

S/M/S4.007|2-19|

MANDATE

Direct Provision Reform

Submitted by: VP Welfare and Equality (Ciarán Watts) - on behalf of Welfare Forum
Seconded by: Arts, Celtic Studies, & Philosophy Faculty Convenor (Julian Nagi)

Student Senate notes:

That Direct Provision (DP) is a means of meeting the basic needs of food and shelter for asylum seekers while their claims for refugee status are being processed. DP commenced in 2000 and the majority of the 35 centres around the country are privately owned and operated, and the standards of accommodation and living conditions vary widely.

Student Senate notes with concern:

People in the DP system have consistently spoken out about feeling like prisoners being monitored 24/7.

Each person in direct provision gets a Daily Expenses Allowance. The Daily Expenses Allowance weekly rate is €29.80 for children and €38.80 for adults

People in the DP system have barriers to being able to work. These include:

- Being unable to be employed in jobs that pay less than €30,000 a year.
- Required to pay between 500-1000 euro for a permit allowing them to work
- Being forbidden to work in a variety of sectors including childcare, hospitality and Construction.

Parents may also not leave their children unsupervised in DP centres, which places the further barrier of childcare costs on working while in DP.

People in the DP system are subject to three set meals a day in a canteen-style setting. They are unable to cook their own food that is in line with many of their cultures and religions.

Meals in the DP centres are at fixed times, so students who miss these because they are attending classes or study do not get any food.

Asylum seekers are generally not entitled to free third level education and face high fees that are difficult to pay due to the restriction of access to work.

People may not leave the DP centre for 3 or more nights without losing their rights to a bed in the DP centre.

S/M/S4.007|2-19|

Student Senate therefore mandates:

- Maynooth Students' Union to denounce DP through social media platforms.
- Maynooth Students' Union to lobby TDs and ask for their support in ending/reforming the DP system in Ireland.
- Maynooth Students' Union provide students with information and awareness around direct provision system and centres.
- Maynooth Students' Union to support Maynooth students who are in the DP system as best as they can.
- Maynooth Students' Union to campaign to end/reform the DP system in Ireland alongside fellow Students' Unions.
- Maynooth Students' Union to lobby the University and campaign against the use of companies who profit from the DP System in Ireland.
- Maynooth Students' Union to work with the University in their work to become a University of Sanctuary.
- Maynooth Students' Union to support students who join the University as part of the University of Sanctuary program

Student Senate further mandates:

- That should a student who is seeking asylum or who has entered the University as part of the University of Sanctuary program be issued a deportation notice,
- that the Students' Union be proactive in taking measures to fight against the deportation of the student.

This motion repeals the mandate "Direct Provision Reform"