley.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the support and dedication of MRCI's Board. Bill Abom, Anastasia Crickley, Bobby Gilmore, Kevin Glackin Rudy Montejo, Michael O'Sullivan, Lucy Peprah, Hilda Regaspi (Chair) and Pat Raleigh. Raluca Anacuta joined MRCI's Board in 2015

A final thanks to the volunteer members of MRCI's Finance sub-group, Emma Caparangca and Cathal McAllister.

MRCI's Funders in 2015

- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Columban Missionary Society
- Foundation Open Society Institute –Public Health Program
- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government- Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO)
- The Department of Justice and Equality- Dormant Accounts
- The Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration in the Department of Justice and Equality- European Integration Fund (EIF)
- The Department of Justice and Equality - Anti Human Trafficking Unit
- The Community Foundation for Ireland
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)
- Médecin Du Monde France
- Dublin City Council



Migrant Rights Centre Ireland 2015

The work of community work: a year in numbers

