

IOM Ireland Newsletter October-December 2021

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Newsletter
October-December 2021

Greetings for the New Year

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter. 2021 represented an important year for IOM in so many ways. As we celebrated our 70th anniversary and 20 years of our presence in Ireland, it was also an opportunity for us to reflect on our commitment and actions.



We have worked with you all in a very close partnership to provide practical support to migrants in need of Voluntary Return and Reintegration Services, to support Victims of Trafficking, refugees who have been granted permission to bring their immediate family members to Ireland as well as the resettlement of refugees and the relocation of asylum seekers.

We have achieved a lot, but I believe the growing and changing trend in migration calls for more and diversified actions as well. The world is changing, and COVID-19 has highlighted and taught us that those most vulnerable in society continue to need our assistance and protection now more so than ever. As highlighted by the IOM Director General, solidarity with migrants has never been more urgent.

I would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to the Irish Government and all the authorities involved as well as our partners, particularly the NGO sector for your continued support to our mission. Looking forward to continuing collaborating and developing new ways to support migrants in need.

Lalini Veerassamy,
Chief of Mission, IOM Ireland

IOM celebrates 20th Anniversary in Ireland with the launch of the Migration Governance Indicators report for Ireland.

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Ireland and the Department of Justice have launched the first Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) profile for Ireland on December 16, 2021.

The MGI profile for Ireland identifies a number of good practice areas, such as ensuring that regular migrants have equal access to health services and education. It has also highlighted areas for further improvement, including the development of policy and strategy to combat hate crimes, violence, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants.

The launch in Ireland marks the 70th report of the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) globally.

The image shows the cover page of the 'Migration Governance Profile: Ireland' report. The title is in large blue font at the top. Below the title is a circular infographic with six segments, each containing an icon representing a different area of migration governance: a plane, a shield, a heart, a scale, a handshake, and a building. To the right of the infographic is a red YouTube play button icon. Below the play button is a section titled 'KEY FINDINGS' and 'MIGRANTS' RIGHTS'. The 'MIGRANTS' RIGHTS' section lists several points, including 'Areas with potential for further development' and 'Only European Economic Area nationals benefit from equal access to private-sector employment as nationals.' The IOM logo is at the bottom left of the page. The text 'English' is visible in the top right corner. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark grey bar with the text 'Migration Governance Indicators Profile for Ireland' in white.

The launch coincided with the 20th anniversary of IOM in Ireland and was live streamed from EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum. It also served as an opportunity to announce a new collaboration between Dublin City Council and IOM Ireland to work towards a local MGI report.

From Thailand to Ireland and from Sao Paulo to Johannesburg, the MGI has

developed a large footprint enabling participating governments to share innovative measures developed to tackle shared challenges using a common framework.



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Networking with Embassies in London

IOM colleagues from the mission and the regional office in Brussels; along with the Chief of Mission Ms Lalini Veerassamy, travelled to London on November 21 to meet officials from the Bolivian; Congolese; Malawian; Mauritian; and Zimbabwean Embassies.

In recent years there has been an increasing need for Consular services among migrant populations, mainly from the five countries mentioned. In an effort to bridge the gap in the delivery of consular services in Ireland, IOM colleagues travelled to London to establish new ways of collaboration.

IOM Ireland colleagues also presented the mission's main support programmes and discussed migration support mechanisms that could be put in place by each Embassy.



Bread 41 joins IOM and the Department of Justice to raise awareness about human trafficking in Ireland.



The well known organic bakery Bread 41, joined IOM Ireland and the Department of Justice to mark the end of the #AnyoneTrafficked 2021 campaign.

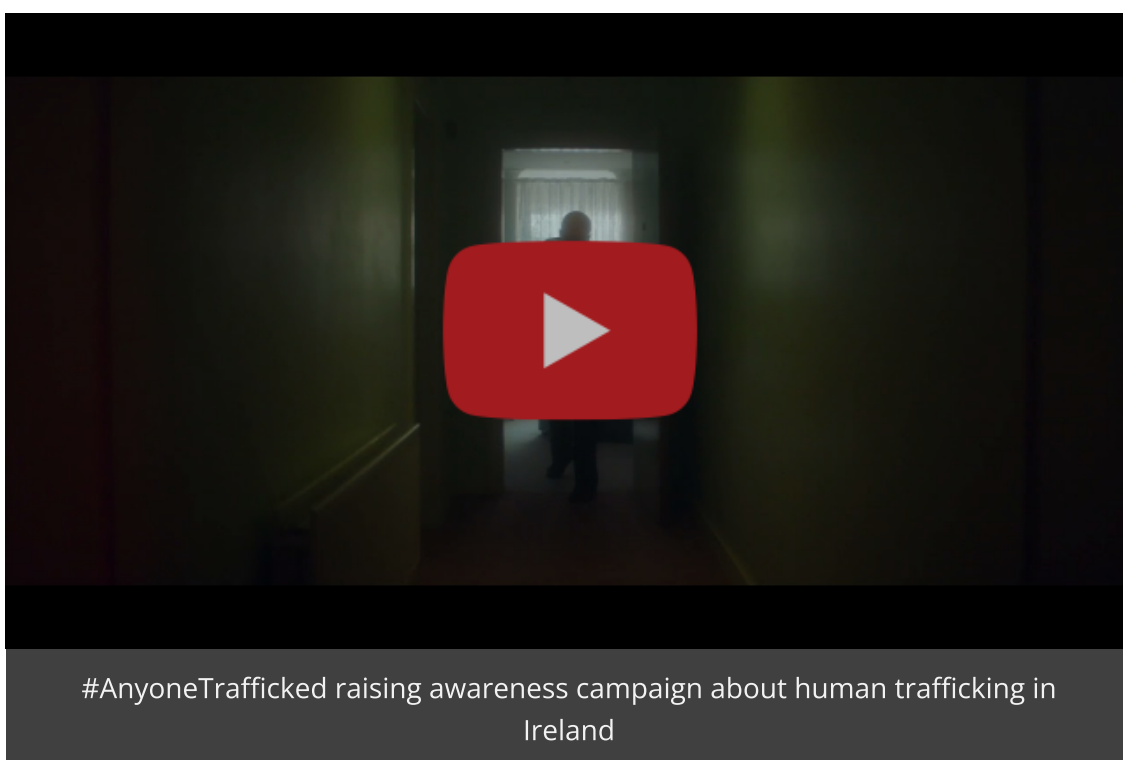
Funded by the Department of Justice, the #AnyoneTrafficked 2021 campaign

Funded by the Department of Justice, the #AnyoneTrafficked 2021 campaign aimed to raise awareness around human trafficking in Ireland; how to identify potential victims and report suspicious activities.

The main assets of the campaign were distributed via social media and in key transport hubs across the country from October 18 until the end of November.

The campaign was supported by a number of other state agencies and non-state organisations.

Our Chief of Mission Lalini Veerassamy and Principal Officer Deaglán Ó Briain from the Department of Justice, welcomed the involvement of the private sector and recognised its importance in combating human trafficking in Ireland.



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PROTECT II Project

Protect II is a collaborative project between IOM Ireland and the Department of Justice. The aim of the project is to support and empower migrant and ethnic minority survivors of gender-based violence and suspected victims of trafficking to access needed services. We must recognise that culture can be a barrier to service access and provision in Ireland.

The Protect II project offers a capacity-building training in cultural competency and understanding for frontline service providers who may work directly with migrant and ethnic minority survivors of gender-based violence and suspected victims of trafficking. The training covers the role of culture, barriers to service access and provision, working with cultural mediators, interpreters, and advocates, and working with migrants and ethnic minorities. More information can be found [here](#).

The Protect II project also offers a training in cultural mediation for services who have identified individuals who could successfully carry out the tasks of cultural mediators. The training covers migration and trafficking, conflict and culture, the principles and code of practice of cultural mediation, trauma-informed care, and setting boundaries and self-care in cultural mediation work. More information can be found [here](#).

Additionally, IOM Ireland recruited and trained 11 cultural mediators in the practice of cultural mediation to facilitate understanding between service users and service providers and to bridge the cultural gap. Our cultural mediators come from a variety of different cultural backgrounds.



Our cultural mediators come from a variety of different cultural backgrounds and are trained to bridge the cultural gap between migrants and service providers.

Migrant Night in Cork

The IOM mission in Ireland hosted a Migrant Night event in Cork, on the 4th December with the support of one of its Migrant Ambassadors, Mr. Tony Lacerda.

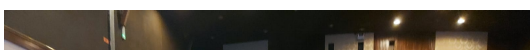
The main purpose of the event was to provide information on IOM's services, mainly the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme.

Given the timing of the event, which coincided with the most recent regularization scheme announcement from the Department of Justice, a large number of migrants, mostly from the Brazilian community, attended.

Migrants from the Latin American and South African communities also attended.

To ensure that migrants receive accurate, adequate, appropriate and timely information, the Migrants Rights Centre Ireland was also present to mostly give a clear overview of the regularization scheme and address questions.

The Brazilian Embassy was also present providing assistance to diaspora groups.





Migrant Day in partnership with Akidwa

AkiDwA is a long-standing partner of IOM Ireland.

This year the two organisations held a Migrant Information Day event together on December 19. A range of service providers attended on the day, including education providers, recruiters, migrant-led organisations and NGOs that work directly with migrant victims of torture and trafficking.

IOM Ireland used the platform to raise awareness of common issues that affect migrants in the course of their migration journey, and at the same time meet with potential beneficiaries.

A visiting colleague from Brazil, specialising in Virtual Counselling, also delivered an information session on this area.

As a result of the event, IOM Ireland has connected with service providers that work closely with members of the Brazilian community, and NGOs that expressed interest in receiving training in the near future.





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