



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

Press Release on Budget 2020

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Budget 2020 does not go far enough to lift people out of poverty and the Government must immediately publish its long awaited plan to address poverty

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland welcomes targeted welfare increases in Budget 2020, but believes that the failure to move welfare supports towards a level that is adequate to meet the cost of living, or to provide adequate investment in services, will do little for almost three quarters of a million people at risk of poverty.

The Network stated that the Government must ensure the immediate publication and implementation of the new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, which is to provide a roadmap to addressing the causes of poverty and protect those who are most marginalised within society.

Paul Ginnell Director of EAPN Ireland said: *“We welcome the 2020 increases to the living alone allowance, qualified child payments and increases to the income disregards for those on the One Parent Family Payment and Jobseekers Transition. However we believe that increases in social welfare should be tied to plans by the Department of Employment and Social Protection to benchmark social welfare rates. We need to see all welfare rates benchmarked against a level which is adequate in order for people to live a decent life.”*

He added that *“We recognise the need to address climate change. However the Government must take a sustainable climate justice approach, and Budget 2020 must now be assessed to see if adequate investment is being made to support the most vulnerable to make the transition, while protecting them from the negative effects of tax measures”.*

Mr Ginnell went on to say, *“the publication of a new social inclusion plan is an outstanding promise from this Government, however the Government already has a range of commitments and targets for addressing poverty and these must be a priority if we are to have an inclusive society, whether there is a hard brexit or not.”*

Ends

Also see: [EAPN Ireland Pre-budget submission 2020](#)

