

res a stain human rights

By ANN MURPHY

from violence and persecution."

Twelve asylum seekers living in three centres in Cork City responded to a survey about food at the centres.

The survey found that the accommodation system for asylum seekers needs to be overhauled, especially in how food is delivered.

Respondents highlighted concern that they could not cook their own food.

The report recommended that self-catering options should be expanded as a matter of urgency; and at the very minimum, communal cooking areas should be made available to asylum seekers in all Direct Provision centres in Ireland.

The report said: "A majority of asylum seekers interviewed



Fiona Finn, CEO of NASC, says Direct Provision centres for asylum seekers are comparable to the Magdalene Laundries.

spoke about the widespread fear and trepidation they felt about their future prospects. Most people interviewed had been living in the Direct Provision system for multiple years and spoke of their precarious situation waiting for their asylum claim to be decided.

In addition, some individuals

spoke in great detail of the traumatic life experiences that made it necessary for them to flee their country of origin and seek asylum in Ireland."

Last June, residents at the Direct Provision centre at Drishane, Millstreet, held a protest over food and other conditions at the centre.

Food and conditions for asylum seekers

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and religious food practices.

● The food system in Direct Provision has a negative impact on families and children who are residents of Direct Provision centres. Criticism of the food relating to children included that it is often 'inedible' and also that it is regularly high in salt, sugar and in fat.

● Food was discussed as being perceived as one part of a broken Direct Provision system that needs to be changed.

These included worry about family in home countries, worries about the future, worry about impacts of living in a Direct Provision environment on children, poverty, family health, mental health issues, and future security.