

P+L+U+S Appeal
(Please Let Us Stay)

Leave to Remain

for

Aged-Out Minor Asylum Seekers

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Overview

Aged-out minors arrived in Ireland as **separated children seeking asylum**, without family members or guardians to care for them. They were placed in the care of the Health Boards as separated children. All are now between 18 and 21 years of age (hence they are called “aged-out”) and come under the remit of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The majority have not yet received a decision as to whether they will be allowed to stay in Ireland. Others are living in daily fear of deportation. Some have been living here for up to five years. Most have no immediate family members alive in their birth countries. All applied for asylum in Ireland because they considered that they had a well-founded fear of persecution in their birth countries for reasons set out in the UN Convention on Refugees¹. This fear remains a feature of their lives in Ireland. As separated children seeking asylum, they had unique protection needs; these needs did not disappear upon their “aging-out”.

John’s story: John* came to Ireland to apply for asylum when he was 16. His country of origin has only just emerged from an horrific civil war, and all the available indicators of development (life expectancy, access to safe drinking water, poverty levels) show a picture of a country that has a massive way to go before its population can enjoy any minimum standards of quality of life. The political situation is uncertain. Despite this, his appeal for leave to remain in Ireland has been turned down.

Since January 2005, John has been asked to report on a monthly basis to the Garda National Immigration Bureau. Effectively, this means that the possibility of deportation is hanging over his head every time he goes into their offices. Each time he reports, John is faced with the prospect that he might be taken to prison, to await a flight back to his birth country. Although this has not yet happened, the stress and anxiety of not knowing his future are having an enormous impact on John. He has become withdrawn and anxious, and often suffers from physical ailments caused by the stresses of his daily life. He contemplates going “underground”, which would mean leaving the system and fending for himself as an undocumented migrant, but the dangers of this are enormous.

(*John’s name has been changed)

The total number of aged-out minors currently in direct provision² in Ireland is approximately 150. There are others who are living independently, or who are completely outside the system. We estimate the total number to be approximately 250. None of them have children. This is not a large number of people. In practical terms, it would be extremely feasible to grant them ‘leave to remain’ in Ireland on humanitarian grounds. The asylum system has improved in the last few years, with asylum claims being processed much more quickly. The combination of factors that led to their current circumstances will **not** be repeated.

Appeal

We are asking that:

1. The situation in which this small group of aged-out minors find themselves is regularised: that is, that they be granted ‘leave to remain’ in the country, so that they can work and live here legally;
2. While this is under consideration all deportation orders of aged-out minors be suspended; and
3. No additional deportation orders to be issued to this group until full consideration has been given to this appeal.

¹ The United Nations 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

² This means that they are living in accommodation provided by the Department of Justice, where they receive lodgings, food and €19.10 a week to cover all other living expenses.

We earnestly urge the government to reach a positive decision on this appeal with all due haste, so that these young people can end the state of anxiety, fear and uncertainty in which they have lived for so long.

Summary of the Appeal

I. These aged-out minor asylum seekers warrant special consideration for a number of reasons. Their applications for asylum were all made when the individuals in question were under 18 years of age. The **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** has referred, as recently as June 2005, to the need for a child-sensitive assessment of all protection needs, taking into account persecution of a child-specific nature. Additionally, the Committee has stated that minors should benefit from complementary protection, to the extent determined by their unique protection needs. For the group in question, their unique needs did not disappear when they “aged-out”.

II. The **nature of the asylum process** is such that it has not, to date, taken the special needs of separated children seeking asylum into account. The asylum determination interview is adult-oriented and adversarial. It places an undue burden on children to prove their story.

III. A further cause of concern stems from the **quality of legal representation** that these young people have received throughout the application process. While it is important to recognise the valuable work done by many of the legal professionals involved in the asylum application system, it must also be noted that many of the young people were represented by under-resourced and over-stretched legal staff. Worryingly, it has come to light that a large number of the young people may have had grounds for a judicial review of their cases, but were never informed of this option at the appropriate time.

IV. Serious concerns also arise from the **long delays in the asylum process** that these young people experienced. As stated, some have been in Ireland for up to five years since the time of their initial application. As a result, their circumstances have changed radically since the initial consideration of their application. They have attended school, volunteered, made friends, adapted to Irish culture and life in Ireland, etc. Ireland is now their home.

V. The actual **impact of deportation and repatriation** on young people must also be considered. Ireland, under a 2001 repatriation agreement with Nigeria, has committed itself to 'safeguarding the human rights and dignity of those being returned'. During the deportation process *and when repatriation has taken place*, there is no evidence that this commitment is being honoured. What will happen to aged-out minors who are returned to countries where no such agreements are in place?

VI. The State has invested considerable money in aged-out minors over the past few years, in the form of expenditure on food, housing, education and the asylum application process. Rather than spending more money on deportations, surely it would make more sense to allow this group to stay in Ireland and take up employment. As has been stated by members of the P+L+U+S group, “We are willing and anxious to work, if allowed, and wish to contribute our education, skills and enthusiasm to the Irish economy. In this way, **we will repay the investment made in us by the Irish State and Irish people.**”

VII. **The government is actively seeking additional workers** to come to Ireland to make up the shortfall in available labour. These aged-out minors have been educated here, speak English, and are eager to work and make a lasting contribution to Irish society. They could therefore easily contribute towards filling the shortages in Ireland's labour market and would have no difficulty finding employment, if permitted.

VII. Despite living in very marginalised conditions while awaiting a decision on their asylum applications, these young people have **excellent records of involvement in Irish society**, and can show evidence of good conduct and integration into the Irish community.

IX. At the international level, it is not unusual to seek the regularisation of a particular group of people on specific grounds. For example, the **Irish government is in negotiation with the US government, to obtain an amnesty for all Irish citizens currently working and living illegally in the USA**. All the aged-out minors are living in Ireland legally: all have applied for refugee status under the terms of the 1951 UN Convention, and are allowed to reside in the state until a decision has been made on their case.

Through the gesture of regularising the situation of this small group, **the government would be effectively giving these young people the right to decide about their future, for the first time in their lives**.

Reasons why the appeal should be granted

Rights of the Child

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, special circumstances apply to the way in which a state should consider an application for refugee status by a minor. A General Comment by the Committee on the Rights of the Child made in June 2005³ refers to the need for a child-sensitive assessment of all protection needs, taking into account persecution of a child-specific nature. It also states that minors should benefit from complementary protection to the extent determined by their protection needs. It is questionable whether our current system is child-focused enough to have recognised these issues.

There was unprecedented support for the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child⁴ when it was developed. Irish NGOs are currently preparing a report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which will be presented in 2006. The care of separated children seeking asylum and aged-out minors will form part of this submission

In developed countries, we have a romantic notion of childhood as a happy and safe time and we wish that for all children. The grim reality for many children in developing countries is far from our romantic notions. Throughout the world, Amnesty International has documented human rights violations of children, including:

- Political killings;
- Executions;
- Disappearances;
- Torture;

³ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6 (2005), Section VI (d). (Ref. CRC/GC/2005/6).

⁴ This Convention was ratified by Ireland in 1992

- Unfair detention;
- Trafficking;
- Forced genital mutilation;
- Forced slavery;
- Trafficking in human organs; and
- Abuse of street children.

Add to this forced marriage, forced conscription and recruitment, forced labour, sexual assault and abuse, infanticide, deprivation of food and medicines, and we see that children are often persecuted precisely because they are children and are thus vulnerable and easily exploited. Governments often keep the abuse of children well hidden and therefore relevant information is not available. Indeed, many developing countries are in such a state of crisis that the abuse of children is not even recognised.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child holds that the best interests of the child are paramount in any decision and that general migration policy should not override these best interests. For this reason, none of these young people have been deported prior to age eighteen. When they reach that age, however, this protection no longer holds weight. But it must be asked how can they be returned now to a country from which they have been away for a large portion of their lives and where many have no family? What type of reintegration in their country of birth can one expect? If we cannot be certain about their reintegration, can we just abandon them to situations and conditions in which we would not allow any Irish young person to live?

The nature of the asylum process

This group arrived in Ireland as separated children. The State, recognising their particular vulnerability, placed them in the care of the Health Boards⁵. Under the provisions of the Child Care Act 1991, the Health Boards, acting as legal guardians, looked after their basic needs of accommodation, food and education. All entered the asylum process, and here recognition of their particular vulnerability was forgotten. They were in an adult world and struggled with the adversarial asylum procedure. One Health Board separated children's project worker recently commented: "they were largely left to fend for themselves"

While it is important to recognise the valuable work done by many of the legal professionals involved in the asylum application system, it must also be noted that many of the young people were represented through their asylum application stage by under-resourced and over-stretched legal staff. Worryingly, it has come to light that a large number of the young people may have had grounds for a judicial review of their cases, but were never informed of this option at the appropriate time.

In addition, although gender-specific guidelines for the asylum application process have been developed, no age-sensitive interpretation of the refugee definition has been developed in Ireland to recognise child-specific persecution.

Aged-out minors talk of the asylum procedure as being a time of huge stress. The burden of proof is on the child, but often children do not know the exact details or reasons for their flight. Parents, regularly, in order to shield their children will not disclose all the issues. More often than not, children will not know exact details of their country of origin. Children are not privy to an adult's world. They may not know if the man in black uniform who came to their home was militia or state army; this could cost them dearly and cause their credibility to be questioned.

⁵ The Health Boards are now collectively known as the Health Service Executive (HSE); for ease of reference, we use the term that applied when the group made their initial applications for asylum.

Throughout an interview for asylum, demeanour is also taken into account. This includes eye contact, shifts in posture, hesitations in speech, etc. From the child's point of view, however, the interviewer is a person of authority and indeed a foreign government official, which may make them ill at ease. In many cultures it is inappropriate for a child to look an adult in the eye, and should not be read as indication of insincerity.

In Ireland, a small minority of separated children have been recognised as refugees and fewer still have received 'leave to remain'. Despite this, it is clear to those who work with them that all have protection needs that fall outside the parameters of the current system. A decision as to who is and is not given 'leave to remain' is at the discretion of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The expectation is that 'leave to remain' is based on certain defined criteria. However, there is no transparency in the process. Furthermore, EU-wide comparisons show that Ireland grants complementary protection in the form of 'leave to remain' to a very small proportion of people.

The new Immigration and Residency Bill proposes the introduction of a more clearly defined system of complementary protection for those who are not recognised as **refugees under the restrictive criteria of the Geneva Convention**, but who nonetheless have protection needs. Many of these young adults should have and would have received such protection if it existed at the time of their interview. If we wish for integrity in the asylum process, we must take into account their age, vulnerability, integration into Irish society, length of time here, etc.

Delays in the system

When the majority of separated children arrived in Ireland, the system was overwhelmed by the number of asylum seekers, and did not have the resources to process claims speedily. These delays have undermined the integrity of the asylum system. It has taken so long to conclude their cases that, with each passing day, the young people have integrated more and more into Irish society. In addition, circumstances for many applicants have changed radically since the initial consideration of their application. For some, conditions in their birth countries have deteriorated even further since they left – Zimbabwe and Burundi are clear examples.

The stress caused by the receipt of a Deportation Order to someone who has lived in Ireland for years cannot be over-emphasised. This is compounded by the fact that many do not tell anyone they have received one. The fear of reporting to the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) every week or month for 8 months without knowing whether the next visit will result in deportation is a devastating experience. Some have been going through this process since January 2005. They descend into a spiral of deep depression, isolating themselves from their friends, not sleeping, not eating, and making poor decisions. Mentally, emotionally and physically they are in a constant state of panic, fear and despair. None feel that returning to their birth countries is an option. Ireland is their home.

Joseph's story: Joseph* comes from a country that has emerged from a devastating civil war, which lasted over 25 years. He received a deportation notice asking him to report to GNIB in August. On arrival he was taken into custody and sent to Cloverhill prison. He was **not** charged with any offence and found it impossible to believe he could be imprisoned "I did nothing wrong, how can this happen in Ireland?" A private solicitor was organised, Joseph was released, and was granted leave to apply for a judicial review of his case. The trauma and scars of this experience will remain.
(*Joseph's name has been changed).

Safety and reintegration on return

The Department of Foreign Affairs officially advises Irish citizens to exercise extreme caution when visiting any of the countries that these young people are to be returned to. Where Irish Aid officials and NGO workers are present in these countries, they are accompanied by considerable security. This demonstrates inconsistency in public policy. Under customary international law, Ireland has a legal obligation to respect the principle of *non-refoulement*⁶. The state is also obliged to ensure that the deported individual is safe on his or her return. This could hardly be the case if NGOs require security and tourists are discouraged.

Taken from the Department of Foreign Affairs' website (August 2005) www.dfa.ie

Algeria - updated 18/5/04

In light of ongoing security concerns and a continuing risk of violence and indiscriminate attacks, Irish citizens are advised against non-essential travel to Algeria. Irish citizens who remain in Algeria should exercise extreme caution, particularly in public places commonly frequented by foreigners, and maintain a high level of personal security at all times. Travel is particularly discouraged to the north west of the country and to the desert and mountain regions in the south east of Algeria, where a number of foreign tourists were kidnapped in 2003.

Burundi

Irish citizens are advised against all travel to Burundi. Fighting between Government forces and rebel factions continues, and there remains a high risk of being caught up in indiscriminate violence throughout the country.

It must also be remembered that many of this group did not themselves make the decision to seek asylum in Ireland. This was done by parents, extended family members, or business or political associates of their parents. Some were trafficked into the country. Most of them have no contact with these people, and can expect to have no contacts or supports if returned to their country of birth.

What type of reintegration can we expect for these young adults if deported? Their most formative years have been spent in Ireland, where they have gone to school, joined football clubs, made friends and have fully integrated into Irish society. Their support systems are in Ireland, not in Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, or other countries. They have lost touch with their own societies and culture and no longer have the necessary skills to survive in their birth countries. Ireland is now their home.

To get a job in any African country is difficult (for example, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is 60%). To get one without the assistance and influence of one's relations is near impossible. For girls to hold on to the job once obtained, in many cases requires doing sexual favours for the boss. Without work the only alternative, in order to survive, is prostitution. In countries where AIDS is endemic, the consequences are horrific.

Under a repatriation agreement with Nigeria signed in 2001, Ireland has committed itself to 'safeguarding the human rights and dignity of those being returned', during the deportation process *and when repatriation has taken place*. The repatriation of persons under the agreement is subject to certain conditions, including that repatriated persons must be integrated into the state they are returned to (Article VII c). The agreement is also intended

⁶ The principle of *non-refoulement* is that no individual who is seeking asylum should be returned to any country where he or she is likely to face persecution or torture.

to ensure that on return to the country they will not be subjected to imprisonment, “fined” or forced to pay bribes to ensure their release from detention. There is little evidence that this commitment is being honoured.

Portia’s story: Portia, an aged-out minor who had lived in Ireland for over two years, was deported to Lagos earlier this year – a few days before her 20th Birthday. On arrival, she was taken into custody, and released on payment of a “fine” (with money given to her by some Irish friends for possible emergencies.) To her knowledge, she has no remaining family in Nigeria. Irish officials gave her no contact number in case of emergencies, and none have attempted to contact her since. The Nigerian government provided no support. She had no shelter, no money, and very few belongings. Portia descended into deep depression and came under serious pressure to enter into prostitution in order to survive. Through the concern and intervention of her Irish friends, and with the assistance of an Irish missionary order, some small amount of funding has reached her. This has enabled her to rent a room and feed herself. Her Irish friends worry about her and wonder how long they can continue to provide emotional and financial support at this distance.

Economic considerations

The social partners and most economic commentators repeatedly point to Ireland’s labour need: even with the arrival of workers from EU accession states, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment still predicts there will be a need for many thousands of migrant workers from outside the EU-area annually in the future. The aged-out minors provide a ready source of young people who are eager to learn and to make their contribution to the workforce. They have acquired a facility with the English language and most have completed the Irish Leaving Certificate successfully.

Why not accommodate these young people before looking elsewhere for the new workforce that is required to drive the Irish economy? They are willing and anxious to work and wish to contribute their education, skills and enthusiasm to the Irish economy.

To deport through one door a small group of aged-out asylum seekers who have resided legally in Ireland for several years, while admitting many migrant workers through another door, would seem hard to defend, either in moral or practical terms. The State has invested considerable money in aged-out minors over the past few years, between food, housing, education and the asylum application process. Rather than spending more money on deportations, surely it would make more sense to allow them to work, and thus enable them to repay this investment.

“We are willing and anxious to work, if allowed, and wish to contribute our education, skills and enthusiasm to the Irish economy. In this way we will repay the investment made in us by the Irish State and Irish people. We wish to remain in Ireland without the fear that drove us here to seek safety. We wish to play our part in building the vibrant Ireland of today and of the future, a multicultural Ireland in a multicultural Europe.” (Extract from P+L+U+S Campaign appeal)

Circumstances that need to be considered

When deciding whether a person should be granted ‘leave to remain’ on humanitarian grounds, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform takes a number of circumstances into consideration⁷. The situation and background of this group, matched against all these grounds, will show reasons why they should not be deported.

⁷ As outlined in Section 3 (6) of the Immigration Act 1999.

- **The age of the person**

This group by its very nature meets with this requirement. They arrived, some as young as 14 years, and are now between 18 and 21 years.

- **The duration of residence in the State of the person**

Some of this group have been in Ireland up to five years. For many this constitutes 20 to 25% of their lives and their most important developmental years, namely their mid- to late-teens. It would be unjust to return them to countries that have become almost completely foreign to them since their departure.

- **The family and domestic circumstances of the person**

The majority of the group do not have any family members remaining in their birth countries. All their support systems are in Ireland.

- **The nature of the person's connection with the State**

They have lived in Ireland during their formative years and consider Ireland home. They have attended school, volunteered, learnt English, formed football clubs, etc. Frequently, they have no remaining connections with their birth countries.

- **The employment (including self-employment) record of the person**

They have no employment record, as they are not permitted to work. However, many have been involved in voluntary work, e.g., in charity shops, with the St Vincent de Paul, with various church groups, in administration for various organisations. They have also become leaders in Youth Clubs, organised football teams and worked with summer projects. Many volunteer each year to work with the Festival of World Cultures in Dun Laoghaire. A number have received rewards in recognition of their voluntary work.

- **The employment (including self-employment) prospects of the person**

All are very employable and desire to work at a variety of occupations if allowed. Many want to continue their education, which they plan to do on a part-time basis while working to support themselves. Besides English, French and Portuguese, they have additional unique language skills that would be invaluable to various Government Departments, Health Boards, An Garda Síochána and various NGO organisations that work in their countries of birth. Some have already acted as unofficial translators.

- **The character and conduct of the person (including any criminal convictions)**

All can produce character references from schools and organisations that they have been involved with since their arrival in Ireland

- **Humanitarian considerations**

The young people come from countries where gross violations of human rights are common practice and where 'to avail of the protection' of their countries of birth under the local legal - and policing - system is not an option. In many cases, those systems fail to conform to international human rights standards, are weak and corrupt, or often no longer function because of endemic violence.

They left their birth countries in a very distressed state, at a very vulnerable age. They no longer have the necessary skills to survive in these countries. To send anyone back is questionable, but to send such vulnerable young people back would be inhumane and morally questionable.

They arrived in Ireland, already traumatised, to experience a completely alien culture, some speaking little or no English. All have adapted and integrated, which is indicative of their excellent coping skills, ability to become part of a new society, and willingness to contribute to this country.

The asylum process is adversarial and not suitable for vulnerable young people who come from cultures where it is not permitted to speak up for oneself. Many did not have the personal skills to articulate their story. Many came from countries where it would be dangerous if people knew their background, so telling strangers why they were seeking asylum did not come naturally or easily. Like victims the world over, many have never told their stories, in full, to anyone, even their friends.

Within the strictly defined terms of reference of the Geneva Convention, these young people did not qualify for refugee status. In addition, the number of separated children seeking asylum in Ireland between 2001 and 2003 overwhelmed the then under-resourced government agencies. The expertise, resources or systems were not in place to deal with the complex issues and support each child sufficiently. An understanding of the political, cultural, emotional and economic backgrounds of the asylum seekers had not been developed. As the numbers of separated children arriving in the state have fallen, this situation will not arise again.

The government is planning to deport these very vulnerable young people back to what we in Ireland would consider intolerable conditions. To return them to their countries of birth at this stage would be another unjust act to add to the many acts of injustice these young people have experienced already in their young lives.

David's story: David was born in Nigeria and came to Ireland as a separated child seeking asylum, in 2001, when he was 16 years of age. He had a large scar, almost healed, on his forehead, and shook with anxiety. During the following two-and a-half years we watched him develop from a scared teenager into a fine young man. He attended literacy classes and proudly told us each time we met, "I love my school". Aged 18, David was moved into "adult services" He no longer had the support of the Health Board and the psychologist who had been counselling him. In August 2004, David received a letter asking him to report for deportation. In fear, he disappeared. Nothing was heard about him until Monday 13th December 2004. A phone call from England said he had been taken into hospital in Britain the previous day. David died of a brain tumour on Wednesday, December 15th 2004, aged 19. His many friends in Ireland were devastated and, as they could not attend his burial, they held a memorial service in one of the hostels.

- **Any representations duly made by or on behalf of the person**

All have submitted letters of support with their appeal for leave to remain. Some of these letters have been submitted up to two years ago and there is no opportunity to update them. In many cases, decisions to deport are, therefore, made on the basis of out-of-date information.

- **The common good**

The fact that these young people have been to school and assimilated so well into Irish society has and will continue to benefit the country as it evolves into a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country.

- **Considerations of national security and public policy**

By deporting this group of young people there is a contradiction with public policy on two counts:

1. The government is in discussion with the US government, to negotiate an amnesty for Irish citizens currently working and living illegally in the USA. In contrast, the government has refused 'leave to remain' to a small group of people who are living legally in the state, and who are in need of the international protection that Ireland can offer.
2. The government is actively seeking additional workers to come to Ireland to make up the shortfall in available labour. The aged-out minors have been educated here, speak English, and are eager to work and make a lasting contribution to Irish society. They are immediately available to work.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the case for granting aged-out minors 'leave to remain' has been extensively argued above on a number of points. The following exclusive and exceptional set of circumstances only apply to aged-out minors:

- The Rights of the Child;
- The formative and integrative nature of their stay in Ireland;
- Issues in respect of their safety if returned to their countries of birth; and
- Regularisation of their situation would be a once-off measure.

When considering the points the Minister takes into account when evaluating applications for leave to remain, it is clear this small group would satisfy each of them. While this appeal is being considered and arrangements put in place, we would ask that all deportations of aged-out minors be suspended and no additional deportation orders issued.

Currently they are in limbo and live in fear of being sent back to places where poverty and oppression threaten their lives. They do not feel this is an option. It is evident that Ireland has to date failed this small group of aged-out minors. Regularising their situation now would give them the opportunity to plan their future in Ireland and end the state of fear in which they live at present. Ireland will benefit greatly from their energy and enthusiasm.

"We urge that the Irish authorities reach positive decisions soon, so that we can end the state of uncertainty in which we have lived for so long. We want to organise our lives for the benefit of ourselves and of this country where we have put down roots, made firm friendships in the Irish community and have been accepted and integrated. We have no remaining family members in our birth countries and, if returned to these countries, we fear for our safety and our future. Please Let Us Stay and build our future here."

(Extract from P+L+U+S Campaign appeal)

Appendix

- List of Organisations and Politicians supporting the campaign
(This list is not yet complete)

Organisations

Association of Community & Comprehensive Schools (ACCS)
Dublin City University (DCU) Students Union
Calypso Productions
Children's Rights Alliance (CRA)
Church and Society Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Church of Ireland Board of Social Responsibility (R of I)
Church Mission Society of Ireland
Community Links Integration Project, Jesuit Refugee Service Ireland
Discovery Gospel Choir
Dominican Justice Office
DORAS Luimni
Dublin Central Mission
Dun Laoghaire Refugee Project
Integrating Ireland
Irish Refugee Council
Justice Commission, Irish Missionary Union
Margaret Aylward Community College, Dublin 9
Mercy Refugee Network
The Mercy Justice Office
Methodist Council on Social Responsibility
National Parents Council
National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)
One World Society, Trinity College Dublin
Parents Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools
Presentation Justice Office
PLUS Palmerstown
The Rainbow Neighbourhood Project, Rialto
Refugee and Migrant Project of the Irish Bishops' Conference
Teachers Union of Ireland
Trinity College Dublin Students Union
Vincentian Refugee Centre

Politicians

Barry Andrews, FF TD
Richard Bruton, FG TD
Joan Burton, Labour TD
Joe Costello, Labour TD
Ciaran Cuffe, Green Party TD
Eamonn Gilmore, Labour TD
John Gormley, Green Party TD
Michael D. Higgins, Labour TD
Enda Kenny, FG TD
Charlie O'Connor, FF TD

Politicians (contd.)

Jim O'Keefe, FG TD
Fiona O'Malley, PD TD

Senators

Mary Henry, Senator
David Norris, Independent Senator
Mary O'Rourke, Leader of the Senate
Shane Ross, Independent Senator
Joanna Tuffy, Labour Senator

MEPs

Liam Aylward, MEP
Simon Coveney, MEP
Brian Crowley, MEP
Marian Harkin, TD, MEP
Mairead McGuinness, MEP
Kathy Sinnott, MEP

Others

Eamon Dunphy, Journalist & Broadcaster
Dr. Jean Whyte, The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin
Most Rev. John Neill, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin
Dr. Ronit Lentin, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Trinity College Dublin

An additional 1,661 individual signatures have been recorded in support of the Aged-out Minors Appeal for Leave to Remain