



nasc

The Irish Immigrant Support Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2009



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



DAN BOYLE

Chairperson,
Nasc Irish Immigrant Support
Centre

The past year has been a difficult year for the country, a difficult year for immigrants and a difficult time for Nasc as an organisation. We are in a period of change and adjustment, dealing with less and trying to make resources go further. The state of the economy has made us all consider things a bit more. The increase in unemployment has even seen a return to emigration, some of whom are immigrants who have the means and opportunities to seek better life chances elsewhere.

The prevailing economic conditions undermine further the ability of many immigrants to fully integrate into Irish society. Too many immigrants here continue to live in an administrative limbo where their status, and often that of other family members, remains uncertain and with that uncertainty their ability to fully function in our society is compromised, by their not being allowed to take employment or be able to access direct housing.

This is the environment in which Nasc as an organisation seeks to make a difference. Our ability to do that has also been compromised by the change in our national economic circumstances. We have been fortunate that key funders such as the Atlantic Philanthropies and the One Foundation have worked very closely with the board to ensure that Nasc's services and programmes continue to be delivered to the high standard we believe they should.

Atlantic Philanthropies and One Foundation while both being strong supporters of our work, support the organisation in the same way that each supports

many other worthy organisations, providing funding that will be replaced through fundraising and the organization being able to meet its own needs in the long term. In Nasc we are coming close to that time when we have to become more reliant on our own resources. Atlantic Philanthropies and One Foundation are to be thanked for their continued support and encouragement.

One potential source of funding is now also less available because of the economic times in which we live. While we work very closely with Cork local authorities, City Council and County Council, the ability to access State funding is now also now drying up. Last year saw the ending of a Development Education position in the organization that had been funded by Irish Aid, but not before much valuable work had been done, including a significant publication.

Despite the financial constraints we all find ourselves under, the work of Nasc has continued successfully, in particular the advice, advocacy and community development groups for which Nasc has acquired a justified reputation.

We have seen several changes of personnel in the past year. We are fortunate in the people we have and have had working with the organisation. Our newly appointed Director, Fiona Finn, has worked well to knit together the experience of existing workers and drawing on the enthusiasm of those who have recently joined our ranks. We are grateful to those no longer working at Nasc for their contributions.

The legal situation regarding immigrants continues to be unacceptably grey. We have yet to see a new Immigration and Residency Bill to replace the existing proposals, many of which we've felt needed to re-examine. There are signs that the things can be better in the next year, and when they do improve Nasc as an organisation is in a better position to take advantage of that.

Board members 2009

Dan Boyle (Chairperson)
Colm Stanley (Secretary)
Iyabode Sanni
Margaret Linehan
Rachel Stevenson
Orla Broderick
Abdul Nursheik
Aisha Ivie Yusuff
Tracy Harper
June Barry*
Naomi Bushin*
Mariam Olusoji*
Aki Stavrou*
Abdul Hadi Mirzada*
Zephyrnus Okechi Ikeh*

**These Board members stood down in 2009*



CEO'S REPORT



FIONA FINN
CEO,
Nasc Irish Immigrant Support
Centre

In 2009 Nasc reached out and assisted more people than ever before. 2009 was not without its challenges but, Nasc emerged a stronger more cohesive organisation and we are well positioned to respond to the direct needs of our migrant communities and their families.

Our achievements can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of all our staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year to deliver a highly specialised and professional service. I would like to thank the Nasc Board who give freely of their time and expertise to support and develop the organisation. In addition, I also wish to thank the many organisations both locally and nationally that have supported our work in the past year.

This year we welcomed two new staff members, Claire Cumiskey our Legal Information Officer and Claire McCarthy our new Policy and Campaigning Officer.

2009 was a period of immense socioeconomic change in Ireland as the economic recession deepened. Many charities were affected by cuts in Government funding and Nasc was no exception. However, despite the cuts Nasc has continued to deliver a high quality service which has transformed the lives of many migrants. In particular we have had high number of successful Family Reunification Applications, Citizenship Applications, and have successfully attained residency for a large number of Migrant workers who were previously undocumented. The numbers attending our clinics have risen again this year with our officers dealing with over 3000 client visits. Our success here can be attributed to the expertise of our Officers who have a strong legal and human rights background. Our

service remains the only one of its kind in the city and we are struggling to meet the demand. The issues presenting in our clinics is reflective of our current economic climate and we have witnessed a distinct hardening of attitudes and policies from the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform and the Department of Social and Family Affairs. We are continually reviewing our service and our policy goals to ensure effectively respond to these changes.

Building on our past work we have successfully brought to fruition a number of our existing Campaign Goals, including the coordination of English Language Provision through the establishment a new VEC Committee. This committee is charged with the delivery of English Language provision in the city. It is our belief that language acquisition for migrants and their families is the cornerstone of an effective and inclusive integration strategy, the absence of which severely hampers the ability of our migrant communities to fully participate in and become active members of our society.

Integration was identified as one of our key areas of work for 2009 and beyond. Our work in this area was channelled through our community development office and our policy and campaigning work. Our Community Development work focused upon aspects of social integration. Through a series of targeted projects, trainings and social fora we opened a dialogue with members of the migrant communities, to address their expressed needs for socialisation and greater interaction with the wider community. Through the work of our sub groups we give voice to the concerns of our members, and foster a sense of solidarity and empowerment to enable them to take action on the

issues affecting them. The Cork Integration Forum has proved an effective platform to achieve these aims.

On the policy side we took the strategic decision to re-engage with the current The Cork City Integration Strategy (CCIS) 2008 – 2011 monitoring and evaluation process. It was my firmly held belief that deeper and more immediate impact in the development of positive integration policies and practices could be attained by reengagement. The current strategy has the distinct advantage of having the buy in of all of the significant local stakeholders. Nasc and the Cork City Partnership (CCP) are currently undertaking a review of the strategy which will ensure that integration remains on top of the agenda for the main service-providers and policy makers in the city.

In 2009, Nasc and CCP made a successful joint application to the Office of the Minister for Integration for funding to undertake the mid-term review.

Our campaigning work continues to be informed and supported by the work of our Legal Information Clinics. In the latter part of 2009 we identified a number of critical emerging issues, including naturalisation, racism both social and institutional, which will form the basis of our campaigning work in the coming year. In addition we will focus much of our campaigning work around the Immigration Residence and Protection Bill once it returns to the political agenda.

As a relatively small organisation it is our belief that by forming strategic alliances, working in partnership with other NGOs in the sector and by remaining true to our community development values we will continue to make a positive and lasting impact upon the lives of our migrant communities.



LEGAL & INFORMATION OFFICE REPORT

Nasc Legal Information Service (NLIS) has brought about positive change to the lives of our migrant communities both regionally and nationally. Our service is open to the public four days a week and operates five days a week. We provide a four day drop-in service for migrants where clients are advised on initial queries. More complicated queries are addressed by appointment, which are also available four days a week. The NLIS service sees an average of 320 clients per month, with the total client visits amounting to 3056 for 2009.

The Legal Information Office comprises of two full-time Legal Information Officers, Deirdre Morgan and Claire Cumiskey, one part-time legal information assistant, Moawia Eldjack and full time front desk drop-in information officer, Marie-Pia Pallot. The Legal Information Service is also assisted by volunteer interns and students. We also offer a night clinic service on Monday nights.

The main changes resulting from the Legal Information Service is to contribute to more transparent and accountable procedures and policies within Irish Nationality and Immigration Service (INIS) and to empower service users with a detailed knowledge base of their rights so they are equipped to access and realise these rights. The impact that Nasc Legal Information Service has had on the immigration system and the individuals' knowledge base can be ascertained from our successes in individual case work, engagement with key stakeholders and training and mainstreaming of services.

Nasc Legal Information Service has achieved procedural and policy change through precedents set on individual cases. The increased specialisation of the Legal Information Officers through our case work and legal submissions on cases has strengthened our capacity to bring about and implement procedural change in the system. The result is that Nasc assisted applications are processed faster and are more likely to achieve a positive outcome. Through our casework, systems and procedures have become more transparent, accessible and accountable. Overall the quality of service has increased with the Legal Information Service providing assistance on far more complex issues. At present the Legal Information Service enables migrants to be informed of, and realise their rights on a practical level.

We briefly outline below some of the successes achieved in the last year:

1. Family Reunification for Refugees

Nasc are currently over 300 refugees with family reunification applications. Nasc assisted applications are processed faster and a number of our cases were processed in under 9 months as opposed to the average two year waiting periods. We have also achieved success in more complex applications for dependent family members and applicants experiencing difficulties in attaining the requisite documentation.

2. Spouse of an Irish National

The work of the Nasc Legal Information Service has contributed to the reduction in processing times for Nasc assisted clients who apply for residency on the basis of their marriage to an Irish national. Processing times for these applications has been reduced from 12 months to 6 -9 months. The Legal Information Service attributes this reduction in processing times in part to submissions placed that processing times should be in line with those provided for dependents of EU nationals exercising their EU Treaty Rights in the State under the EU Free Movement Directive as to do otherwise would indirectly discriminate against spouses of Irish nationals. Nasc assisted applications have witnessed a 100% success rate.

3. De facto Couples

Nasc Legal Information Service has been submitting applications for de facto couples prior to the introduction of any formal procedure by INIS. It was submitted that INIS was legally obliged to consider such applications under the Good Friday Agreement, EU Free Movement Directive and the European Convention on Human Rights. These applications contributed to INIS putting a formal application procedure on their website in late 2008. Nasc assisted applications have witnessed a 100% success rate. This procedure has had particular significance for same sex couples.

4. Residency applications for undocumented and issuing of Certificates of Registration.

With regards the issuing of temporary Certificates of Registration from the GNIB to facilitate applicants retrieving national passports the Legal Information Service has a strong connection with GNIB Dublin and have successfully retrieved temporary stamps for Nasc assisted clients for up to 12 months. The GNIB Cork have shown some leniency with these applicants and allow time for instruction through GNIB Dublin to be received. Through petitioning for temporary travel documents for individuals Nasc Legal Information Services have received clear guidelines on the procedures needed to retrieve temporary travel documents and have had many successful applications. Nasc Legal Information Service has had a 100% success rate on applications for bridging visas for undocumented migrants. These applications are pursuant to ministerial discretion and as such successes in these applications are significant.

5. Social Welfare Issues and Habitual Residency Conditions

Nasc Legal Information Service has contributed to a greater level of knowledge of the social welfare system for immigrants in Cork. The service now operates at a more legally complex level in terms of its social welfare work. Service users are no longer contacting the legal information service for assistance with their initial social welfare applications and social welfare currently dealt with generally relate to appealing social welfare refusals on the basis of the Habitual Residency Condition. Nasc Legal Information Service attributes the changing nature of social welfare queries to both the empowerment of migrants in terms of accessing their rights and to the mainstreaming of migrants into the Irish social welfare system.



NASC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009

Community development acts from a position of solidarity, empowering members of the new communities experiencing social exclusion to raise awareness and explore strategies to combat racism and promote integration in a positive, proactive way. Nasc acts to build the capacity of its membership to identify their own needs and to take collective action at grassroots level through creative educational processes and member led groups. Nasc's community development strand is also targeted at developing awareness in the wider local community of the issues and concerns facing migrants.

Nasc works through sub groups where members meet to identify their collective needs, the actions needed and projects through which they can express these needs.

Nasc facilitates the following subgroups:

The Social and Cultural Group:

This group meets twice a month and provides a social space where members can form friendships and build their capacity and skills through creative expression and positive social dialogue. During the reporting period, events included cultural evenings on Cuba, the Ivory Coast and Jersey and the viewing of a short documentary made by a member. These events were well attended and attracted a diverse audience from the local community. In January 2009, the production of 'What Dreams May Come' was staged by members of the Gaiety Acting School and participants of Nasc's drama classes in the Triskel Arts centre.

As part of Nasc's commitment to fostering positive relationships with other local groups, the 2009 Christmas party was held in partnership with Cois Tine. Additionally, the group was granted some funding from the Office of the Minister of Integration to support our work for 2010.

The Speakers Panel and Development Education

Development education is a process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the world in which we live, its inequalities, its injustices and its diverse political, social and cultural realities. It seeks to engage people in analysis, reflection and action for local and global citizenship and participation in social action and change.

The Speakers Panel is part of Nasc's development education programme, where members come together in a creative learning process in order to educate others on the issues and crises affecting their country of origin as well as its culture and traditions. The Speakers Panel aims to build capacity through training and events where members are empowered to develop their skills, increase their confidence and engage in collective action.

Projects

COMMUNITY IN A STUDIO:

This project took place in partnership with Cork Community TV, where 4 one hour programmes were made focusing on a variety of country of origin issues including, Freedom of expression in Mauritius, Violence against women in the Ivory Coast and religious conflict in Nigeria. This project gave participants the opportunity to educate viewers in Cork city and county in addition to learning basic broadcast media skills. The first programme was broadcasted on 16th March and continued for the following four weeks.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN PROJECT:

One of the main strategic aims of the Speakers Panel was to engage with local government in a safe space where both parties could develop their understanding and awareness of global issues through focusing on common interests and concerns for example health, education and housing. Cork city councillors, Cllr. Catherine Clancy and Cllr. Kieran McCarthy engaged with the group on these issues, which were fully illustrated by the groups Pyrography project, facilitated by the Mayfield Community Arts centre. At the end of this project, the Art Pieces were exhibited in Cork city library informing the community on university strikes in Nigeria, health crises in Abidjan, freedom of faith and education in Nigeria and housing issues in Owerri. The speaker's panel also gave several presentations to secondary schools in Cork city and county and also presented at third level institutions including UCC and Wexford Institute of Technology.

For the year ahead, the group is engaged in a participatory video project, learning media skills, in order to make short films to be viewed on the Nasc website and youtube.com. The films will focus on Nasc's main campaign areas including family reunification as well educating viewers on social and cultural traditions as expressed through African cuisine, art, marriage and family life.

Training

Community education is a crucial part of Nasc's commitment to capacity building in the community. Two courses were delivered by external facilitators during the reporting period

TRAINING FOR TRANSFORMATION:

Training for Transformation is personal, community and global development based on the work of Paulo Freire. The course is loosely based on a structure originated by Partners and is designed and delivered by Emer McCarthy, Trinity Training Group. The course ran for 20 weeks and participants represented a blend of asylum seekers, UCC students, EU citizens and the local community. Participants covered diverse topics from listening skills to world debt.

STREET THEATRE WORKSHOPS:

10 workshops took place as part of the social and cultural agenda. The course was delivered by Shirley Fitzpatrick and explored creativity as a tool for inclusion, performance and cultural action and expression.



THE WOMEN'S GROUP

The aim of the group is to provide its membership with a forum in which to exchange ideas, provide mutual support and engage in collective action. Over time the group has evolved into a space where women can develop their leadership skills and personal capacity in order to take positive action on the issues which affect them and their children. The group strives to put integration in action through welcoming a diverse membership, with a wide social, cultural and ethnic mix.

During the reporting period, 20 meetings took place which was attended by 133 members. As the year progressed, members grew in confidence through active participation in the continual planning and evaluation of the group and through ownership of the group's aims and direction. Nasc promotes empowerment, encouraging members to take responsibility for group structure and through group identification of activities, talks and training. Overall, while less women engaged with the women's group, the extant membership attended more meetings and took power over group governance which meant a stronger, more involved core membership.

Activities

Members identified the need for childcare to enable their participation in training and other group activities. Nasc now provides regular childcare which includes targeted children's activities including art, puppet shows and storytelling.

A variety of guest speakers on issues chosen by the group, spoke at several women's group meeting throughout the year. These include: Emma Hawckett, Sexual Violence Centre; Fiona Finn, Advocacy Officer; Gertrude Cotter, Former Director of Nasc; Carole Goulding, Mna Feasa Domestic Violence Project; Mary Broderick, Nutritionist and two community Garda Officers.

Members identified the need to engage in practical skills which enable personal and cultural representation. During the year Nasc invested in a range of cooking appliances to facilitate this cultural expression.

The community kitchen provides a proactive intercultural space in which to learn and experience a range of cultures and traditions. A member of the women's group, lyabode Sanni, also facilitated a 10 week dress making course which culminated in a fashion show which took place at the 2009 Christmas party.

In order to improve members leadership skills, members identified the need for training and a 10 session course 'Women's Leadership and Personal Development' was facilitated by Emer McCarthy, Trinity Training Group. This course was completed by 10 members and they were presented with certificates of completion by Lord Mayor, Darragh Murphy in a ceremony in Cork City Hall.

Members of the group also engage successfully with other elements of Nasc's work including the speaker's panel and the social and cultural group. Three members of the group also successfully ran for election to Nasc's Board of Director in 2009. Members also represent Nasc at external events and conferences, for example the launch of the UCC report on Migrant Children, Akidwa's Seminar on Migrant Women and Networking and the International Women's Day Conference. In order to finance the group's activities, members successfully raised €900 through participation in the Cork Women's Mini Marathon. Member's also engaged in public events to raise Nasc's profile locally including the 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade and carol singing in Tesco's, Christmas 2009.

One of the main aims of the women's group is to provide free leisure activities and members took an active role in organising the annual summer trip and also attended Cois tine's Christmas party.

Capacity building is about instilling self belief and developing people's abilities to take direct action on issues of concern. As the group evolves and progresses, a primary concern identified is the rights of the child living within direct provision. At present they have identified existing campaigns, which they hope to join. This concern will be incorporated into future planning by the group, possibly as part of an expanded leadership programme.

In 2009 Nasc had 532 members

Breakdown of Nasc Members by Region:

West Africa	204
North, East, Central & South Africa	146
Europe (including Ireland)	110
Middle East, Asia & Oceanic	59
The Americas	13



POLICY AND CAMPAIGNING OFFICE REPORT

I was privileged to join the Nasc team as Policy & Campaigning Officer in October 2009. Since that time, I have been constantly impressed by the spirit of collegiality and cooperation that exists in the sector, and by the extraordinary warmth of so many of the members whom we serve. I am conscious also that it is a very great responsibility to work in an organisation that is so dear to its members.

I have been lucky to have been able to rely for guidance on the results of several years of painstaking research and consultation by my predecessors into the mechanics of the social and economic integration of migrants. The strategies that they have outlined have motivated and informed much of my work, which has included initiating an inter-agency project to review Connecting Communities: The Cork City Integration Strategy (2008 – 2011).

Likewise, the foundations were laid, through several years of research and relationship-building, for the acceptance late last year by Cork VEC of a role in coordinating responses to the vocational educational needs of migrants to Cork, and we look forward to the imminent convening of the new VEC Sub-Committee on Education for New Communities.

We remain deeply concerned about the potential for racism and discrimination to undermine social cohesion in Ireland, and we have called on the government to look the issue in the eye, and to take the state's responsibility to foster social cohesion very seriously indeed. We are hopeful that the creation of a new Ministry of Equality, Human Rights and Integration will herald a new era, and we look forward to engaging with Minister Mary White around the various issues.

The EU Fundamental Rights Agency's Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS), published in full in December 2010, confirmed our experience (as well as a great many other polls and studies) that people of Sub-Saharan African descent, in particular, are increasingly vulnerable to racism and discrimination in Ireland.

The absence of any increase in the reporting of racist incidents has cast doubt, for some, on the reliability of this data. Having had contact with thousands of inward migrants over the last ten years, it has not been Nasc's experience that victims of discrimination or racism are inclined to report their experiences. EU-MIDIS reveals that this experience is reflected throughout Europe, and we agree with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that:

[t]he Absence or small number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions regarding acts of racial discrimination in the county should not be thought of as positive, as it may indicate that victims have inadequate information about their rights, they fear social censure or reprisals, have limited resources, have a lack of trust in the police, or authorities are insufficiently alerted to or are aware of offences involving racism.

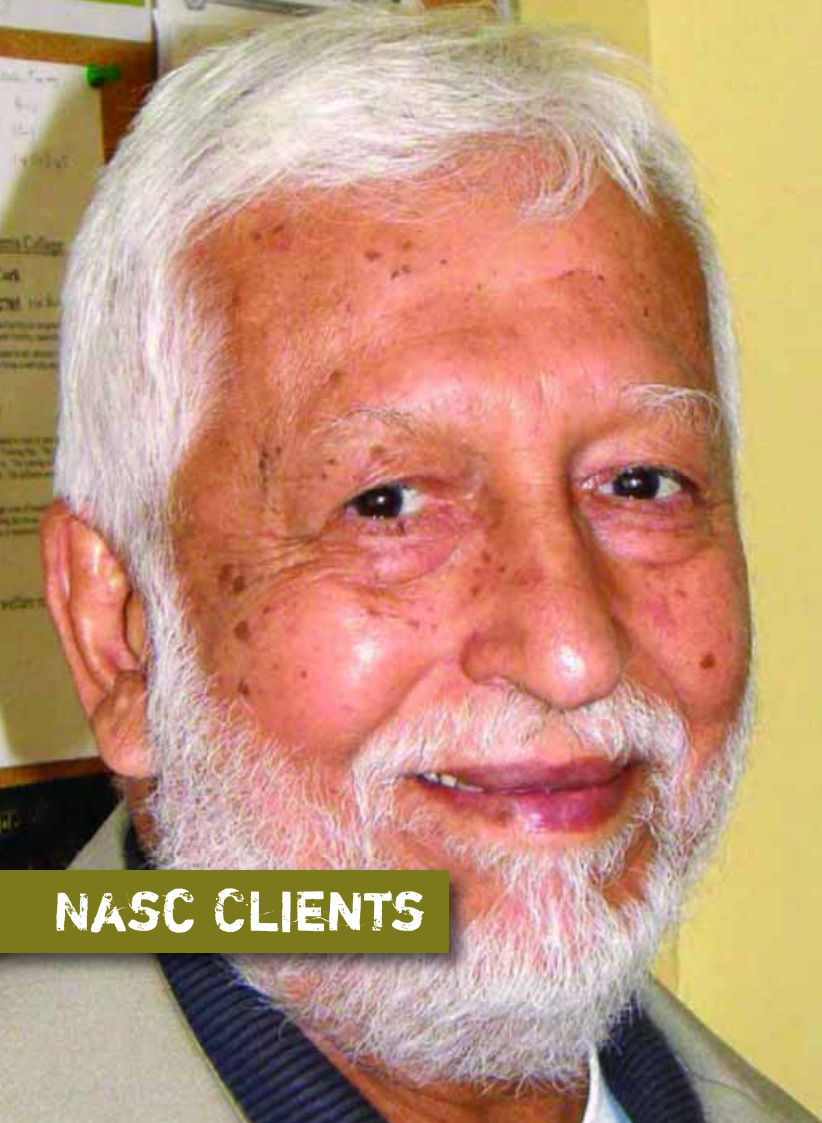
We believe that the onus is on our government to facilitate and indeed to encourage such reporting, and we look forward to engaging with Minister Mary White around this issue, amongst others.

We have called for a commitment from the Government to publish draft legislation giving effect to the EU Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia as soon as possible. The purpose of the

European Council's framework decision is to ensure that racism and xenophobia are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties in the European Union. The legislation will affect the prosecutions of crimes in which racism is an aggravating circumstance, as well as dealing with incitement to hatred and the publication of racist materials. The State is obliged to incorporate the legislation into Irish law by 28th of November 2010. It is crucial that this draft legislation is considered as part of a public consultation process, as it will require consideration of what limitations should be put on the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

Nasc's policy formation and campaigning plans are underwritten by our consciousness of the importance, for all of society, of avoiding the creation of a class of disenfranchised and marginalised ethnic-minority residents. They are informed by the experiences of our members and our clients. Many of those clients have experienced the frustration and injustice of Ireland's citizenship application process, which is slow, expensive, inconsistent and unfair.

We believe that citizenship needs to become a right, enshrined in legislation, rather than a privilege granted on an ad hoc basis at the discretion of the Minister. We believe that the naturalisation process has the potential to become a vehicle for active citizenship and full social inclusion, which will benefit all of society. For that reason, we would remind the government of its commitment to deal with the system, and we hope that it will reflect on its commitment to adopting a "whole of government approach" to citizenship, and to integration.



NASC CLIENTS



“ I thank Nasc for giving me this opportunity to express my feelings. Nasc caring for us from the first day we arrived in Ireland. It is really a kind mother for all refugees. It use all it's ability to serve us in affectionately way. ”

ABDUL WAHID ALBASRI, Iraq
22-04-2010

“ The soldiers came during the war in my country and burned our village. They killed my parents and sisters in front of my eyes. I think about this every day. When the pain is too much I come in or call Nasc. From the first day I came they became like my family. I live in a hostel and get €19.10 a week to live on it is very hard but I know I can come to Nasc in the day. They get me counselling as I was tortured in my country and find the pain and memories too much. Nasc help me to get a better hostel to live, I now have my own room and this is good for me. My new hostel is in Dublin but I still travel to Cork to Nasc when I am feeling depressed or need help. I can also ring them when I need to talk to someone. I do not know how I would survive without Nasc. They are helping me to bring my wife and two daughters here. I miss them so much I think my heart will break some days. ”

ALBERT, Democratic Republic of Congo

“ I know Nasc more than five years ago. Nasc all the time help asylum seekers and refugee people. Asylum seekers and refugee people have any problems they come into Nasc and Nasc will help them. One thing is very good is that Nasc has a free service. Myself entrust in the all the programs of Nasc, like Social Group, Policy Group and some courses, like computer, photography. Very important for asylum seekers is the application for family reunification, application for passport and travel documents and everything else. Coming here every day sitting in the reception area, that Nasc is very, very busy and they do help the people all the time. I get very much enjoyment from that. All Nasc members are my friends and very happy with them, good manners, good service and good everything. If I have any problems I come to Nasc and they are the only organization that will help me. I am very comfortable about Nasc that they will help me. I am blind and have a lot of problems all the time, good that Nasc is here as they help me. ”

SULTAN KABIR CHAKARI, Afghanistan

Total visits in Legal & Information Clinics 2009: 3056

Breakdown of Nasc Clients by Region:

North, East & South Africa	28%
Middle East, Asia & Oceanic	27%
West Africa	21%
Europe (including Ireland)	20%
The Americas	4%

Top 5 Issues in 2009:

Citizenship	27%
Family Reunification	21%
Residency	20%
Visa	16%
Social Welfare	16%



NASC VOLUNTEERS

“ I have been volunteering at Nasc for the past year and a half as Job Club Facilitator, Receptionist and Admin Assistant. In the Job's Club I assisted with the preparation of curriculum vitae, accessing on line employment and training opportunities, registering with recruitment agencies, and interview preparation. We also assist our members to access further education and training. Since the beginning of this year many of our new members have successfully found employment, and FÁS training positions and many have done a Security Guard Course that was funded by The Cork City Partnership. I also assisted the administration officer in administrative duties such as information dissemination,

maintaining contacts database and filing. When I did reception I was the first point of computers for beginners to a class of eleven students for about eight weeks last summer. My experience in these fields has broadened my knowledge even further. During my time at Nasc I have come into contact with various nationalities and have learnt much of many cultural and ethnic backgrounds of our members and clients. I am glad that I have joined Nasc and working with the team has built my character stronger and has enhanced my personality. ”

MOLLIE PEREIRA

“ Free flow of refreshing challenges, encounters with the diversity of human beings in an organisation that represents integrity in many ways and on many levels.

When I first became involved in Nasc I felt that that I was one of them, a member of the immigrant community. As I got more and more engaged my identity become clearer. I am now one of the Irish immigrant community.

That is different it is some kind of belonging. By now I am the volunteer coordinator in Nasc. In my every day work I meet people who despite of recession and hard times still perceive differences as diversity and not as annoying source of frustration. I meet people who are willing to commit themselves and prefer differences as the result of their actions – I am grateful to work with and among of those people who view the community as an extension of themselves and therefore feeling responsible for its growth and wellbeing. From my view it is volunteer activities that are keeping the community alive. The doing things simply just because we believe in the changes that one's action can make. What changes we can ask? Listening people talking about what they did, how did they feel themselves? Sharing not just bad times good times too. ”

ANDREA NAGY

Nasc Members / Students Activites in 2009:

Social & Cultural Group	197
Women's Group	141
Speaker's Panel	51
Policy & Campaigning Group	46
Training for Transformation course	22
ECDL course	21
Non Active	54

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT CONTINUING OPERATIONS

	2009 €	2008 €
Income	403,528	442,390
Operational Expenses	(467,405)	(507,967)
Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation	(63,877)	(65,577)
Tax on deficit on ordinary activities	-	-
Deficit for the year	(63,877)	(65,577)
Balance brought forward	162,842	228,419
Balance carried forward	<u>98,965</u>	<u>162,842</u>

On behalf of the Board.

Directors: Dr. Margaret Linehan || Mr. Colm Stanley

Date: 30 April 2010

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

	2009 €	2008 €
Operational costs (including staff)	246,977	237,028
Advocacy & Campaigning costs (including staff)	107,192	189,161
Community Development & Development Education costs	107,763	76,706
Depreciation	5,473	5,073
	<u>467,405</u>	<u>507,967</u>

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2009 €	2008 €
Reconciliation of operating surplus/(deficit) to net cash outflow from operating activities		
Operating loss	(63,877)	(65,577)
Depreciation	5,473	5,073
Increase in creditors	11,511	2,684
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>(46,893)</u>	<u>(46,254)</u>
Cash flow statement		
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(46,893)	(57,820)
Capital expenditure	-	(3,279)
Decrease in cash in the year	<u>(46,893)</u>	<u>(61,099)</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt		
Decrease in cash in the year	(46,893)	(61,099)
Net cash inflow from issue of shares classed as financial liabilities	-	-
Net funds at 1 January 2009	171,102	232,201
Net funds at 31 December 2009	<u>124,209</u>	<u>171,102</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on *19 May 2010* and signed on its behalf by:

Directors: Dr. Margaret Linehan || Mr. Colm Stanley

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NASC, THE IRISH IMMIGRANT SUPPORT CENTRE LIMITED.

We have audited the financial statements of Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre Limited. for the year ended 31 December 2009 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein. This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Irish Accounting Standards published by the Auditing Practices Board in the UK and Ireland. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and Auditing Standards and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company; and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet and its income and expenditure account are in agreement with the books of account. We also report, to the members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its loss and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.

Cuddy, O'Leary & Barrett

Chartered Accountants || Registered Auditors
Unit 3003, Euro Business Park
Date: 19 May 2010

BALANCE SHEET	2009 €	2008 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	5,929	11,401
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	124,208	171,102
	124,208	171,102
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(31,172)	(19,661)
Net current assets	93,036	151,441
Total assets less current Liabilities	98,965	162,842
Net assets	98,965	162,842
Reserves		
Revenue reserves account	98,965	162,842
Members' funds	98,965	162,842

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 19 May 2010 and signed on its behalf by:

Directors: Dr. Margaret Linehan || Mr. Colm Stanley



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35 Mary St.,
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