



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

Press Statement - for immediate release

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As we celebrate 70 years of the Declaration on Human Rights, many in Ireland are still being denied their rights.

Today marks 70 years since the signing of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a timely reminder of Ireland's human rights commitments to everyone in society. It is also a reminder that poverty is a denial of human rights and the Government must take urgent action to ensure no-one in society is living in poverty.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, initiated in the wake of the Second World War, has been signed and ratified by over 190 countries, including Ireland. The 30 Articles in the Declaration outline the economic, social cultural, civil and political rights which everyone should have and commits governments to delivering on these rights.

Paul Ginnell, Director of EAPN Ireland, stated that *"In Ireland human rights are being denied to over 394,000 people living in consistent poverty, almost 10,000 people who are homeless and those with a lower life expectancy due to their living conditions"*.

Mr Ginnell continued *"The Irish Government must move urgently to meet its human rights obligations to everyone in society and to create the conditions where no-one is denied their rights. In one of the wealthiest countries in the world it is unacceptable that there are so many people whose basic rights are being denied"*.

Mr Ginnell concluded *"Seventy years ago the leaders of the world set out an ambition for society. In 2015 they rekindled this ambition with the signing of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is now time to deliver"*.

Note

- More information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is available here <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
- Article 25 of the Declaration states that *"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control"*.

