



nasc

The Irish Immigrant Support Centre

Annual REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER '10



Chairperson's Report

AN *Integrated*
SOCIETY
BASED ON THE
Principles of
Human Rights,
SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND
Equality.

Nasc's Vision



DAN BOYLE

Chairperson,
Nasc Irish Immigrant Support
Centre

A Word from our Chair

In a time of uncertainty and change Nasc, as an organisation has to respond. Economic changes have brought new difficulties for immigrants and immigrant communities. Political changes have meant that new legislation still has to make it onto the statute book, even if that also creates an opportunity for better legislation to come about.

Whilst dealing with all these changes Nasc has also had to look to our own future - how we will be structured, what areas we will specialise in, and ultimately how the organisation is to be resourced in the coming years and how can we best serve and respond to the needs of migrants and their families.

Working with our major funders Atlantic Philanthropies and The One Foundation, the board of Nasc has over the course of the last year asked these difficult questions and we have developed a strategic plan that we are confident will lead to a sustainable future for the organisation.

This discussion has helped to understand what it is we do well and what it is we can do better. Our expertise, our reputation, and the respect in which it is held, has developed over the last decade. This forms the basis of our future progress. However, this examination has led to further difficult questions as to how we should focus our activities more.

This year saw the ending of our Community development programme. This was a very successful programme that over the years achieved many of its set goals. With resources needing to be more targeted and focused, coupled with the fact that the needs of migrants have evolved. Nasc took the difficult decision to transition this work. Part of the refocusing process will allow for resources to be more concentrated in the area where Nasc has acquired an acknowledged expertise, that of legal services and advocacy. The very nature of the uncertain times we live means that accessing services and most particularly legal information are the tools most in need by immigrants. Our goal is to enhance and these services, informed by the valuable experience that already been gained.

Our most obvious resource is that of our staff. We are very fortunate both in their quality and their level of commitment, Our CEO Fiona Finn, has ably steered the organisation through a difficult period of reorganisation and examination. The Nasc Board has also worked diligently through this. Our board members in their areas of expertise have been constant in their dedication in bringing a sustainable plan to enable us to adequately respond to the needs of migrants in the long term. Because of this dedication I am confident the future of Nasc will be strong and successful.

Dan Boyle
Nasc Chair

Nasc Board

Dan Boyle (Chair)
Colm Stanley
Dr. Margaret Linehan
Orla Broderick (Secretary)
Naomi Ejeje
Dr. Siobhán Mullally
Rachel Stephenson (Acting Treasurer)
Kamar Yusuff
Iyabode Sanni
Tracey Harper



The Irish Immigrant Support Centre



CEO's Report



FIONA FINN
CEO,
Nasc Irish Immigrant Support
Centre

A Word from our CEO

2010 was an important year for Nasc as it marked Nasc's 10 year anniversary. We were established in 2000 by the SMA fathers who were supported by Brendan Hennessey and the Mercy Sisters. From our humble beginnings in a donated schoolroom, Nasc has evolved into a highly professional and respected NGO that has successfully worked over the last decade to vindicate the rights of migrants and their families. We are very proud of our achievements to date and this report gives you a snapshot of our work for 2010.

None of this work would have been possible without the hard work, commitment and dedication of our staff, volunteers and interns. I would also like to thank our members, and Nasc Board of Directors who give freely of their time, and expertise to support and develop our work. Thank you too to all our partners, allies and friends in the sector, both locally and nationally who have supported our work over the last year.

Unfortunately, this year we said goodbye to our Community Development Officer Ahmed Amir. Ahmed ran our community development office for the last three years and he greatly expanded and enhanced our community development work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ahmed for his contribution to the organisation. In addition, our Drop in Assistant and women's group coordinator Maripia Paillet departed and is currently working in Ghana. Again we would like to thank Maripia for all hard work, passion and dedication.

2010 saw the introduction and demise of the long awaited Immigration Residence and Protection Bill 2010 which promised to reform our outdated legislative framework,

aspects of which dates back to the 1930's. Although there were some positive aspects to the Bill, which included the introduction of a single procedure for protection applicants and statutory recognition of long term residency status, many provisions sought to further erode the rights of migrants and their families by introducing provisions relating to summary removal and the absence of any independent appeals mechanism. This erosion of rights and the need for reform is starkly illustrated by the fact that Ireland has the highest refusal rate in the E.U for protection applications, with 98.7% of all applications being refused at first instance; there also exists no independent appeals mechanism for immigration related decisions.

Despite operating in a difficult environment Nasc has continued to transform the lives of migrants and their families, in particular we have had a very high success rate in our legal information clinics, we have reunited a number of families who were left behind in war torn countries, we have attained legal residency for those who have fallen through the cracks in the system and have worked extensively in the area of citizenship and access to social protection. These issues were also progressed through our campaigning work. This year we had a particular focus upon reform of the Direct Provision system, citizenship, integration work and the Immigration Residence and Protection Bill 2010 and upon tackling racism and discrimination in the city, and have made substantial inroads into attaining systemic change across each area of work.

In 2010 Nasc with the support of Simpacta developed our strategic plan which sets down our work for the next three to five years. As part of that process we took the strategic decision to focus our activities on the Legal Information

Service, Integration work and our Policy and Campaigning Work. Our overarching priority is to improve access to justice for migrants and their families and to work for an inclusive society based upon the principles of human rights, social justice and equality and it was felt that this could be best achieved by focusing on these two programme areas.

This process was undertaken with the support and backing of our two main funders Atlantic Philanthropies and the One Foundation. We are now fully equipped to face the challenges ahead and to bring about long-lasting, systemic change to the immigration systems and transform the lives of our migrant communities.

In 2010 Nasc also secured funding under the European Integration Fund for a consortium project with our partners in the city. Nasc is the lead agency and is working with our project partners Cois Tine, Mayfield Community Arts and Cork Midsummer Festival.

Match funding for this project was received from the Cork City Council who is also funding Nasc to deliver a project to provide training on anti racism and discrimination in the city. We would like to thank the City Council for their continual support of our work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our other funders, which include Trocaire, The Office of the Minister for Integration, the Vocational Education Committee, and a special thanks to The One Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies and The Musgrave Foundation who have consistently supported our work over the last decade.

I would now like to invite you to review our work over the last year. Nasc is now an organisation with renewed confidence, determination and a commitment to working in partnership to bring about long lasting transformative change to lives of migrants and their families in Ireland.



Legal Information Office Report

Total recorded visits to Nasc Legal Information Service:

Total Number of Visits	3057
Total Number of Clients	1101
New Registered in 2010	63

Nasc's Legal Information Service (NLIS) continued to affect positive change to the lives of our migrant communities in 2010. In 2010, NLIS operated a free and confidential drop in service four days per week where initial queries were assessed. Where more complicated queries were identified the client was referred to an appointment with a Legal Information Officer. In 2010, the LIS saw an average of 320 clients per month, with total client visits amounting to 3057.

In 2010, the LIS comprised of two full time Legal Information Officers, Deirdre Morgan and Claire Cumiskey, and one part-time legal information assistant, Moawia Eldjack. In August 2010, Fiona Hurley joined the LIS on a full time basis through a FAS work placement programme. The LIS was also assisted by volunteer interns, Michael Prendergast and Patrice Lucid and by UCC students Julie O'Leary and Niamh O'Sullivan. We are extremely grateful for the time, expertise and energy that was so generously provided by our volunteer interns and students in 2010.

The LIS continued to work toward achieving more transparent and accountable procedures and policies within the Irish Nationality and Immigration Service (INIS) and the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). The LIS also continued to work toward empowering service users by providing them with specialised immigration information in a holistic and supportive environment in order to enable them to access and realise their rights.

The LIS contributed to the Immigration Information Network which is comprised of other migrant NGOs and as part of this network the LIS attended meeting with INIS and GNIB on a quarterly basis where we had the opportunity to advocate for policy and procedural changes and also to highlight the difficulties that have been experienced by our clients in accessing their legal rights and

Providing Legal Information & Assistance

entitlements. The LIS also contributed to a number of research initiatives in 2010. The LIS continued to have a number of significant successes through individual case work, in particular, all Nasc assisted clients who applied for a regularisation of their status under the Undocumented Workers Scheme 2009 were successful.

Overall the quality of service has increased with the Legal Information Service providing assistance on more complex issues. We briefly outline below some of the successes achieved in the last year:

Independent Status and Domestic Violence

Nasc is working closely in collaboration with Domestic Violence agencies, social workers and homeless refuge centres to assist women, often the victims of domestic abuse, to obtain an immigration status independent to that of their spouses. In 2010 Nasc submitted an increased number of applications and has a 100% success rate in obtaining independent status for victims of domestic violence. The legal clinics now have a specific contact point within INIS which ensures that Nasc's applications are processed in an expeditious manner. Through the legal clinic's work in this area Nasc has emerged as a national leader and will use the case studies and experiences gathered throughout 2010 to lead a national coalition to campaign in this area.

Access to Social Protection

The misapplication of the Habitual Residence condition was a consistent issue throughout

2010. Nasc's acknowledged expertise in this area is reflected in the high number of referrals into our system by other voluntary and local organisations. The LIS has collated case studies from our work with migrants who have been denied access to social protection to contribute to a national report commissioned by Crosscare Migrant Rights Centre in conjunction with Nasc. This report should be published in the second quarter of 2011 and will highlight the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of decision making at first instance. Our comprehensive legal submissions have been instrumental in obtaining successful decisions at local review level before the issue goes to appeal.

Family Unity

Family Unity remains one of the most important aspects of Nasc's work and this is reflected in the number of migrants presenting at the LIS. Nasc is hugely proud of this aspect of our work and our high success rate in reuniting families. In line with national trends, 2010 saw a significant increase in the number of EU migrants presenting at Nasc seeking to realise their rights to family unity under the European Freedom of Movement Directive. Nasc achieved a number of significant successful family reunification cases in 2010 especially in cases involving more complex applications for dependent family members.

Citizenship

Citizenship became the top visit reason at Nasc in 2010, again reflecting national trends. This year saw a huge surge in the numbers of

migrants making applications for Irish Citizenship as migrants who were granted residency under the IBC/05 scheme became eligible under the residency requirements. As legislation is largely silent on the eligibility requirements for citizenship, Nasc was instrumental in attempting to fill the information deficit for applicants through the benefit of our longstanding experience in this area. The importance of this issue prompted Nasc to undertake a research project and campaign for changes to be made to the naturalisation process.

IBC/05 renewal

Migrants resident in Ireland on the basis of IBC/05 scheme were required to renew their residency in 2010. Nasc received a high number of queries in relation to the procedure for renewing this permission to remain. Nasc also provided one-to-one support for more complex applications and our interventions were largely successful.

Top Ten Issues at Nasc Legal Information Clinics:

Citizenship	618
Residency	320
Social Welfare	309
Other	220
Family Reunification	214
Visa - Join Family Member	195
EU Treaty Rights	183
Asylum	130
Marriage to Irish Citizen	105
Travel Documents	98

Policy & Campaigning Office Report



Campaigning for Change

Reform of Immigration and Protection Legislation

2010 saw the introduction of a new Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill, and its demise when the government fell. The legislation dealt with every aspect of general immigration as well as with applications for protection, and filled some 230 pages. We welcomed this desperately-needed step towards reform of our outdated and ad hoc immigration legislation, particularly insofar as it introduced a single procedure for protection applicants (who currently have to make a series of separate applications) and the fact that it provided for long-term residency (immigrants to Ireland are granted temporary permissions to remain, which must be periodically renewed even after decades of legal residency).

We worked as a team to thoroughly familiarise ourselves with the document, and spent some time analysing our main concerns. These are reflected in the detailed submission that we made to the Submission to Select Committee on Justice, Defence and Women's Rights in October. Chief among these were that:

The Bill provided for the removal from the state of undocumented persons without any appeal or notice provisions ("summary removal"). These provisions are unjust, unreasonable and contrary to both the letter and the spirit of both our domestic and international legal provisions.

The legislation was characterised by lack of statutory detail and excessively broad ministerial discretion. Our experience indicates that this would inevitably lead to inconsistent decision making. At present the only option for an individual dissatisfied with an adverse decision is to initiate judicial review proceedings in the High Court; 58% of all judicial review cases relate to immigration and asylum decisions, with wait times of 9 – 12 months. The introduction of an independent appeals tribunal would relieve the pressure on the Irish courts as well as providing an inexpensive, expedited, appeals process for applicants.

It is our experience that family unity is an essential component of the integration process for migrants currently residing in the State and we were dismayed that the Bill failed to provide a formal path to family reunification for migrants legally resident in the State and Irish nationals whose family members are non EU nationals. In addition, we are concerned as to the restrictive nature of the proposed family reunification process for persons granted a protection declaration.

We increased the effectiveness of our lobbying by working as part of a coalition of national and regional NGOs, namely Crosscare Migrant Project, Doras Luimní, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, the Irish Refugee Council, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, and the Integration Centre. We were pleased that the content of the Oireachtas debates on the Bill reflected our concerns. In particular, the opposition members all voiced their appreciation of the need for an independent appeals tribunal and their concerns about the introduction of summary deportation. While the debates didn't proceed beyond the first few sections of the Act, we hope that this work will be reflected in a significantly revised Bill. The current Minister for Justice has indicated that he will reintroduce an amended version of the legislation this year.

Safeguarding the Health and Welfare of People who Seek Protection in Ireland

Nasc was a founding member of the NGO Forum on Direct Provision, which formed early in 2010. The Forum is a network of about 14 organisations that work together to campaign for the abolition of the system whereby protection applicants are housed in residential institutions, and denied the right to work, train, or study, while they wait for a final decision in their case – the system known as "direct provision." The first phase of campaigning focused on the need, in the meantime, to introduce systems to safeguard the health and welfare of residents.

In the spring, we held a briefing event for Oireachtas members at Leinster House, at which we focused on the state's neglect of its duty of care to residents in "direct provision" institutions; in particular, we focused on the absence of an independent complaints mechanism. This led to a successful campaign to have our concerns considered by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children, which then requested a meeting with the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA, which manages the "direct provision" system). The various TDs and Senators on the Committee had been well briefed by forum members in their constituencies in advance of the meeting, and were able to dig deep in their questions. As a result of this meeting, RIA agreed to introduce changes in the way it deals with the concerns of residents. The committee also recommended that the government introduce an independent complaints mechanism for residents.

The Forum remains very active, and indeed its numbers have continued to swell. Current efforts are focused on ensuring that the new government parties fulfil commitments that they made while in opposition to "abolish" (Labour) or to "conduct a fundamental review" (Fine Gael) of the system of "direct provision". We will also be advocating for the timely realization of a commitment in the programme for government to expand the remit of the Office of the Ombudsman to include immigration, asylum, and prisons, which would include oversight of RIA's management of complaints by residents.

Research Policy & Development Report



When queries about Ireland's naturalisation process became the number one issue in our legal information clinic, we decided to find out more. In 2008, the rate of naturalisation in Ireland was less than one third of the EU average, at around 7 per thousand (Eurostat 36/2010). Applications for naturalisation in Ireland were at their highest on record in 2009, when the Department of Justice and Law Reform assessed 25,582 applications. Astonishingly, only 18% of them were successful.

In Ireland, citizenship is granted on the basis of ministerial discretion without clear guidelines as to what factors lead to a successful application. We believe that citizenship needs to become a right, enshrined in legislation, rather than a privilege granted on an ad-hoc basis at the discretion of the minister for justice.

In early 2010, we began working with a team of volunteers, to document why so many residents wish to become citizens, and on what grounds so many are refused. We coordinated our research with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, so that our results could be pooled to greater effect. We interviewed 203 people from 57 different countries. Most of the interviewees had applications pending. 63% of those who had received a response had been refused, and most of them had reapplied at least once.

Typical reasons for refusal are economic dependence on the state (even when working but also receiving Family Income Supplement), being deemed to be of "bad character" (sometimes on the basis of as little as having paid a parking fine) and having irregularities in residency registration (a short gap between registrations with the Gardaí in the year before application). May residents are keen to become citizens because there is no such thing as a permanent or even a long-term residency status here.

The story of one of our interviewees appeared in the Irish Examiner on June 15, 2010:

"Offman, a Cork city taxi driver for ten years, applied for citizenship two years ago. He sent all the documents required but, in the end his application was refused, primarily on the basis that he had allowed his five-year residency to lapse for a while, the last time it came up for renewal.

The letter of refusal of his application was a generic one, enclosing a memo outlining the five-year residency requirement.

"It was quite offensive to get a letter like that after 30 years of contributing to Ireland," he said. "I am here since 1977 but they said I did not satisfy the time frame and that having one child was not enough reason to grant the passport - but all my children were born here and my wife is Irish. I cannot appeal the decision and there is no one to talk to about it," he said.

"I want to try and get a TD to help me. There is no law about citizenship and no guidelines as such either. They say I don't have five years of residency, but surely they can easily see that I have been paying taxes here for thirty years.

I think that I have earned the right to be included, and to be able to vote in national elections."

Reform of the Naturalisation process and attaining a pathway to security of residence is now one of our campaigning priorities.

Cork City Integration Survey, 2010

Connecting Communities: The Cork City Integration Strategy (CCIS) was launched on the 25th of April 2008. Nasc and Cork City Partnership started working together in late 2009 to organise a mid-term review of the Strategy. The review included finding out whether the pledges in the 2008 Strategy had been realized and holding focus groups with migrants to reassess their needs.

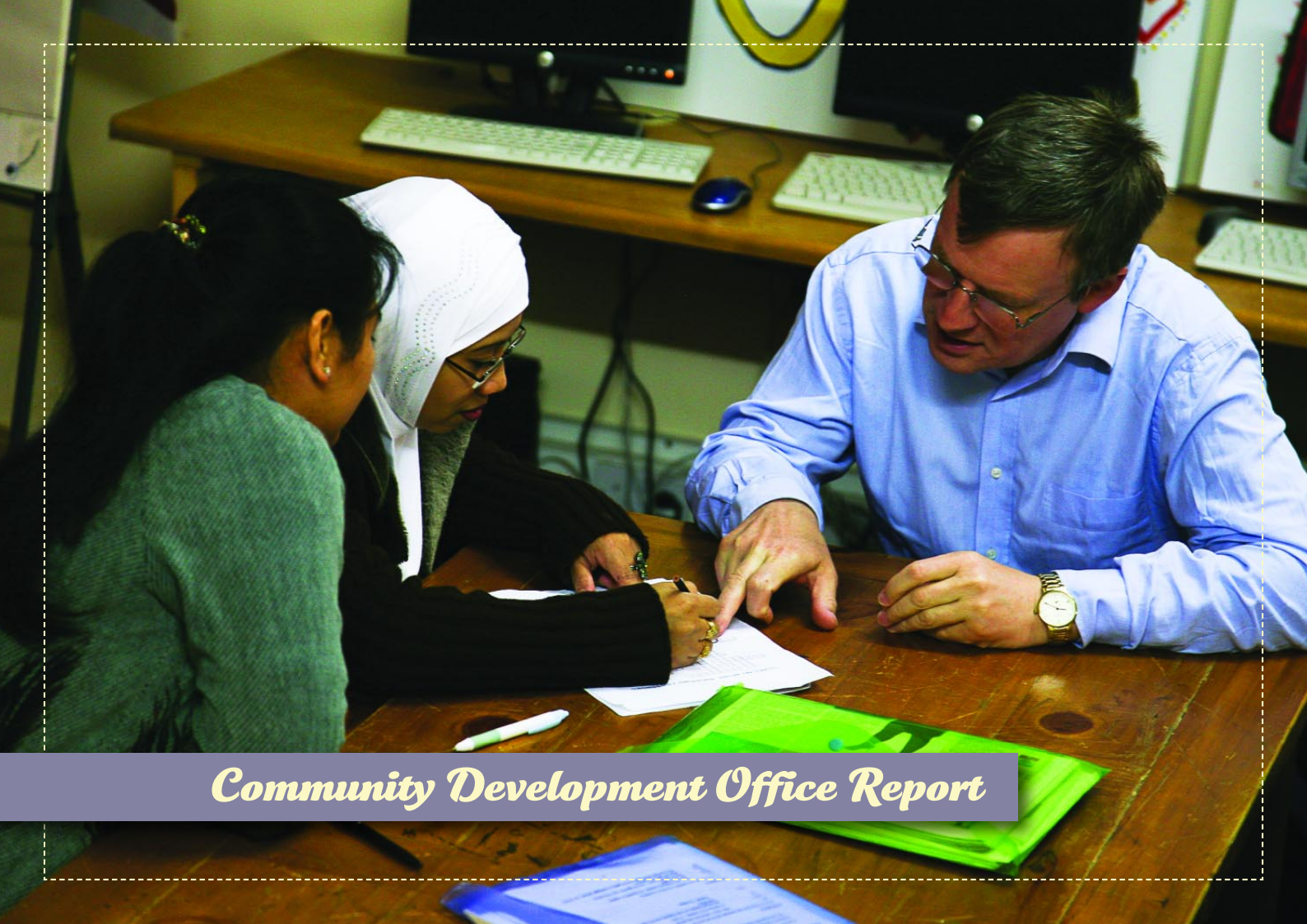
Nasc organised a survey of residents of Cork in May and June 2010, and it was carried out with the help of members of the committee and another fantastic team of volunteers. 143 people responded to either a face-to-face or an online survey. Respondents were required to identify their ethnicity, so that we are in a position to compare the perceptions of majority and minority residents.



A right to be included:
Access to Irish Citizenship

The results that we found particularly striking were that:

- ❶ **Racism and lack of social cohesion are very real issues in our city.** The survey results reflect widespread concern but also tremendous goodwill. 76.6% of all those surveyed believe that racism is an issue in Cork. 84.5% of respondents would like to learn more about the cultures and customs of others.
- ❷ **Discrimination is a common experience for immigrant and ethnic minority residents, particularly in the field of employment.** The results indicated that ethnic-minority respondents are more likely to experience discrimination, and less likely to name it as such.
- ❸ **Awareness of equality infrastructure remains low, particularly among immigrant and ethnic minority residents.** Around 60% of Irish respondents and just 44% of ethnic-minority respondents were aware that there is a law that forbids racial discrimination against job-applicants.
- ❹ **Real experiences of racism and discrimination are not reflected in official statistics, as they are rarely reported by victims.**



Community Development Office Report

Integration & Equality

Equality in the Workplace

Completing our commitments under the first Cork City Integration Strategy, we hosted a training event on Equality in the Workplace for about 20 employers, human resources managers and recruitment agencies in February. A self-guiding PowerPoint tutorial called "Diverse Cultures, One Workplace: What the law requires from you, and what you can do to harness the energy of a diverse workplace" can be accessed through our website.

The Elimination of Racial Discrimination

2010 saw Nasc becoming an active board member of the Irish branch of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR Ireland). This allows us to work collaboratively with our colleagues from all over Ireland and Europe to combat racism, and to encourage the state to respond to international policy recommendations. ENAR Ireland piloted a racism reporting mechanism in Dublin in 2010, and plans are underway to expand the service nationwide this year. This will help us to ensure that residents of Cork have access to an independent racist incident reporting system so that they can report racism anonymously and without fear. By connecting the information to a national database, we will be able to document the reality of racism in Ireland, which we hope will help us to convince our policy makers to take steps to combat it.

ENAR Ireland and Nasc both called on the government to publish draft legislation criminalising racism and xenophobia in 2010. Unfortunately, the then government missed the opportunity presented by the EU Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia (8665/07), which provided a model on which we could update our anti-racism laws. We will continue to campaign for the introduction of laws that effectively outlaw incitement to hatred and the publication of racist materials, as well as for the introduction of legislation that would make racism an aggravating circumstance in criminal prosecutions.

These concerns were among the issues highlighted in a Shadow Report prepared by a coalition of 50 Irish NGOs (the NGO Alliance Against Racism), to which we contributed, which was submitted to the committee in advance of its examination of Ireland's performance under the convention. We also contributed to ENAR Ireland's Shadow Report, and ENAR's representatives in Geneva did a great job of ensuring that our concerns were highlighted. We were delighted to see our concerns about the need for legislation, and for the abolition of "direct provision" among the recommendations made to Ireland by the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.

Driving Creative Collaborations in Cork

EIF Project: Annual Report 2011

This year Nasc has taken responsibility as the lead partner in an exciting and innovative Integration project for Cork City. The Cork Integration Project: Integration through learning, the arts and interfaith dialogue is co-financed by the European Commission under the European Integration Fund and is supported by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality.

This project aims to break down the barriers to integration, encourage positive intercultural interactions and empower migrant women to engage with the wider community in a proactive way. It comprises of three constituent projects with Nasc as the lead project, the other groups involved are Mayfield Community Arts/ Cork Midsummer Festival and Cois Tine.

Nasc will deliver a free course for 18 legally resident migrant women from countries as diverse as Macao, Malaysia, Iraq and Eritrea. This course will focus on English language, Computers, Personal Effectiveness and Leadership skills. This course will run over 2 years in 4 ten-week blocks.

As part of this multi group approach to integration; Mayfield Community Arts/ Cork Midsummer Festival are running a free 2-year accredited course in arts, crafts and community arts facilitation. The participants in this project will be staging an interactive event at the Cork Midsummer Festival, 2011, on the theme of "Home". This group also has a diverse participant group with women from Ireland, Congo, Australia, South Africa and Iraq participating.

Cois Tine are running a series of inter religious dialogue workshops aiming to increase awareness, understanding and community integration between members of the

Roman Catholic and Islamic faiths. It will be aimed at members of the public and those identified as having significant impact on integration including representatives from schools, colleges, hospitals and local business.

Social and Cultural Group

Thanks to funding received from the Office of the Minister for integration, Nasc ran a project which offered our members an opportunity to explore and learn about the history of Cork. The group with the assistance of our local Community Garda went on a number of historical tours of our city and county. For the final tour and in the spirit of integration our members took of tour of our neighbouring county Kerry.

Nasc Women's Group

Our women's group this year began their transition to an autonomous group. The group felt that they now had the capacity to develop and take greater ownership of the groups future. Sadly the group also had to say goodbye to their coordinator Maripia who was its driving force for over the last three years. We would like to thank Maripia for her hard work, dedication and passion.

The group's activities this year included participation in the St. Patricks Day Parade, cookery classes, a leadership training programme and were involved in a number of seminars and information sessions on gender equality and rights.

Nasc Training

This year Nasc ran a number of successful training programmes including training for transformation, and a highly successful Leadership training programme. This year we have seen the highest number of successful graduates from our ECCL programme.

Nasc Volunteers



nasc
The Irish Immigrant Support Centre

Find Us on Facebook

EXTENSION NUMBERS	
DESCRIPTION	PHONE
Director: Nasc Plus	4520241 261
Administrative Clerk: Dunderry	4520242 262
Administrative Clerk: Rosary	4520243 263
Administrative Clerk: Susan	4520244 264
Legal Assistant: Rosary McEneaney	4520245 265
Policy Officer: Claire McCarthy	4520247 267
Training: Susan O'Sullivan	4520248 268
Advocacy: Marie Walsh	4520249 269

Calendar for year 2015 (Ireland)	
Jan	1
Feb	1
Mar	1
Apr	1
May	1
Jun	1
Jul	1
Aug	1
Sep	1
Oct	1
Nov	1
Dec	1



Calendar for year 2015 (Ireland)	
Jan	1
Feb	1
Mar	1
Apr	1
May	1
Jun	1
Jul	1
Aug	1
Sep	1
Oct	1
Nov	1
Dec	1

Help to Make It Happen

Our work is made possible thanks to the dedication of a team of volunteers, interns and work placements. Our reception and administration and policy research in particular have benefited from their tireless enthusiasm. Our legal information clinics are greatly boosted by the contribution of excellent law graduates keen to get hands-on experience as interns. Their full-time commitments for six months or more at a time make an massive difference to our capacity to assist our service users.

“ I have always had a keen interest in Immigration and Refugee Law, Human Rights and International Law, and been eager to work in the human rights field. Having covered many of the international law modules during both my undergraduate Law Degree, and my Master of Laws at University College Cork, I decided that the next step was to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

In January 2010, while I was studying for the New York Bar Attorney Examinations, I began volunteering at Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre. I volunteered as a legal researcher assisting and supporting the campaigning and policy office by directly contributing to a range of campaigns. All of these campaigns aimed to achieve social justice and equality for the rights of immigrants in Ireland. One such social justice project regarded the ‘Citizenship Application Process’. I engaged in qualitative and quantitative research methods, and generated statistics from the results obtained. The results of which, were subsequently put into a report, “Living in Limbo - Migrants’ Experiences of Applying for Naturalisation in Ireland”, which was recently published in May 2011 by The Immigrant Council of Ireland in collaboration with Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre.

My volunteer work at Nasc opened my eyes, deepened my understanding of how Immigration Law, and Policy really functions, and laid the foundation blocks for my next step at Nasc, as I progressed to the position of Legal Intern in January 2011.

Presently, as a Legal Intern, I am part of the legal team, where I conduct the Drop-In legal clinics dealing with refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers, and their dependents, face-to-face on a daily basis. I advise on matters of Immigration and Refugee, Human Rights and International Law, and make decisions on what actions to take next, either on my own initiative, or, after consultations with the legal team in our regular case conferences. Consequently, I make legal submissions to the relevant governmental departments on the clients’ behalf, in particular to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and interlink with other relevant organizations and legal representatives. Through the aforementioned advocacy experience, I have gained a wealth of legal knowledge, experience and valuable insight into the Immigration system in Ireland.

Undeniably, I can say that my experience at Nasc has only served to heighten my interest and determination to continue to work in advocacy in the human rights field. I am honoured to have played a role, however small, in the success of such a highly respected human rights organisation. ”

Grace Mulvey
Nasc Legal Intern

Samira originally from Morocco has been volunteering as a Receptionist at Nasc since 2010.

“ I have been volunteering at Nasc since August 2010 as a Receptionist. There I enjoy working as part of a team, not to mention the support I get from all the staff which helps make my work more effective. Also, I enjoy meeting various people from different nationalities and backgrounds which makes my job both enjoyable and challenging. Being involved with NASC and completing an ECDL course there has given me the opportunity to develop my computer and communication skills which will be useful for my own future while working and living in Ireland. ”

Samira Chourak





Nasc Clients

A Word from our Service Users

“ The help you and the team at Nasc give people is immeasurable, it really makes a huge difference to people's lives... knowledge is power and we feel very powerless when confronting a country's immigration law and procedures. That's why NASC is so great, it gives some power back to the people! Keep up the great work!!! ”

Carol, Mohan and Lily
IRELAND

“ My father, mother and brothers were shot and killed by the rebel forces. This was during the war in my country Rwanda. I was imprisoned and the soldiers came to my cell every night, sometimes two of them sometimes six of them. When I fled to Ireland I felt like an empty thing Nasc helped to make me feel human again. With their help I now have a job and my own place. Life is hard sometimes without my family but Nasc is my new family. ”

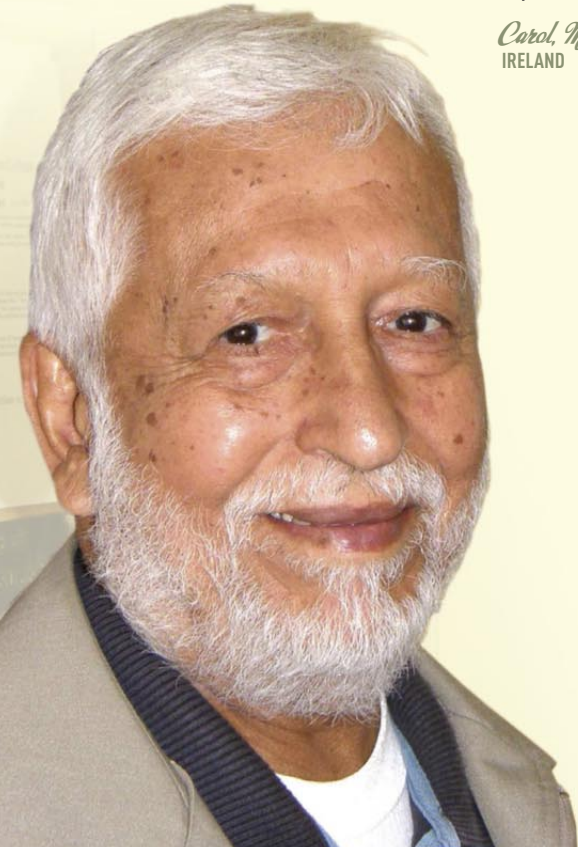
Maria
RWANDA

“ Nasc helped me every step of the way. I am now a proud Irish citizen, living and working in the county that gave me my freedom. This is all thanks to the people who achieve great things and changes our lives, all from a small office in Mary Street. ”

Ahmed
STATELESS

“ During the war in my country my life was threatened as they were killing all the University Professors and Doctors. I saw many of my colleagues getting shot and killed I knew I had to go. This was the hardest thing as I had to leave my husband and children behind. Ireland gave me shelter. When I came I was so scared. Nasc helped me through; they also helped to bring my family here to safety. We are now all together, and safe. Without Nasc I know I would not have made it. I did not know the system and they helped me through it. Nasc will always be in my heart. ”

Fatima
REFUGEE IRAQ



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT CONTINUING OPERATIONS

	2010	2009
	€	€
Income	474,426	403,528
Operational Expenses	(395,580)	(467,405)
Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation	78,846	(63,877)
Tax on deficit on ordinary activities	-	-
Deficit for the year	78,846	(63,877)
Balance brought forward	98,965	162,842
Balance carried forward	177,811	98,965

On behalf of the Board.

Directors: Dr. Margaret Linehan || Mr. Colm Stanley

Date: 30 April 2010

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

	2009	2008
	€	€
Operational costs (including staff)	187,112	246,977
Advocacy & Campaigning costs (including staff)	145,482	107,192
Community Development & Development Education costs	59,715	107,763
Depreciation	3,271	5,473
	395,580	467,405

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2009	2008
	€	€
Reconciliation of operating surplus/(deficit) to net cash outflow from operating activities		
Operating loss	78,846	(63,877)
Depreciation	3,271	5,473
Increase in creditors	7,863	11,511
Net cash outflow from operating activities	89,980	(46,893)
Cash flow statement		
Increase in cash in the year	(46,893)	(61,099)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Increase in cash in the year	89,980	(46,893)
Net cash inflow from issue of shares classed as financial liabilities	-	-
Net funds at 1 January 2010	124,208	171,101
Net funds at 31 December 2010	214,188	124,208

The financial statements were approved by the Board on *19 May 2010* and signed on its behalf by:

Directors: Dr. Margaret Linehan || Mr. Colm Stanley

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NASC, THE IRISH IMMIGRANT SUPPORT CENTRE LIMITED.
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

We have audited the financial statements of Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre Limited. for the year ended 31 December 2010 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Irish Accounting Standards published by the Auditing Practices Board in the UK and Ireland. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet and its income and expenditure account are in agreement with the books of account. We also report, to the members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:
 - give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2010 and of its profit and cash flows for the year then ended ; and
 - have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements

Cuddy, O'Leary & Barrett

Chartered Accountants || Registered Auditors
 Unit 3003, Euro Business Park
 Date: 29 April 2010

BALANCE SHEET	2010	2009
	€	€
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	2,659	5,929
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	214,187	124,208
	<u>214,187</u>	<u>124,208</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(39,035)	(31,172)
	<u>175,152</u>	<u>93,036</u>
Net current assets		
Total assets less current Liabilities	177,811	98,965
Net assets	<u>177,811</u>	<u>98,965</u>
Reserves		
Revenue reserves account	177,811	98,965
Members' funds	<u>177,811</u>	<u>98,965</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 29 April 2010 and signed on its behalf by:

Directors: Dr. Margaret Linehan || Mr. Colm Stanley

www.nascireland.org



The Irish Immigrant Support Centre



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