

PQ Digest | 19.02.18 – 23.02.18

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20th February 2018

Refugee Data

236. Deputy John Lahart asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of Syrian refugees who have arrived here in each of the years since 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [8280/18]

Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality (Deputy David Stanton):

As the Deputy is aware, the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) was established by Government Decision on 10 September 2015 in direct response to the humanitarian crisis that developed in Southern Europe as a consequence of mass migration from areas of conflict in the Middle East and Africa.

Under this programme, the Government has pledged to accept a total of 4,000 persons into the State. Of these, 2,622 were to be by means of the EU relocation mechanism established by two EU Council Decisions in 2015 to assist Italy and Greece. It should be noted that Ireland voluntarily opted into the two EU Council Decisions on Relocation (2015/1523) and (2015/1601), which provided for the relocation of 160,000 asylum seekers from Italy and Greece throughout the EU. However, this mechanism was unable to deliver the numbers allocated under the relevant Council Decisions as insufficient numbers of asylum seekers were registered in both Greece and Italy.

A further 1,040 persons were to come to Ireland under the UNHCR-led refugee resettlement programme, currently focussed on resettling refugees from Lebanon, and the balance through a variety of mechanisms.

The following table lists the number of Syrian refugees who were brought to Ireland under the UNHCR-led refugee resettlement programme from the Lebanon in each year since 2011. It should be noted that 2011 pre-dates the establishment of the IRPP. These persons were granted refugee status before their arrival in Ireland. Hundreds more are also scheduled to arrive in 2018 under this mechanism.

Year	Number
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	89
2015	149
2016	335
2017	261
2018	0
Total	834

The following table lists persons who applied for Asylum/International Protection in Ireland, giving Syria as their country of origin. Since 2016, the majority of these have been relocated to Ireland from Greece under the EU relocation programme.

Year	Total Number of applications to IPO	Number of Syrians admitted to the State under EU Council Decisions 2015/1523 and 2015/1601
2011	9	0
2012	15	0
2013	38	0
2014	25	0
2015	74	0
2016	244	190
2017	545	502
2018*	56	55
Total*	1,006*	747*

* Figure as of 11 February 2018.

Approximately two hundred more asylum seekers will arrive from Greece under the relocation mechanism in the coming weeks and months.

In order to fill the shortfall left by the lower than anticipated numbers arriving under the relocation mechanism, I intend that Ireland will use the long established programme refugee mechanism in partnership with UNHCR, and I have already made additional pledges to that effect, as well as the new Family Reunification Humanitarian Admission Programme (FRHAP), in order to ensure that Ireland delivers on its commitment to accept 4,000 persons.

Immigration Data

258. [Deputy Clare Daly](#) asked the [Minister for Justice and Equality](#) further to [Parliamentary Question Nos. 122, 124, 125 and 127 of 7 December 2017](#), if the information requested will be provided. [8787/18]

[Minister for Justice and Equality \(Deputy Charles Flanagan\)](#): In the Parliamentary Questions referred to, the Deputy sought information regarding Operation Gull dating back to 2008, as well as statistics relating to detentions, refusals of leave to land, and deportations.

In my original responses, I committed to exploring this matter further, and to getting in touch with you again.

It remains the case that An Garda Síochána have advised that gathering much of the data you have requested would require the expenditure of a disproportionate and inordinate amount of Garda resources and time. However, it has been possible to collate the following data relating to the top 10 nationalities refused permission to enter the State and the numbers for each of those 10 nationalities, overall numbers deported and the numbers transferred to another Member State under the Dublin Regulations.

Persons Refused Leave to Land (RLTL) for the years 2015, 2016 & up to 1st September 2017.

Ref No.	Nationality	2015	2016	1st Sep-17	Total
1	Brazilian	360	509	280	1149
2	Albanian	336	429	247	1012
	South				
3	African	293	302	146	741
4	Pakistani	217	176	76	469
5	Chinese	180	109	48	337
6	American	176	257	129	562
7	Nigerian	159	118	52	329
8	Afghan	143	175	68	386
9	Malawian	134	17	4	155
10	Unknown**	127	127	98	352
Totals	-	2125	2219	1148	5492

** Persons who were Refused leave to land, but confirmation of the country of origin could not be established.

Deportation & Transfer Orders successfully executed for the years 2015, 2016 & up to 1st September 2017

Year	Deportations*	Transfers
2015	251	19
2016	428	42
2017	140	56

* Figures for deportations include those who left of their own volition.

I have referred this follow-up response to An Garda Síochána so that any further information they may have relevant to these matters can be provided by direct reply

21st February 2018

Family Reunification Policy

118. Deputy Clare Daly asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the status of his plans to introduce a family reunification humanitarian admission programme as announced in November 2017. [8951/18]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Charles Flanagan): On 14 November last, together with my colleague, the Minister of State with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, David Stanton T.D., I announced a new scheme of family reunification in support of refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and their families.

I would like to emphasise that this new scheme is aimed at assisting family members of all refugees from established conflict zones and not just refugees from Syria. This new Family Reunification Humanitarian Admission Programme (FRHAP) will form part of the Government's commitments under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). The Family Reunification Humanitarian Admission Programme (FRHAP) will see, over a two year period, up to 530 immediate family members of refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection from established conflict zones come to Ireland as part of our overall commitment to accept 4,000 persons under the IRPP.

This humanitarian admission programme is an initiative of the Government for the benefit of the families of those in receipt of international protection in Ireland and is not part of any EU programme. The FRHAP will be operated under Ministerial discretionary powers and it will be in addition to the family reunification provisions provided for in the International Protection Act 2015. Officials in my Department are in consultation with the UNHCR and other stakeholders on developing the full operational details of the programme.

I will also continue to apply my discretion in the area of family reunification for those outside of the International Protection process in the ways described in the Non-EEA Policy Document on Family Reunification and operated by INIS.

The design phase of the FRHAP programme is at an advanced stage and additional details on the operation of the programme will be announced on the websites of the Department of Justice and Equality (www.justice.ie) and the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (www.inis.gov.ie) in the coming period. I will update the Deputy in due course.

22nd February 2018

Traveller Community

29. Deputy Gino Kenny asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if her attention has been drawn to the fact that despite recognition of Traveller ethnicity in March 2017, infant mortality rates in this group are 3.6 times higher than the rest of the population; her plans to address same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [9020/18]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Katherine Zappone): I must inform the Deputy that my Department has no responsibility with regard to this issue. If the Deputy has any particular questions regarding health issues, including infant mortality, he should address these to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD.

As a lifelong campaigner for equality, social justice and fairness, I regard the recognition of Traveller ethnicity in 2017 as a hugely significant development. I am concerned that Travellers, and in particular, Traveller children experience many outcomes which are significantly poorer than the average that is experienced and acceptable to the majority of the population of Ireland. This arises in a range of sectors including health, education, employment and accommodation.

This Government is committed to address these disadvantages. My colleagues Minister Charlie Flanagan and Minister of State David Stanton in the Department of Justice and Equality have led the development of the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021. Minister Stanton chairs the steering group that oversees the implementation of the strategy. This is an encouraging partnership involving the Traveller representative bodies working with the relevant Government Departments and State Bodies.