



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

Press Statement - for immediate release

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Contact: Irene Byrne 087 7914782 Paul Ginnell 087-6402200

EAPN Ireland expresses concern at the increase in Enforced Deprivation for 2019

EAPN Ireland has expressed concern at the increase in poverty deprivation rates as published this morning in the CSO report 'Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC): Enforced Deprivation 2019'.

The new CSO report indicates that enforced deprivation, as reported for 2019, has increased to 17.8% up from 15.1% in 2018. The largest year-on-year increase in the deprivation rate was amongst households living in rented accommodation, rising from 27.4% in 2018 to 34.4%. In 2019 the highest deprivation rates were amongst persons living in households with one adult and one or more children aged under 18 (45.4%), and those not at work due to permanent illness or disability (43.3%).

Paul Ginnell, Director of EAPN Ireland, stated *"We are concerned that deprivation rates have increased between 2018 and 2019, especially for households within rented accommodation, single adult households with children, and people who cannot work due to illness or disability."*

He goes on to say "We cannot ignore the present situation we find ourselves in whereby unemployment rates have soared and entire sections of society and our economy have been curtailed or shut down. The impacts of the COVID-19 on Irish society will not be made apparent for some time to come and therefore won't be reflected within current SILC results, this is particularly worrying given that there has been an increase in deprivation in 2019".

Mr Ginnell added *"The Government must work to mitigate the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However within this there is an opportunity for progressive reform and policies that will assist in a downward trend rather than an escalation in poverty levels across Ireland"*.

He continued, *"In order to reduce poverty rates across the board, particularly amongst marginalised communities, it will take increased investment in a range of essential services such as health care, housing and education, the benchmarking of social welfare rates to adequacy, as well as a commitment to decent work with a living wage"*.

He concluded with *"EAPN Ireland has made a variety of recommendations to the Government in our policy publication ["Rethinking a more Inclusive and Equal Ireland"](#) and within our [pre-budget submission](#)*

for 2021, we are calling on the Government to invest in decency and equality to ensure a more socially inclusive society as we try to move beyond the COVID-19 crisis”.

Ends

Notes

- **Material Deprivation:** Those in material or enforced deprivation in Ireland are those who cannot afford at least two of the eleven goods or services considered essential for a basic standard of living. The current 11 indicators are:
 1. Two pairs of strong shoes
 2. A warm waterproof overcoat
 3. Buy new not second-hand clothes
 4. Eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
 5. Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week
 6. Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money
 7. Keep the home adequately warm
 8. Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year
 9. Replace any worn out furniture
 10. Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month
 11. Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment

Some SILC Deprivation Statistics- 2008, 2018 and 2019

		2008	2018	2019
		%	%	%
	State	13.8	15.1	17.8
Gender	Males	13.3	14.7	17.4
	Females	14.3	15.6	18.3
Age	0-17 years	18.1	19.7	23.3
	18-64 years	12.8	14.8	17.1
	65 years +		8.2	11.2
Economic Status	At work	6.6	9.5	11.4
	Unemployed	37.0	41.6	36.0
	Home Duties	17.5	21.0	24.2
	Not at work due to illness or disability	36.4	36.7	43.3

