

**DUN LAOGHAIRE REFUGEE PROJECT-DRP
TIONSCNAMH DHUN LAOGHAIRE UM DHIDEANAITHE-TDD
THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES - YEAR 2004
TRIÚ TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL GHNÍOMHAIREACTAÍ -
BLIAIN 2004**

Email: dunlaoghairerefugee@ireland.com

SUMMARY

The DRP (a completely voluntary group) aims to befriend, advise and support asylum seekers / refugees in our area including (a) *unaccompanied minors* (under 18 years of age) accommodated at the Old School House (OSH) in Dun Laoghaire, (b) *'graduates'* (i.e. unaccompanied minors formerly at Dun Laoghaire who have reached 18 years old and now mainly accommodated at Kilmarnock House, Killiney and (c) *all* the residents at Kilmarnock House. We try also to assist those who have obtained *refugee status* or *'leave to remain'* and so are likely to spend the rest of their lives in Ireland. The number of unaccompanied minors has decreased, as also the total number of new asylum seekers.

The DRP has focused on the education, social and integration needs especially of the unaccompanied minors and those just over 18. Asylum seekers on reaching 18 should *not be moved* during their final school year. After finishing school, they should *be able to continue* with education/skills training - which is not permitted under the present rules.

At Kilmarnock House, the DRP has cooperated with Southside Partnership in carrying out a 'Needs Analysis' and proposing an 'Action Plan'. After delays, implementation is now proceeding. A Social, Recreational and Cultural Programme, already in place at the OSH, is being extended to include Kilmarnock House.

The treatment by the Irish authorities of asylum seekers both in regard to social conditions and the asylum determination process is becoming more restrictive. Our concern is that the valid claims of persons seeking asylum because of a well-founded fear of persecution are being lost in the reduction to EU common standards.

The DRP maintains regular contact with many official and non-governmental bodies in its work, as also with the media and with political representatives.

A highlight of the year was the private visit made on 2 December by President Mary McAleese to the OSH.

Details are given in the Report about the legal status of the DRP Trust and DRP Association, the members and volunteers, funding and accounting procedures.

Finally, plans are set out for 2005 and thanks conveyed to the asylum seekers themselves, to our donors and to all who have helped make the work of the DRP in 2004 a success. Further details about accounts, DRP membership and asylum seeker statistics are given in Annexes.

1. Introduction

During 2004, the DRP continued its work, begun in June 2001, to help asylum seekers and refugees in the Dun Laoghaire area. In these three years, the composition of the asylum community has changed, from mainly adults and families, to *unaccompanied minors* (i.e. separated children without parents or guardians under 18 years of age). During 2004, however, the number of *unaccompanied minors* accommodated at the Old School House (OSH) hostel, the only such hostel in Dun Laoghaire, has decreased. The overall numbers of persons claiming asylum (Annex 1), has also decreased.

The DRP became involved in the hostel at Kilmarnock House, Killiney, as a result of the transfer there - and also to a few other Dublin hostels - of some thirty 'aged out' (i.e. *unaccompanied minors* over 18) asylum seekers from Dun Laoghaire, in December 2003. We refer to these young people as our '*graduates*', as they all are former residents of the Dun Laoghaire hostels. During the year the involvement of the DRP extended to all the residents at Kilmarnock House.

Asylum seekers who have obtained *refugee status* or temporary '*leave to remain*' (e.g. on the basis of an Irish born child up to 2002) tend to move from the Dun Laoghaire area, but the DRP continues to offer support, if requested.

'*Unaccompanied minors*' are the statutory responsibility of the health boards. The East Cost Area Health Board (ECAHB) (now part of the new Health Services Executive) exercises this function for the three health boards in the Dublin area. All *adult* asylum seekers (over 18 years old) come under the RIA (Refugee Integration Agency), an agency of the DJELR -Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Official policy aims to concentrate asylum seekers within the 'direct provision' system i.e. lodging and full board at a designated hostel with an allowance of €19.10 per week for adults and €9.60 per week for dependants.

2. The Changing Asylum Seeker/Refugee Scene in the Greater Dun Laoghaire Area

The position as it developed during the year 2004 was as follows:

End December 2003:

Old School House	-	66 <i>unaccompanied minors</i> .
Kilmarnock House	-	Over 100 adult asylum seekers, (including the thirty over 18 year old ' <i>graduates</i> ' transferred from the OSH).

(by contrast at the end of 2002, there were 150 asylum seekers in the Old Schoolhouse and 70 in Sandycove House, closed down in 2003)

End December 2004:

Old School House	-	22 <i>unaccompanied minors</i> .
Kilmarnock House	-	72 adult asylum seekers, many with young children.

Other hostels where young asylum seekers, '*graduates*' of Dun Laoghaire have been accommodated include **Viking Lodge, (Francis Street), Morehampton House Hostel, Baleskin** (mainly young mothers with babies) and **Tallaght**.

3. Focus of Action by DRP

As in the previous year, the DRP focused on the *unaccompanied minors* (under 18 years of age) and those just over 18 years old. We try to help them with the practical problems of adjusting to living in Ireland, with their studies and their social life and to offer support and friendship. We do not ask questions about their background or how they came to Ireland, though we will provide a listening ear at their request. Some have left countries where there is extreme civil strife or disorder (e.g. Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo) and often show symptoms of disorientation or trauma. All need support. The DRP does not rent office space and has NO paid staff.

The DRP meets with asylum seekers and refugees at the OSH hostel on Monday evenings and Kilmarnock House on Thursdays, and keeps in contact with others directly or through local support groups. The DRP favours encouraging such organised support groups (including Churches/religious) to help asylum seekers locally. The DRP continues to rent a room for meetings etc, in the premises of the Catholic Young Men's Society of Ireland (CYMSI), and will do so pending decisions about the future of the OSH. We are grateful to the CYMSI.

4. Education

Under the Education Acts, all children resident in the State under 16 *must* attend school and those under 18 years are *entitled* to do so - including asylum seekers. In September 2003, an Education Co-Coordinator for Unaccompanied Minors was appointed by the VEC and attends in Dun Laoghaire and Tallaght. This officer now assesses the educational needs of all newly arrived minors in these areas. Previously the DRP made such assessments for Dun Laoghaire at the request of the ECAHB Unaccompanied Minors Team. Those with sufficient previous education (and knowledge of English) are placed in secondary schools. Suitable education or skills-training courses (e.g. English language, literacy and computers) are sought for the others.

Young adult asylum seekers (18 years plus) are allowed to continue to attend school to Leaving Certificate - which must be passed at the first attempt - and also may partake in part-time language/literacy/computer classes organized specially for asylum seekers. Neither post-Leaving Certificate asylum seekers nor adult asylum seekers may access free mainstream education or training.

The position in 2004 for the Dun Laoghaire area asylum seekers was as follows:

When schools reopened in January 2004 after the holiday, the thirty or so young 'graduate' asylum seekers transferred in December 2003 to Killiney and to other hostels and still attending school, needed major support to help them adapt to their new environment and to ensure that, wherever possible, they continued their education. Initially there were no arrangements in place for bus-fares, packed lunches or study areas. In addition if students were back late from school they would miss their evening meal. The DRP did its best to resolve these difficulties in consultation with the RIA, the Community Welfare Officers and management of the hostel. The principals of the local secondary schools, (11 schools in the south Dublin/Dun Laoghaire area), mainly attended by asylum seekers, wrote on 3 March to the Minister for Justice, Equity and Law Reform (MJELR), Mr. M. McDowell T.D., expressing concern.

Between the two hostels (OSH and Kilmarnock), 15 students completed the Leaving Certificate in June and got excellent results – 400 points in one case. Unfortunately a small number did not continue at school as they became depressed and withdrawn. This was due largely to their transfer from Dun Laoghaire to a less supportive environment at adult hostels. Some also received a negative response to their claim for asylum. All needed support and encouragement.

As regards 'unaccompanied minors' and those 'graduates' over 18 and still at school, the DRP keeps in contact with the principals of the schools and with the young asylum seekers themselves, especially to ensure regular school attendance and to cope with any problems that may arise. Contact is also maintained with the ECAHB project workers responsible and with the RIA. Certain problems were resolved during the year: others remain to be resolved.

The DRP has argued strongly that young asylum seekers over 18 years old and still in school or attending other educational courses should be provided with the necessary supports to do so effectively. In particular, they should not be moved *during* their final school year on reaching 18 years. We also believe that they should be allowed continue in education *after* they leave school

and so enhance their young lives through full time courses, whether ultimately they remain in Ireland as refugees *with status* or return to their countries of birth.

4.1 Old School House

At the end of December 2004 there were 22 unaccompanied minors in the OSH. Twenty of these were in various forms of education – secondary school, Youthreach, VEC Access course and VEC Ballsbridge. Approximately 10 of these reached 18 years of age during November and December; it is expected those with refugee status will move to private rented accommodation and the remainder will be moved to direct provision.

4.2 Kilmarnock House

Owing to events in this hostel during the latter part of 2004, it is difficult to obtain accurate numbers of residents attending courses. In addition the population of the hostel has changed with new arrivals and others moving to other accommodation. There were approximately 5 attending secondary school and a small number in primary school. The adults over 18 may only attend *English language* classes and some computer classes. State funded classes are provided by the VEC. In addition Spirasi (Spiritan Congregation) the Catherine McAuley Centre (Mercy Sisters) and some other NGOs provide language and computer classes. One of the DRP volunteers has also provided English classes in the hostel and will continue to do so. During 2005 the DRP in conjunction with Southside Partnership plan to provide a small number of computers to be placed in a designated room in Kilmarnock for use by the residents. A number of the residents will provide classes and outside volunteers have also been sourced to assist.

5. Conditions at Hostels in the Dun Laoghaire Area

5.1 Old School House (OSH)

The DRP records its satisfaction, based on reports from the young asylum seekers themselves and on our own observations, at the conditions and friendly atmosphere that have long marked the OSH. The management and staff of this hostel provide a secure and caring environment for all their residents – and indeed continue to do so long after they leave!

The DRP hopes that the OSH hostel will continue to be available to asylum seekers / refugees in the future and that the expertise of the staff, gained over the past five years, will not be lost to the community.

5.2 Kilmarnock House

The DRP began to concern itself closely with conditions at Kilmarnock House Hostel after the transfer there of the ‘graduates’ from Dun Laoghaire at the end of 2003. During 2004, the DRP brought to the attention of the RIA complaints and suggestions for improvement made by residents about practical matters such as the quality and type of food, including food for packed lunches, clothes washing facilities, lack of study and recreational facilities, need for a library, leisure facilities, play area for young children, feeding of babies etc.

Early in 2004, Southside Partnership commissioned and funded a ‘Needs Analysis’ and proposed an ‘Action Plan’ to help residents at Kilmarnock House. The DRP was involved throughout. In July a part-time link worker was appointed by Southside Partnership to oversee the implementation of the recommendations which covered: provision of information for new arrivals, food, education, health services, child-care guidance, voluntary work and social interests. Subsequent action has included a crèche, a sewing group for women, arrangements for placement of asylum seekers in unpaid voluntary work, and youth activity in holiday periods for young

people. In addition the local Libraries donated a large number of books. We are very grateful for the on-going involvement, support and participation of Southside Partnership

Unfortunately the implementation of the recommendations was interrupted during August and September, due to the closure of the hostel by the RIA for Health and Safety reasons. During the closure 48 asylum seekers were re-housed in the OSH with the remainder going to Kilmacud House. New staff were appointed when the hostel re-opened.

However, relations at Kilmarnock House between the management/staff and the asylum seekers deteriorated in the latter part of 2004. There were frequent incidents of tension often resulting in the management calling the local Gardaí. The frustration felt by many asylum seekers is understandable: they are not allowed to occupy their time with gainful employment or with serious forms of education and training, they have very limited funds for leisure activities or even transport and they wait for months or years (some now in their fourth year in Ireland) before a decision is reached on their application for asylum or 'leave to remain'. Intervention during December by the RIA in cooperation with the asylum seekers themselves, the DRP and Southside Partnership has led to a change of some staff members and a relaxation of certain rules resulting in a marked improvement.

The RIA is responsible for all the 'direct provision' hostels, including Kilmarnock House, apart from those for unaccompanied minors which come under the Health Boards. The RIA has a contract with each hostel and is the sole source of funding. In 2002, the RIA set up "an independent inspection process to ensure the highest standards", a process which would be "supplemented by the RIA internal inspection unit". The independent process in fact means a private sector company and should be strengthened by a fully Independent Monitoring Committee. More important still is the need for independent monitoring of Health Board accommodation for unaccompanied minors. In March 2003, the RIA issued an "Accommodation Centre Services, Rules and Procedures" booklet including a Complaints Procedure to be implemented at hostels. The complaints procedure contains the important assurance that recourse to it will not jeopardize the asylum applications of those making a complaint.

The DRP appreciated the action by the RIA to improve matters at Kilmarnock House and will continue to liaise with all those concerned (the asylum seeker community, the RIA, the management at Kilmarnock House, the Welfare Officers, the responsible Gardaí Ethnic Liaison Officers, Southside Partnership, etc.) to encourage a better relationship between the asylum seekers and the management at Kilmarnock House in 2005.

6. DRP Social, Recreational and Cultural Activities - Programme of Activities

The Social, Recreational and Cultural Programme in the Dun Laoghaire area has been reduced in the past year due to the reduction in the number of minors, and covered:

- Cinema and theatre attendance especially during the winter;
- Hill walks from Easter through the summer months with picnics in the Dublin/Wicklow mountains;
- Swimming at the Monkstown Leisure Centre and in the sea;
- Team-sports including the Old School House football and basketball teams and cooperation with Dalkey United; competing in Dublin Marathon in October.
- Birthday greetings for individual asylum seekers and small gifts to mark birthdays and Christmas;
- Participation in Dun Laoghaire Community events (e.g. Community Day on 18 July, the International Festival of World Cultures in August etc.);
- Christmas party in Kilmarnock House

With the improved conditions in Kilmarnock House Hostel, we have commenced the implementation of this programme with the residents and plan to expand it during 2005.

7. Deportations/Repatriations and Subsequent Welfare of Minors/Young Asylum Seekers in their Countries of Origin

Three 'graduates' of the Dun Laoghaire hostels received deportation orders in June 2004. One 19-year-old Nigerian male (DRP Committee member) was deported by charter plane to Lagos with a group of twenty-six others on 25 August. One left independently. One young man went missing and we sadly report that he died of natural causes abroad in mid December. In October, another OSH 'graduate' received a deportation order and we can expect further deportations of young people in the months and years ahead. Once a deportation order has been issued, the only legal remedy is *judicial review* but to institute such a review is not easy as, *inter alia*, the Courts have held that the MJELR is not required to provide individual reasons for rejecting an application for 'leave to remain'. The DRP supported the young Nigerian deportee up to his final departure.

In the case of deportations, the DRP has been concerned by reports of **harassment or imprisonment** in the case of asylum seekers returned to their countries of origin e.g. in African countries such as Nigeria. Young people when deported are particularly vulnerable: they return to Africa with no documentation, have no funds, may have no friends or relatives to contact locally and are sometimes thought of by their own authorities, community and family as simply 'surplus people'.

In the case of the '**well-founded fear of persecution**' as claimed by individual asylum seekers when applying for refugee status (including fear of persecution by ethnic groups, traffickers, forced recruitment of child soldiers etc.), the DRP intends to monitor, in so far as it can, what happens to deportees. In many African countries "to avail ...of the protection of that country" under the local legal and policing system, is not an option, as the legal system fails to conform often with international human rights standards (e.g. in the case of Islamic or customary law) and is weak and corrupt.

The DRP will endeavor to develop further country of origin contacts in African countries and will support coordination at national NGO level for this purpose. Such contacts may include local Church or human rights groups, or reliable child welfare organizations that provide shelter-capacity for trafficking victims, rehabilitation by way of vocational skills-training and anti-trafficking public awareness education campaigns targeting vulnerable children and their families.

The DRP has argued that in the case of young people originating from countries where there is **civil war or communal violence**, often involving the practice of torture and other serious human rights abuses which have resulted in continuing widespread disruption of normal social life, those who do *not* qualify for refugee status should *not* be returned to such countries but should be granted temporary protection i.e. *leave to remain* in Ireland on humanitarian grounds. The advice of the UNHCR and NGOs in the countries of origin is relevant here.

8. Prison Visits:

The DRP made a number of prison visits in 2004 and also supported others when being interviewed by Gardai

9. Asylum seekers granted Refugee Status/'Leave to remain'

A number of unaccompanied minors obtained refugee status in 2004 and they are continuing in education. For reasons given above, the DRP does not have exact figures for those in Kilmarnock

House who obtained refugee status /leave to remain. Where aware of such persons, the DRP liaised with the Local Employment Services (grateful thanks for their support and continuing help) in recommending education/training courses e.g. IILT- Integrate Ireland Language and Training, and FAS. We are conscious of the need to do more to assist and stay in contact with those whose stay in Ireland will be permanent and will include this aspect in 2005 plans

10. The Official Legal and Administrative Framework

Gradually, the treatment by the authorities in Ireland of asylum seekers is becoming more uniform and more restrictive both as regards the social welfare benefits available and the refugee determination process.

(a) Social Conditions: The Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2003 has meant that, since 27 May 2004, asylum seekers no longer qualify for certain social assistance payments under the ‘habitual residency’ rule. For example, asylum seekers are no longer eligible to apply for rent allowance. In addition parents of children born after 27 May.2004 do not qualify for Children’s Allowances, further impoverishing these families. Thus placement in ‘direct provision’ accommodation is, for the vast majority, the only official assistance available for both adults and unaccompanied minors. In the latter part of 2004 the RIA moved a small number of families who had been in direct provision for over two years to self-catering units. The DRP welcomes this action.

(b) Law on Asylum: The amendments to the Refugee Act (1996) set out in the Immigration Act (2003) came into effect in September 2003 and included provision for::

- A ‘*prioritisation* directive’ issued by the MJELR in December 2003 making Nigeria one such country. Priority (*‘fast track’*) is given to applicants from Nigeria and *safe* countries.
- Designation of ‘*safe countries of origin*’ EU member states, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and South Africa have been designated ‘*safe countries of origin*’. An applicant from these countries is “presumed *not* to be a refugee unless s/he can show reasonable grounds” to the contrary. Such lists of ‘*safe*’ or ‘*white*’ countries of origin are already in place in the UK and elsewhere in the EU and are being discussed in the development of the EU common policy on asylum. In the UK, asylum seekers from such ‘*safe*’ countries are as a rule repatriated/deported. These concepts and their implementation have been criticized by the UNHCR as eroding the protection available to refugees under international law.
- Measures designed to deal more effectively with *non-participation* by applicants. For instance if an applicant fails to inform the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) of a change of address or does not attend an interview (without a reasonable explanation within three days) the application may be deemed to be withdrawn, *without the right to appeal*;
- Criteria for assessing *credibility* are defined and made stricter.

In addition, the carrying of the Constitutional Referendum on 11 June 2004 and the consequent Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 2004, means that children of non-nationals born in Ireland, with certain exceptions, no longer qualify for citizenship by right of birth (*jus soli*) and must satisfy a residency qualification before they can apply for citizenship. This complicated law, however, appears to exempt from the residency qualification children born in Ireland of persons who are permitted to reside in the State without restriction i.e. as from the date of granting of refugee status or ‘leave to remain’. Already the Supreme Court Judgment of 23 January 2003 had ruled that the non-national parent of an Irish born child does not automatically have the right to reside in the State. Many thousand applications made by such parents have been left unprocessed. In December 2004 the MJLER announced the introduction of revised arrangements

for application for leave to remain made by parents of Irish born children who (if born before 1st January 2005) are entitled to Irish citizenship. Further details are to be published in January 2005

These measures mean that the treatment given to asylum seekers and the conditions for granting refugee status are more in line with the increasingly restrictive regime prevailing in the UK (Immigration and Asylum Act 2000) and as part of the 'lowest common denominator' trend on asylum within the EU. Our concern is that the valid claims of persons who seek asylum because of a well-founded fear of persecution are being lost in the reduction to EU common standards. The determination process is by no means straightforward as is shown by the fact that in 2004 a total of 1,132 persons were granted refugee status with the majority (702) granted *on appeal*. Some thousands are refused permission to land at Irish ports each year - see Annex I.

11. Liaison with the Authorities

During 2004 this has included:

- (a) On-going liaison with the ECAHB Team for Unaccompanied Minors.
- (b) Regular contact with the Refugee Integration Agency (RIA).
- (c) Contact with Health Board psychologists.
- (d) Prison – contact with staff and Chaplains.
- (e) Immigration Police in connection with Deportations.
- (f) Liaison with the Refugee Legal Service (provision of free legal aid).
- (g) Liaison with Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers

12. Non-Governmental and Other Organisations dealing with Asylum

The DRP continues to be represented at bi-monthly meetings of the Churches' Asylum Network (CAN) and at meetings between CAN and the RIA. The DRP is also a member of the Children's Rights Alliance, of Integrating Ireland and of the Social Policy Sub-Committee of the Irish Refugee Council. The DRP is affiliated to the Southside Partnership Unite Project. Contact is also maintained with other NGOs such as the Vincentian Refugee Centre, Spirasi etc.

13. Information and Media Liaison, Political Representations

The DRP has participated in media interviews and responded with information to media queries, while continuing to point out that we see our main role as concentrating on helping individual asylum seekers and refugees and not as a pressure group. We have made representations in the last year to politicians and officials on aspects of the rights and welfare of the asylum-seekers in Dun Laoghaire/Killiney and will continue to do so. We are grateful to our local political representatives for their interest. The DRP, in conjunction with Southside Partnership, DLR Co. Council and the Gardai, encouraged and helped residents at Kilmarnock House to register for, and vote in, the June local government elections.

In September, the Africa Refugee Network presented Niall Coleman, Trustee and founder member of the DRP with an award for his work with asylum seekers and refugees. This well deserved award received good media publicity. Liam Ryder, another Trustee, participated in a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on Education which led to a recommendation by that Committee that asylum seeker students sitting Leaving Certificate should not be moved during their final school year on reaching 18 years.

14. President Mary McAleese –Visit to the Old School House Hostel, Dun Laoghaire

At the request of the DRP, President Mary McAleese made a private visit to the OSH on 2nd December to meet with the young asylum seekers who are living there and who lived there in the past. The hostel staff, the DRP and representative ECAHB staff greeted her. Most importantly, the excitement and happiness of the young people was evidence of their appreciation of this visit by the President who managed to shake everyone's hand! The youngest resident (aged 15) presented an African sculpture as a small memento of the visit.

15. Legal Status of DRP Trust and DRP Association

The DRP is made up of two legal bodies: (a) the DRP Trust and (b) the DRP Association, governed respectively by a Deed of Trust and a Constitution. By way of a “Scheme of Incorporation under the Charities Act 1973”, the Trust was established as a Body Corporate by the Charities Commissioners on 14 April 2003. There were no substantive amendments to either the Deed of Trust or Constitution during 2004.

16. Members of Trust and Association Committee/Volunteers

The names (and offices held) of the DRP Trustees and of the members of the Committee of the DRP Association are listed in Annex II. The Committee now includes two members of the asylum seeker community. There are seven ‘volunteers’ (ordinary members of the Association who are not members of the Committee – see Annex 11)

At a joint meeting of the Trust members and of the DRP Association Committee on 3 June, the resignation was accepted with regret of Gearóid. Kilgallen, Chairperson, and of Eamon O Tuathail, Treasurer. We wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the enormous contribution both Gearoid and Eamon made during their time with the DRP. In November the resignation of a further valued Committee member, Sarah Flynn, was also accepted with regret. We wish Sarah well in New York. All three continue, through the DRP, to meet with asylum seekers when they are in Dublin and we hope they will continue this involvement in the future

17. Funding and Accounts

A summary of the DRP Accounts for 2004 with a list of Donors is attached (Annex III).

(a) Donors: During 2004, we have been assisted by generous grants from Atlantic Philanthropies, Cosgrave Developments, The Ireland Funds, Treasury Holdings, the East Coast Area Health Board (National Lottery) and the Refugee Integration Agency. In addition, the DRP welcomed the contributions from the Dun Laoghaire business community, from the Churches and from many generous citizens. Special attention is paid to the wishes of the donors as to the use of funds and reporting.

(b) Annual Audit: CDK Associates, Accountants and Registered Auditors, Dun Laoghaire have audited the DRP Trust Accounts since 2002. The signed Audited Financial Statements and the Report of the Auditors for 2003 were furnished to the Charity Commissioners and to the Revenue Commissioners in June 2004.

18. Plans for 2005

The DRP intends to continue with its existing activities at the OSH and at Kilmarnock House as well assisting ‘graduates’ accommodated at other Dublin hostels. In addition we intend (a) to consider carefully further assistance to refugees with status/persons with “leave to remain”, (b) to investigate ways to monitor and help asylum seekers if returned to their countries of origin and (c) to review the DRP Constitution, adopted on 22 August 2002, not later than September 2005. In view of the uncertainty that has become a part of the asylum seeker existence in Dun Laoghaire, we will review our activities monthly.

19. Thanks

Sincere and grateful thanks and gratitude to our many asylum seeker friends for allowing us to share their sad and happy times, who have shown courage in difficult situations, and who have responded with generosity and good humour to our requests for involvement in local events. We have learned much from you all!

Grateful and heartfelt thanks to David Hicks and all the staff at the Old School House who have welcomed us to the hostel and supported (and advised!) us at all times.

We thank particularly Marie, Aileen, Dervla and Jackie and the staff of Southside Partnership for continued support on the ground in Kilmarnock House. To Oonagh and Odette, Project Officers with the ECAHB Unaccompanied Minors Team for their concern and assistance at crucial moments – sincere thanks

We thank the various official bodies for their assistance including the staff of the RIA, DLR County Council and the Public Library Service. Special thanks to Garda Paul Durkin and Garda Cian Long, Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers, Dun Laoghaire and Sergeant Kevin Spain, Bray, who have provided invaluable help; to the Churches/religious, to official and institutional funds, to business firms and to many private citizens. Tunney O’Leary & Co. Solicitors, Tallaght and Brendan Toal, Solicitor, have given advice with legal matters. The Children’s Rights Alliance and the Churches Asylum Network assisted generously, particularly at the time of deportations. The Irish Refugee Council has constantly responded to our numerous requests for advice.

We are grateful to Dublin Bus for support with bus tickets, to Coillte for donating a fine Christmas tree to the OSH, to the cinemas and theatres that have provided free or subsidised admission tickets, and also the Loughlinstown and Monkstown Leisure Centres, Dalkey United and Blackrock College. And there have been many others.

Finally, none of what has been achieved would have been possible without the generous, good humoured and unstinting support of our volunteers – both for the asylum seekers and each other.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh as bhur gcabhair!

Mary King, Chairperson

12 January 2005

ANNEX I. STATISTICS

	ASYLUM SEEKERS IN IRELAND	YEAR 1999	YEAR 2000	YEAR 2001	YEAR 2002	YEAR 2003	YEAR 2004
1.	<i>Number Claiming Asylum in Ireland</i>	7,724	10,983	10,325	11,634	7,900	4,766
2.	<i>Unaccompanied minors</i>	74	273	603	287	276	?
3.	<i>Granted refugee status(first instance + appeal)=Total</i>	(166+351)=517	(211+395)?=606	(456+478)=934	(893+1,097)=1,990	(343+829)=1,174	(430+702)=1,132
4.	<i>Granted 'leave to remain'*</i>	38	19	70	?	?	?
5.	<i>Unaccompanied minors granted refugee status</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6.	<i>Refugee Family members reunited in Ireland</i>	78	69	162	358	270	?
7.	<i>Deportations</i>	6	187	365	521	590	542
8.	<i>Voluntary Assisted Returns</i>	37	248	356	506	762	574
9.	<i>Refused permission to land</i>	?	?	?	4,417	4,827	
10.	<i>Returned to 'safe country of origin'</i>	Not apply	Not apply	Not apply	Not apply	Not apply	?

*includes asylum seekers and other categories e.g. overstay visas
 Some figures may be provisional, subject to change (e.g. unaccompanied minors) and different methods of calculation.
 Sources: ORAC, DJELR (Annual Reports), ECRE

ANNEX II
MEMBERSHIP DRP TRUST & DRP ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE
AS ON 30/12/2004

TRUSTEES	COMMITTEE	OFFICE HELD
Mary King	Mary King	Chair
Niall Coleman	Niall Coleman	Trust Secretary
Joan Dobbyn	Joan Dobbyn	
Maureen McCullagh	Maureen McCullagh	
Liam Ryder	Liam Ryder	Treasurer
	Bonnie Brady	
	Lutete Masamba	
	Veronique Piales-Quinn	
	Bridget Shannon Sr.	
	Marie-Therese Naismith	Record Secretary
	Abraham Abdul Wahid	
	Brian Gallagher	
	Laura Peelo, Sr	
VOLUNTEERS (not Committee members) acting under the auspices of the DRP	Gearoid Kilgallen Eamon O Tuathail Sarah Flynn Mick Bourke Patricia Butler Richard King Jill Kenefick	

**ANNEX III
SUMMARY OF DRP ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 2004
WITH LIST OF MAJOR DONORS**

Bank of Ireland ac 39192548																
SORT code 90-11-16																
Summary of Receipts/Payments																
Date	Cheques & Bank Fees	Bank	Insur- ance	Audit	Post Stationery	Text Books	RIA Grant	Phone	Room	Educ- ation	Misc Other	Legal Deport	Imprest	Lodge	Donations	Balance
EURO																2,780.87
JAN 2004	573.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.09	135.00	0.00	0.00	365.50	222.30	50.00	2,429.37
FEB 2004	584.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	480.00	4.62	0.00	0.00	1,624.00	0.00	3,468.75
MAR 2004	756.78	5.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	50.00	0.00	481.00	0.00	0.00	2,711.97
APR 2004	33.01	33.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,678.96
MAY 2004	1,051.79	0.00	86.30	423.50	3.70	0.00	0.00	210.00	20.00	288.29	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,627.17
JUN 2004	3.77	3.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,023.40
JUL 2004	339.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.80	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	176.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	13,683.60
AUG 2004	1,409.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.80	0.00	490.57	70.00	25.00	140.00	25.00	180.00	473.75	2,000.00	2,000.00	14,274.48
SEP 2004	796.12	12.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	80.00	0.00	504.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,478.36
OCT 2004	2,168.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.59	200.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	1,830.00	60.00	0.00		2,000.00	0.00	13,309.77
NOV 2004	2,201.61	160.00	416.81	0.00	4.80	0.00	81.50	70.00	200.00	1,155.00	108.50	5.00	0.00	480.00	0.00	11,588.16
DEC 2004	1,342.49	7.07	0.00	0.00	4.50	0.00	244.95	100.00	0.00	665.00	133.97	0.00	187.00	11,260.00	11,250.00	21,505.67
TOTAL	11,261.50	221.75	503.11	423.50	99.40	330.00	817.02	800.00	274.09	5,593.29	437.09	255.00	1,507.25	29,986.30	25,700.00	21,505.67

Major Donors
Atlantic Philanthropies
Cosgrave Developments
Dep. Justice EL Reform
East Coast Area Health Board
Treasury Holdings