



IRISH RED CROSS MIGRATION FAQs

What is the IRPP?

The IRPP / Irish Refugee Protection Programme was established by Government decision on 10th September 2015 as a direct response to the humanitarian crisis that developed in Southern Europe as a consequence of mass migration from areas of conflict in the Middle East and Africa. A programme office was established in October 2015 to carry out the aims of the Government Decision.

The IRPP is overseen by a high-level Government Taskforce composed of senior staff from all key Government Departments, the local authorities, relevant State agencies, the UNHCR and the Irish Red Cross.

What is the 4,000 policy commitment?

Under the IRPP programme, the Irish Government has pledged to accept a total of 4,000 persons into the State: 2,622 asylum seekers through the EU relocation mechanism established by two EU Council Decisions in 2015 to assist Italy and Greece, and 1,040 (519 in 2016 and the remainder in 2017) programme refugees under the UNHCR-led refugee resettlement programme currently focussed on resettling refugees from Lebanon. Those coming from Lebanon are managed by the Office of Promotion for Migrant Integration (OPMI) as they already have considerable experience in bringing in programme refugees.

Those coming in as relocated asylum seekers via Greece/Italy are managed by the Programme Office of the IRPP. Those destined for the new Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC) in Roscommon will be asylum seekers coming via the Greece/Italy route. As this cohort will receive a grant of international protection within a period of 8-12 weeks, their stay in EROCs is intended to be short-term after which they will be housed somewhere in Ireland.

Who can we contact relating to unaccompanied minors?

Unaccompanied minors, by law, must be dealt with directly through the official state channels. This register only allows for pledges of accommodation/services to be made for adult women, men, couples, and families travelling together.

Should you wish to be assessed as foster carers of unaccompanied minors, please contact TUSLA's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum at 01-6477000. You may also contact your local community care social work department to begin a fostering assessment at <http://www.tusla.ie/get-in-touch/foster-care-teams/>.



How are migrants being welcomed into Ireland?

A team of Irish Red Cross volunteers and staff greet migrants at the airport along with representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality and IOM. Migrants are given a welcome pack from the Irish Red Cross, which contains essential items to assist them in their first few days in Ireland. Where necessary, translators are organised so that everyone is able to communicate clearly, initial questions can be answered and assistance offered. The Irish Red Cross then accompanies the groups to the initial accommodation location and provides further assistance while in accommodation.

Who are Co-Operative Housing Ireland (CHI) and what is their role?

Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) are Ireland's national federation for the cooperative housing sector. They have agreed a formal partnership with the Irish Red Cross in support of the organisation's migration activities.

Accommodation offered on a charitable basis will result in an agreement entered into between CHI and the person pledging their accommodation to the Register of Pledges, as well as a separate agreement between CHI and the migrant. In this circumstance, CHI will take responsibility for ensuring that all such properties are of an appropriate standard (condition and furnishings as per standard), with a guarantee in place to return the property to the owner in a similar condition at the end of the tenure.

How long will it take for my accommodation to be taken up?

At this stage, we are unable to give an accurate timeline regarding when your accommodation will be taken up.

This is dependent on the arrival of migrants to Ireland. To date (January 2017) the Government has brought a small percentage of the planned 4,000 people. We are hopeful that 2017 will see a positive increase in the numbers arriving.

How much notice will a person pledging accommodation receive before accommodation is taken up?

We aim to give as much notice as possible. So far, this is a minimum of 4 weeks' notice. If your accommodation has been identified as suitable, you will be contacted to arrange a health and safety check of the property.



When will short term and shared accommodation be taken up?

As the majority of people arriving under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme to date are families, it is likely that the majority of shared and short-term accommodation will not be taken up within the next few months. However, circumstances may require short-term or shared accommodation and this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What is Housing Assistance Payment?

The Housing Assistance Payment is the subsidy provided to people to assist them to access accommodation. It is means tested and administered by the Department of Social Protection.

What will the health and safety check entail?

This is a basic visual inspection to confirm that the property will meet statutory requirements for the letting of the property.

Who is first contact for persons pledging accommodation, services and goods if they have a query?

The Irish Red Cross Migration Team (01-642 4600) will continue to be your first point of contact through the process of matching your pledge with a person it suits.

If I want to change or update my information who and how do I go about doing this?

From March 2017, you will be able to login to the register of pledges to edit and add details to your profile. We will inform you by email when this facility is activated. Until then, please contact us at migrationcrisis@redcross.ie or 01-642 4600 to update your details.

Do Persons pledging accommodation, services and goods need to be Garda vetted?

Garda Vetting will be required for all cases where a person accommodates, works or volunteers with minors or vulnerable persons.

Do persons pledging accommodation, services or goods need to be Irish Red Cross members?

No, anyone can make a pledge to the Irish Red Cross register of Pledges.



Irish Red Cross

How can Persons pledging accommodation, services and goods join the Irish Red Cross?

To become an Irish Red Cross volunteer, please complete and return your membership application form indicating which type of volunteer opportunity you are interested in. To find out what activities are happening in your area contact your local branch.

Please note there are separate membership application forms for adult and youth members.

Who can be contacted in relation to Direct Provision queries?

For enquiries regarding Direct Provision centres, we recommend contacting the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA). Contact details can be found on their website - www.ria.gov.ie.