

## **Immigration Bill undermines integration prospects and family life**

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Crosscare, the social care agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin, strongly criticises the new Immigration Residence and Protection Bill which was published yesterday. Crosscare's Migrant Project policy officer Joe O'Brien said that the Bill will do significant harm to the prospects of integration for those people who are entitled to live and work here if it does not enshrine migrant rights in legislation "*Setting out legislation on immigration that does not consider the best way to facilitate integration is not the best long term approach for Ireland*" says Mr O'Brien.

Mr O'Brien went on to say: "*The Bill does not adequately facilitate family reunification, it gives the Minister the power to say who can and cannot get married and it fails to grant a right to non-EU family members of Irish citizens to reside in Ireland - this Bill will affect Irish citizens aswell as migrants.*"

Crosscare Migrant Project has set out its recommendations relating to this legislation in the attached paper '*Family Reunification and Migrant Integration*' and has asked the Integration Minister Conor Lenihan to engage robustly with the development of the Bill.

Mr O'Brien went on to say that "*Best practice legislation can include checks and balances that will prevent fraudulent marriages without insisting on obtaining permission from an elected official to marry. It is not too late to seriously amend this bill. Not only do migrants deserve a clear and transparent system but the Irish public deserve it too*".

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