



EAPN IRELAND

NEWSFLASH

JANUARY 2026

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Dear Friend,

Wishing everyone the best of health & happiness in 2026. As Ireland takes up the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in July in conjunction with the EU's first Anti-Poverty Strategy, it is an opportunity to focus on a Social Europe and see socio-economic issues prioritised, against the backdrop of increasing inequality, and the failure to deliver on the commitments in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

Your January NewsFlash contains reports from our events, along with news and events from members organisations, and the latest from EAPN Europe.

To learn more about our work, and to keep up to date, please visit our [website](#), or follow us on [Twitter/X](#), [Bluesky](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).

If you are in a position to support our work please [DONATE](#) by clicking this link. Every amount no matter how small, makes a difference. Go Raibh Maith Agat!

In solidarity,
James, Trishna and Clare
The EAPN Ireland Team

EAPN IRELAND NEWS

EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

We were delighted to work with the Connecting Europe Initiative run by the Department of Foreign Affairs who financed us to produce two short videos

about the European Pillar of Social Rights, what it is, and why we need it. This material explains the Pillar in an accessible way due to the excellent pieces produced by Anna Dolan, Talha Alawi, and Ghost, aka Nawab Jamal. It is very timely in the context of the Review of the Pillar which is taking place at European level.



TWENTY PILLARS...

Performed and written by Ghost, Nawab Jamal is available [HERE](#)



WE NEED THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS NOW

Performed & Written by Anna Dolan & Talha Alawi is available [HERE](#)

TRIP TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EAPN is extremely grateful to **Michael McNamara MEP** for hosting our delegation from EAPN staff, Board and affiliated community organisations in

the European Parliament in Brussels in January. Michael's generosity enabled us to see the Parliament and better understand its workings. While there we linked up with our colleagues in EAPN Belgium and got a chance to meet representatives of the Irish Department of Social Protection based in Brussels. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to learn more about the work that is going on in Brussels, and to find that the problems being experienced by people in Belgium are pretty similar to our own. We are very appreciative to all who gave up their time. The work to eradicate poverty goes on with added vigour....



Clockwise from left: EAPN Ireland board members with Ireland South MEP Michael McNamara in the European Parliament; meeting with members of the Belgian Anti-Poverty Network; meeting with the Irish Department of Social Protection in Brussels.

EUROPEAN SEMESTER

EAPN was part of a group of civil society organisations that met with the European Commission on January 12th as part of the European Semester process. This is an annual process where the EU monitors and evaluates every member state's fiscal, economic, social, employment, environmental, energy and climate policies, reforms and investments. We very much welcome the Commission's engagement with civil society and that last year they issued a recommendation in relation to the need for the government to increase the supply of social and affordable housing and strengthen the labour market and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups, in particular persons with disabilities and single parents. The issues of poverty, social inclusion, the need for a more progressive broadening of the tax base, and development of public services including in housing provision were all discussed. Recommendations from the process will be released in July.



PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY -BRUSSELS MEETING

On December 11th/12th the annual meeting of people experiencing poverty, organised by EAPN Europe, took place in Brussels. Although we were unable to attend in person, EAPN fully supports this initiative. Challenging the stigma associated with poverty, reinforcing the fact that poverty is a societal rather than an individual failing, and strengthening solidarity and collective action is the most effective way forward, as the EU prepares to bring forward its first Anti-Poverty Strategy.

The 2025 Minimum Income Report

An overview of the implementation of the 2023 Council recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion across EU Member States

Joint report prepared by the Social Protection Committee and the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

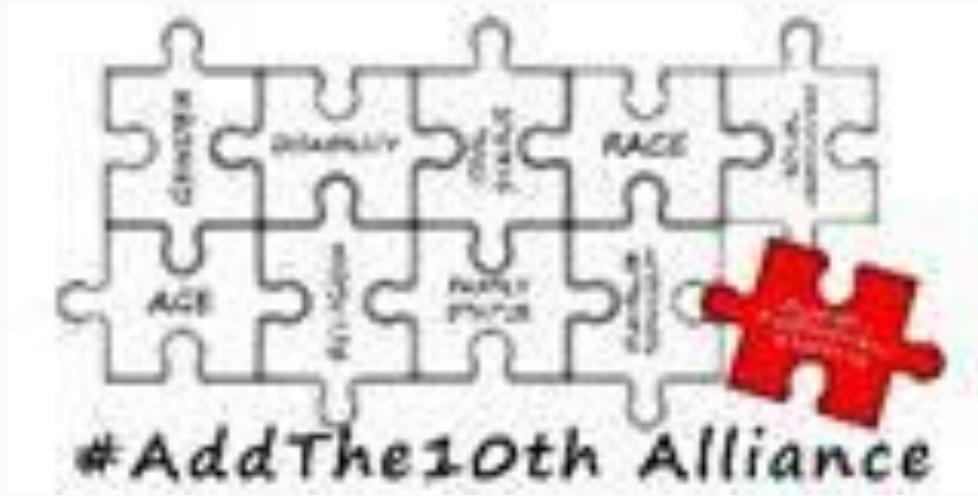


EU RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM INCOME REPORT 2025

EAPN Ireland was very happy to input into the report on the implementation of the EU Recommendation on Minimum Income as it pertains in Ireland. We were assisted in with colleagues from the Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOU) and the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI). The interim report on the state of play was published by the European Commission and the Social Protection Committee late last year.

Details of the report can be accessed [HERE](#).

OTHER NEWS



GOVERNMENT DELAYS EQUALITY LEGISLATION

EAPN is very appreciative of the efforts of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights, Olivier De Schutter, to contact the Irish Government before Christmas and press for the enactment of the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024, providing for socio-economic disadvantage to be a ground for discrimination in law. We were therefore very disappointed that the Government has ignored this call in the Spring Legislative Programme. Every delay means suffering for many people. This legislation has been discussed for over ten years. All of the studies and research have been conducted. There is no excuse for this delay. We urge everyone to step up the pressure. This legislation is needed now.. Contact Minister Foley today!

IMPORTANT WEBINAR FOR HEALTH USERS

EAPN is part of a two year health focused project funded by the Health Research Board and led by the HSE and DCU, with Trinity College as a partner. The research aims to create an argument why HSE funding should be allocated based on population need. The research pilot for the project is being carried out in Community Health Organisation(CHO) Area 9 in the northside of Dublin (Dublin North, Dublin North Central and Dublin North West).

As part of the project an important webinar is being held on February 3rd at 9.30 - 11.30 online **“Patient Data Partnerships: Building Trust & Co-Creating Stories”**. This event is of particular relevance to Public and Patient and Carer Involvement (PPI) as part of the research.

View event details and register [HERE](#)

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/patient-data-partnerships-building-trust-co-creating-stories-tickets-1978408901281?aff=oddtdtcreator&keep_tld=1

EU FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TRAVELLER & ROMA SURVEY

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and the European Fundamental Rights Agency are pleased to invite you to the launch of the 'EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Traveller and Roma Survey: Ireland Report 2025'. This event will launch the Irish findings from a European wide survey on Travellers and Roma across 13 countries. Keynote address by Sirpa Rautio, Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and comments by Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, TD.

Date: 4th February

Registration from: 10.30am

Event time: 11am-1pm

Venue: Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, D01 XC63

As spaces are limited, please register via Eventbrite

(<http://tinyurl.com/539ad6fv>) or email Kate Chambers at education@pavee.ie

PRIDE & POVERTY RESEARCH

We were absolutely delighted to participate in the Pride & Poverty Research which was commissioned by Outhouse and is being launched on Fri Feb 20, 2026 9am - 12pm in the Irish Human Rights & Equality 16-22 Green St, Rotunda, Dublin 7. This is the first major research project undertaken into poverty in the LGBTIQ+ community. We wish everyone involved the very best and hope it can contribute to alleviating poverty in this area. Contact Outhouse for further details.

SR. BRIGID REYNOLDS RIP

EAPN Ireland was deeply sorry to hear of the passing of Sr Brigid Reynolds, co-founder & former joint CEO of *Social Justice Ireland*. Our thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues in *Social Justice Ireland*. In their words, 'Sr Brigid's life & work serve as an example of dedicated commitment to human dignity, social justice & the common good. She made an indelible mark on social justice advocacy in Ireland. Guided by a vision of society in which each person's dignity is

honoured, Brigid was dedicated to addressing inequality, poverty, and social exclusion. Her steadfast advocacy combined academic expertise and moral conviction.” May she Rest in Peace!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Membership is open to individuals and organisations who support our aim to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the Irish and European Agenda.

Click HERE to join!

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EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network) Ireland is a network of anti-poverty groups working to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the EU and Irish agenda through information, training, advocacy and networking. Web: www.eapn.ie

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

