



2012

Annual Report

January - December 2012



World Refugee Day, 2012

A Word From Our Chair



Kamal Al Taib
Outgoing Chairperson

It is with great personal emotion that I give my final words in this year's Annual Report as I am stepping down as Chair of Nasc. Nasc was the first organisation I walked in when I arrived in Cork four years ago.

It is with great joy that I have witnessed Nasc relocate to Cois Tine's spacious and colorful offices. I can see the delight in both the staff and clients eyes.

Over the years Nasc staff and clients have become like a family. They know each other well. This has resulted in Nasc becoming part of the community and not just a numbers oriented organisation. Nasc continues to serve the immigrant community well and has a high rate of successes and accomplishments, for me the most important are family reunification, and anti racism.

The three years I spent with Nasc was good experience for me as an immigrant trying to understand the Irish systems and integrate with my new community. The dedication and patience of Nasc staff made it easy for me to be part of an ongoing dynamic organization. Advocating for those who are made vulnerable by the system, has made Nasc a legend in the community.

I am confident that Nasc will continue to tackle some of the broader integration issues, which despite all efforts made to date, still remains in the early stages. We need to establish a strong base for all our children will ultimately become our future.



Roma Children in Huedin, Romania

Members of the Nasc Board 2012

Kamal Al Taib, **Chairperson**
David O'Leary, **Secretary**
Dr. Siobhán Mullally
Okeremute Okeregha
Dr. Margaret O'Keeffe
Brendan Hayes
Tracy Harper
Dug Cubie



Stop the Silence Report Launch, November 2012 (Marcin Lewandowski)

A Word From Our CEO



Fiona Finn
CEO

2012 marked another successful year in Nasc. It was a year in which, despite the deepening recession and a perceived hardening of attitudes towards immigrants, Nasc continued to lead the way in vindicating the rights of migrants and their families on both the local and national stage. Our legal clinics assisted over 955 individuals, we reunited 47 families, attained residency for 98 people and we had 3 successful grants of subsidiary protection. Behind each of these numbers lies a person or a family whose life has been transformed by our work.

Nasc not only works on an individual basis, but we also work to effect positive and lasting change to immigration law and policy. This year through partnership working we have made significant gains. We attained a path to independent residency for victims of domestic violence whose residence permission was tied to that of the abusive spouse or partner. We attained far-reaching changes to the citizenship process; with the introduction of shorter processing times, and significantly, the introduction of citizenship ceremonies. We attained the right of residency for Bulgarian and Romanian Nationals who are parents of Irish Citizen Children through strategic litigation. This was done in partnership with the Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA).

2012 also brought with it an increase in the incidences of racism and racially motivated crime which required a definitive and proactive response from Nasc. We re-launched our third racist reporting mechanism which provides a safe space and an effective remedy for victims of racism to come forward. In 2012 two successful prosecutions in the District Court, where racism was a factor, were initiated in Nasc. Both prosecutions fell under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994, as there are

no specific provisions in our criminal law to deal with racially aggravated crime. Nasc is now working for a change in our legislation to effectively deal with racism and racially aggravated offences and send out a clear message that racism will not be tolerated in Ireland.

On the integration front, Nasc continues to work with our partners in the city to develop a robust integration plan to bring about greater social inclusion and equality for our migrant communities in Cork and to showcase Cork as a vibrant multicultural city, a city in which our migrant communities can contribute to and enrich the very fabric of life in our city.

None of this work would have been possible without the financial support from our donors both old and new. A special thanks must go to our two principle donors, the One Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies who have been on this journey with us since 2006 when Nasc was a small NGO operating out of one room. I would also like to thank The Musgrave Foundation who have supported us since our foundation, and our new donors and partners, The Ireland Funds, Sean O Sullivan (SOS Ventures), The Mercy Foundation, The Cork City Partnership, Cois Tine, HSE, Bord Gais, Electric Aid and last but not least all of our service users who in appreciation of our work have given so generously from their often limited resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Nasc Board of Directors who gave freely of their time and expertise to develop the organisation. And finally a very special thanks must go to our staff team, volunteers and interns, all of whom have a deep commitment to human rights and equality and work tirelessly to vindicate the rights of migrants and their families. It is both an honour and privilege to work with such an incredible team, who through their combined expertise, ingenuity and hard work effect positive change and transform the in the lives of those we work with.

“Behind each of these numbers lies a person or a family whose life has been transformed by our work.”



CEO Fiona Finn speaking at Art in Action Fundraiser Art Show, December 2012 (Marcin Lewandowski)

Legal Information Service



Claire Cumiskey
Senior Legal Officer



Fiona Hurley
Legal Officer

In 2012, the Legal Service (LS) was operated on a dual basis with consultations offered on an appointment or drop-in service four days per week. Our legal clinics saw 950 clients this year amounting to over 2,400 individual consultations. All initial queries were directed to our drop-in service (available 2 ½ days per week) where simpler cases and requests for information were dealt with immediately. More complex issues were referred to the legal clinics to be dealt with by appointment.

In 2012, the LIS comprised of two full-time legal officers, Claire Cumiskey and Fiona Hurley as well as legal interns and volunteers. We would like to thank Claire Larkin, Grace Mulvey, Stephen O' Flynn, Anna Błus and Aisling Twomey who interned with Nasc's legal service over the course of 2012. Their contributions to Nasc's legal service were invaluable and we wish them well in their future careers.

Nasc's legal service contributed to the Immigration Information Network (IIN), a forum which works towards achieving more transparent and accountable policies and practices in the immigration system. These consist of quarterly meetings between migrant NGOs and key officials in the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) and the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS). The IIN meetings act as an opportunity for an exchange of information between NGOs and the Department of Justice as well as offering NGOs the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of new policy and to input on existing policy and practice.

Family Unity Clinic Work

Family Unity continued to be a key priority for Nasc's legal clinics in 2012. The legal clinic's work in promoting family unity consists of applications for family reunification for refugees, visa applications as well as residency applications for those with family members in the State. We successfully reunited almost 300 family members in 2012, including 19 family members of refugees from countries including Uganda, Sudan, Iraq and Iran.

One notable expansion in our work was in the area of visa applications on behalf of family members of naturalised Irish citizens. There was a significant increase in those contacting our office who had been unable to secure visas to reunite with a spouse or a minor child. We envisage that this will be a large part of our work going into the future and we hope to use the evidence base gathered to lobby for family reunification rights for Irish citizens. Irish citizens are currently in a disadvantageous position compared to their EU counterparts living in Ireland who have family reunification rights. We hope through our work to address this inequality in the system.

Capacity Building

In 2012 Nasc continued its policy of building the capacity of external organisations to deal with less complicated queries, thus allowing the legal service to focus on more complex issues and opportunities for strategic litigation leading to changes in national policies. Nasc provided a series of trainings to Citizens Information Centre (CIC) staff and volunteers and to Tralee International Resource Centre (TIRC). Nasc placed an intern in the CIC in Blackpool for a half day per week to facilitate the transition. An agreement was also put in place for Nasc to coordinate and deliver immigration and social welfare training to Free Legal Advice Centre volunteers. These training sessions began in October 2012 and continued through to 2013. Nasc also co-hosted a seminar with PILA on housing law.

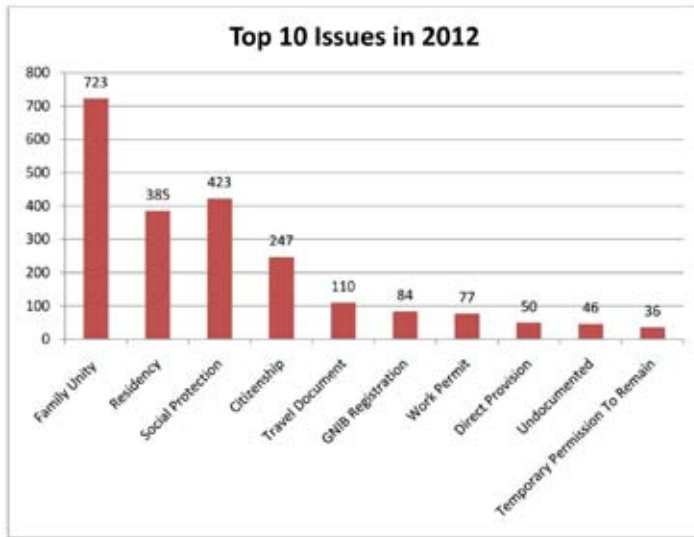
"Irish citizens are currently in a disadvantageous position compared to their EU counterparts living in Ireland who have family reunification rights."

Person or Number – Migrant Consultative Forum

Nasc's legal clinics contributed to the "Person or Number? – Issues faced by Immigrants Accessing Social Protection" report, which was launched in February 2012. At the launch of the report the Minister for Social Protection committed to implementing the recommendation to form a consultative forum with NGOs. Two meetings of the forum which consists of representatives from five NGOs (including Nasc) and senior officials from the Department of Social Protection were held in 2012. Work on the forum is ongoing and significant reforms have already been made in response to the report.

Strategic Litigation – Removal of Work Permit Requirements for Romanian and Bulgarian nationals

Following on from our success in 2011 in advocating for the removal of work permit requirements for Romanian and Bulgarian nationals who were parents of Irish citizen children, we were delighted that the government decided to remove work permit requirements for all Romanian and Bulgarian nationals. This was a huge achievement which we hope will bring about a significant improvement in living conditions for Romanians and Bulgarians in Ireland, and in particular our Roma clients.



955

Clients served

2,432

Visits to Nasc

239

Successful cases

98

Residency permits granted

47

Families reunited

39

Grants of citizenship

3

Subsidiary protection permissions granted

17

Grants of independent residency to victims of domestic violence



Women from the Cork Integration Project Course, 2012

Campaigns and Communications



Jennifer DeWan

Campaigns and Communications Officer

In 2012, Nasc's campaigning and communications work saw a transition with the introduction of our new officer Dr. Jennifer DeWan in August. Throughout 2012 there were significant gains in campaigning for change on migrant issues and in raising the profile of Nasc as a national migrant rights organisation. The strength of Nasc's campaigning and communications work stems from the close relationship with the Legal Information Service (LIS). The information coming from the legal clinics identifies and informs our campaigns.

Our campaigning work includes lobbying policy and decision makers, raising public awareness, making submissions to national and international agencies, and working bilaterally and multilaterally with key stakeholders. Nasc works in coalition with a diverse range of NGOs and community groups across the migrant, equality and human rights sector to bring about change in areas such as: racism and discrimination, direct provision, domestic violence, family reunification, integration, human trafficking, the Roma community in Ireland. Some highlights from this year's campaigning work are outlined below.

Protecting Migrant Victims of Domestic Violence

As part of a national coalition of NGOs, we were successful in lobbying the Irish Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INIS) to publish guidelines for migrant victims of domestic violence who had residency permission dependent upon an abusive partner to apply for independent residency. In addition, access to emergency supports and services for migrant victims of domestic violence forms part of the agenda of the Department of Social Protection Migrant Consultative Forum established as a result of our collaborative report 'Person or Number'.

Tackling Discrimination Against the Roma Community

2012 saw a deepening of Nasc's campaigning work to raise awareness and combat discrimination experienced by the Roma community living in Ireland. Nasc's Roma Rights Officer Claire Larkin worked with the Legal Information Service and the Campaigns and Communications team to provide support for the Roma community and build a body of evidence about the discrimination they experience.

Working to End Human Trafficking

In 2012, Nasc became a member of the Turn Off the Red Light Campaign to call for the criminalisation of the purchase of sex to help end the demand for human trafficking. Nasc worked with partners Cois Tine and the Sexual Violence Centre Cork to get a motion unanimously passed in Cork City Council to call on the government to criminalise the punter. Nasc also made a submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Justice, Equality and Defence on the review of the prostitution legislation and was asked to contribute to the oral hearings as well. The report of that review calling for criminalisation along the lines of the Swedish model has just been published.

Raising Nasc's Profile

Nasc made significant headway in 2012 in building our national profile as a leading migrant organisation. This was done by strengthening our communications agenda, reaching out to the public through social media and our newly re-vamped website and raising awareness of our work nationally through a more prolific relationship with the media.





Seán Óg Ó hAilpín at Stop the Silence Report Launch, November 2012 (Marcin Lewandowski)

Reporting Racism



Simon Prim

Racist Reporting Officer

Racism and racially motivated crimes are among some of the most insidious as they attack the very dignity of the human person. As such robust responses are required. The impact of racism is not confined to the victim but has detrimental impact upon communities and undermines social cohesiveness. Through our work with victims of racism we have seen firsthand the harm that is caused to both the individual and the community at large.

As a lead organisation in the Cork City Integration Strategy, Nasc has worked in partnership with other Cork-based organisations to promote integration and combat racism in the city and county. Nasc was the first NGO in Ireland to launch a third party racist reporting mechanism, originally designed by Community Garda Sergeant Trevor Laffan, to allow victims and witnesses of racism to confidentially report incidents and seek support and redress. As an active member of the Irish Network Against Racism (ENAR Ireland) who themselves are affiliated with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), Nasc also records incidents of racism on ENAR Ireland's central database. This provides ENAR Ireland with a clear evidence base to raise awareness about racism and lobby for reform of our current legal framework to adequately address racially motivated crimes and incidents.

In 2012, Nasc received funding from the Sisters of Mercy Solidarity Trust Fund to research and write a report on racism in Cork, to include analysis of the racist reports Nasc had collected to date, as well as a snapshot survey conducted on people's attitudes to racism in Cork. In addition, the Sisters of Mercy funded us to re-launch our

racist reporting initiative to include a new poster, flier and business card campaign to create more public awareness about the mechanism.

The report, *Stop the Silence: A Snapshot of Racism in Cork* was launched in November 2012. The event was opened by then Lord Mayor, Councillor John Buttimer, and the report was officially launched by Cork GAA legend, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín. Other speakers at the event included Garda Sergeant Trevor Laffan, Councillor Mick Barry, Catherine Lynch, who represented the Irish Network Against Racism and Simon Prim, Nasc's Racism Reporting Officer.

At the launch, we also screened a short animation 'Enjoy Diversity' produced by a group of young people at Nasc with the collaboration of Naomi Fein of Animation Space and supported by the VEC.



Some of the key themes which emerged in the *Stop the Silence* report were:

- Racism is widespread, but vastly under-reported
- Racism is perceived to be on the increase as a result of the economic downturn
- Third-party racist reporting needs to be strengthened and expanded
- People know there are legislative mechanisms in place to protect them, but these mechanisms are inadequate
- Greater awareness of racist reporting measures and anti-racism measures must be promoted amongst particularly vulnerable ethnic minority communities

Since the establishment of the racist reporting mechanism, we have aided 90 people who came to us for assistance. These reports were made up of 61 cases of individual racism and 29 cases of racism at the hands of institution.

Racist Reporting Numbers 2012

Discriminatory Treatment (Institutional)	29 cases
Verbal Abuse	16 cases
Harassment	13 cases
Online Racism	10 cases
Hate Speech	10 cases
Criminal / Property Damage	7 cases
Physical Assault	5 cases

Following the report and the publicity in which the report received, we have seen an upsurge in the number of racist reports coming into Nasc. We continue to help and support victims of racism and discrimination and remain committed to lobbying for policy and legislative change for racist incidents. In particular, for the introduction of effective hate crime legislation in Ireland, and for the introduction of a criminal law amendment that would allow racism to be considered as an aggravating factor in sentencing.



Participants of 'Enjoy Diversity' Animation Project (Marcin Lewandowski)

From Our Clients

Thank you from the
bottom of my heart



two small words
that mean a lot



for holding my hand
during this rocky journey.

I wouldn't be able to make
it without you.

Many thanks to you all
for your help. Without you
and the team my life never
smile again.

To all the Staff of Namsc.

9 November 2012

We are so honoured and blessed for all
the help you are extending to migrants like
us. We know, we cannot just be grateful
but in order to be is... to pass on good
deeds to others. Again, Thank You and Good Bless!

Nasc Interns



Legal Intern: Kirstin Turney

I began working at Nasc in May for a six month internship as I finish my LLM thesis at UCC for International Human Rights Law and Public Policy. As a Californian native, I have always been interested in issues surrounding Immigration and asylum, and have worked with several NGOs in California on immigrant issues.

As a legal intern at Nasc, I meet with clients both at walk-in and through appointments to discuss their immigration status and options in Ireland. Working with clients is both challenging and rewarding, due to the wide range of issues that may arise. We deal with cases involving family reunification, EU treaty rights, citizenship, GNIB registration, and much more. As interns, Sarah and I are often a first point of contact with clients, and from there we refer more intensive cases to Nasc's Legal Officers, Fiona and Claire, who provide support and instruction to both ourselves and the clients.

The office has a positive atmosphere where I am able to learn about immigration practice as well as help other immigrants in Ireland. I am excited to continue my internship experience at Nasc, and know that what I have learned will be useful in my future endeavours.



Legal Intern: Sarah Creedon

I was thrilled to be offered the position of legal intern at Nasc, having always had a passion for Human Rights law but lacking practical experience. Nasc's legal team comprises two legal officers, Claire and Fiona, and two interns, myself and Kirstin. Legal interns run the walk-in clinic, where we meet clients at first instance and give legal advice on a very disparate range of issues. I find it a privilege to be the first person with whom a new client shares his or her story. As well as the work in advocacy, interns assist the officers with cases and undertake relevant legal research.

For me, the most rewarding part of my internship at Nasc has been seeing positive results for residency applications on which I have worked, knowing how much these results mean to clients for whom returning to their countries of origin is a distressing prospect. The Nasc staff members make the working day enjoyable, and the legal officers are approachable as well as generous with their vast expertise. As well as practical experience, I have gained a wealth of knowledge in areas such as immigration, refugee law, and social welfare. I am proud to have been a part of an organisation which provides such a fantastic service to truly deserving clients.



Communications Intern: Kate O'Sullivan

Having worked with Cork-based campaigning groups for a number of years, Nasc was known to me as a well-respected organisation. When I completed my LLM studies, the opportunity to work for them was an exciting one. The Campaigns and Communications department has been an excellent way to develop a deep understanding of the many issues facing migrants and minorities in Ireland.

As an intern, I work with the Campaigns and Communications Officer in communicating Nasc's work to clients, media, government officials and the general public. This can be in the form of newspaper articles, newsletters, social media and our website, amongst many other methods. This work is crucial to ensure Nasc's work reaches its audience and objectives.

One of the reasons I enjoy working with Nasc is how all the departments work together, from the legal clinic to racism reports. Working in communications and campaigns, you become immersed in both the political and legal aspects of the work. But you also work - as all those at Nasc do - to ensure that the people at the heart of it all are the focus. Working at Nasc is a great chance to both learn and contribute to a wonderful organisation.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012 €	2011 €
Income	518,200	325,341
Expenditure	(416,244)	(392,022)
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before interest	101,956	(66,681)
Other interest receivable and similar income	930	651
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation	102,886	(66,030)

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.

On behalf of the Board.

Directors

Ms. Sian Langley
Mr. David O Leary

Date: 20th July 2013

	2012 €	2011 €
Expenditure analysis		
Operational costs	110,625	135,671
Advocacy & Campaigning costs	69,357	50,639
Information & Advice	98,305	61,315
Integration Work	38,608	40,170
Project Work	96,488	101,115
Depreciation	2,861	3,112
	416,244	392,022

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012 €	2011 €
Reconciliation of operating profit/(loss) to net cash outflow from operating activities		
Operating profit/(loss)	101,956	(66,681)
Depreciation	2,861	3,112
Increase in creditors	52,271	42,737
Net cash outflow from operating activities	157,088	(20,832)

Cash flow statement

Cash flow statement

Net cash outflow from operating activities	157,088	(20,832)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	930	651
Capital expenditure	(5,484)	(5,540)
Increase in cash in the year	152,534	(25,721)

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

Increase in cash in the year	152,534	(25,721)
Net funds at 1 January 2012	188,466	214,187
Net funds at 31 December 2012	341,000	188,466

The financial statements were approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by

Directors

Ms. Sian Langley
Mr. David O Leary

Date: 20th July 2013

**Independent auditors' report to the members of Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre Limited.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)
for the year ended 31 December 2012**

We have audited the financial statements of Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre Limited. for the year ended 31 December 2012 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 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 generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 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 2012. 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 financial statements are in agreement with the books of account. We also report to you 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. We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

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 2012 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 2012. 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

Owen Barrett for and on behalf of Cuddy, O'Leary & Barrett

**Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
3003 Euro Business Park
Little Island
Cork**

Date: 20th July 2013

**Nasc, The Irish Immigrant Support Centre Limited.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share
Capital)
Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2012**

Balance sheet	2012	2011
	€	€
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	7,710	5,087
Current assets	341,000	188,466
Cash at bank and in hand	341,000	188,466
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(134,043)	(81,772)
Net current assets	206,957	106,694
Total assets less current liabilities	214,667	111,781
Net assets	214,667	111,781
Reserves		
Revenue reserves account	214,667	111,781
Members' funds	214,667	111,781

The financial statements were approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by

Directors

Ms. Sian Langley
Mr. David O Leary

Date: 20th July 2013

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The Irish Immigrant Support Centre