

Manifesto on Family Reunification and Support of Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre's Campaign on Family Reunification

I/We support Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre's Campaign to Reunite Families in Ireland. I/We affirm that it is of great importance to respect the integrity of the family unit and ensure that families are not separated for any longer than is absolutely necessary. We have particular concerns for children separated from their parents and affirm that speedy family reunification should be of the highest priority for any society that cares for the best interests of the child.

We call on our government to promote an immigration and refugee system that respects basic rights by promoting the speedy reunification of families in the interests of a humane integration of newcomers.

I/We call on the government to implement Nasc's key Campaign proposals and in particular the following:

1. Migrants who do not have the right to family reunification in Ireland should be granted this right as their human right; this includes in particular those people with status in Ireland based on their Irish born child;
2. People who do have the right to family reunification e.g. people with refugee status, should not have to wait for years to be with their family members. This does not require a change in the law but does require that more resources are put in place to ensure speedy reunification;
3. People who do have the right to family reunification should be allowed to have all their children with them, including those over the age of 18;
4. We would like to see a change in the definition of family members who can benefit from family reunification (e.g. more categories of family member, older children, non-biological children);
5. The current position in relation to the rights of unmarried partners in other countries is considerably out of line with the laws and administrative procedures in many other countries. We ask that the definition of family members should include partners (opposite and same sex) and dependent children (including those over the age of 18);
6. Ministerial discretion in decision-making processes should be minimised for greater transparency and accountability;
7. We call for an appeals mechanism, which is independent of the Department of Justice;
8. We ask that spouses and partners of all those admitted to Ireland, either on spousal visas or under the family reunification scheme, should be granted automatic access to the labour market;
9. We ask that the Department of Justice publish data applications for family reunification, including numbers rejected and the reasons why;
10. A condition should be put in place that any person who, once granted family reunification status and living in Ireland, and having reached the age of 18, should be allowed to leave the family home and not have to live forever in the family home;
11. The Right to Family Reunification is a Human Right and should not depend on a person's income. Under the new Employment Permits Legislation there is a distinction between family rights which is based on the income of the permit holder. All families have the right to be together and there should not be a distinction between workers on different income levels.

Signed:

Please Tick: Organisation Individual

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Email: