



EAPN IRELAND

NEWSFLASH

FEBRUARY 2026

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Community Work
Ireland

SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM (SIF)

2026:

**ADVANCING ACTION ON
POVERTY AND SOCIAL
EXCLUSION**



REGISTER NOW

Themes: 1. Building Inclusive Communities
2. Nothing about us without us - Disability in Ireland
3. Household and Child Poverty
4. LGBTQI+, Pride and Poverty
5. Inclusion of Traveller and Roma Communities
6. Gendered Inequalities in Poverty
7. Social Inclusion in Gaeltacht Communities



CWI & EAPN IRELAND PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1: Monday 2nd March -11am-1pm Online

WORKSHOP 2: Monday 9th March – 11am – 1pm Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Dublin

WORKSHOP 3: Friday 13th March 11am-1pm South Hill Family Resource Centre, Limerick

WORKSHOP 4: Monday 23rd March 11.15am – 1.15pm Presentation Arts Centre Enniscorthy

WORKSHOPS 5: Monday 30th March 11.00am – 1.00pm Inis Mór Aran Islands Galway

WORKSHOP 6: Tuesday 14th April 11am – 1pm Online

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO www.eapn.ie or www.cwi.ie

EACH WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE:

- An overview of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion & the workshop's thematic areas.
- The opportunity for civil society, communities & stakeholders to discuss the key issues in these areas.
- Feedback from the workshops will be presented at the Plenary session of SIF 2026.

WHO ARE THESE WORKSHOPS FOR?

- People with direct experience of the issues covered under these themes.
- People in communities affected by issues such as poverty, social exclusion, inequality, and lack of adequate services.
- Organisations working to support communities and those working to address these issues.

The Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) 2026 will be held on Wednesday 27th May in Dublin City (Venue TBC)

The SIF is part of the Government's structures to monitor and evaluate its strategy and approach to address poverty and social exclusion. It provides a forum for consultation and discussion on poverty and social exclusion, in particular for people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and the organisations/groups that work with them. The Forum also provides an opportunity for engagement between officials from Government Departments, community and voluntary organisations and people experiencing poverty.

The Preparatory Workshops are organised by Community Work Ireland and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland

The overall theme this year is on ‘**Advancing Action on Poverty & Social Exclusion**’ and will include a range of workshops see poster above. Register your attendance [HERE](#)

EAPN EUROPE NEWS

EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY REPORT ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BUT LEAVES MANY BEHIND

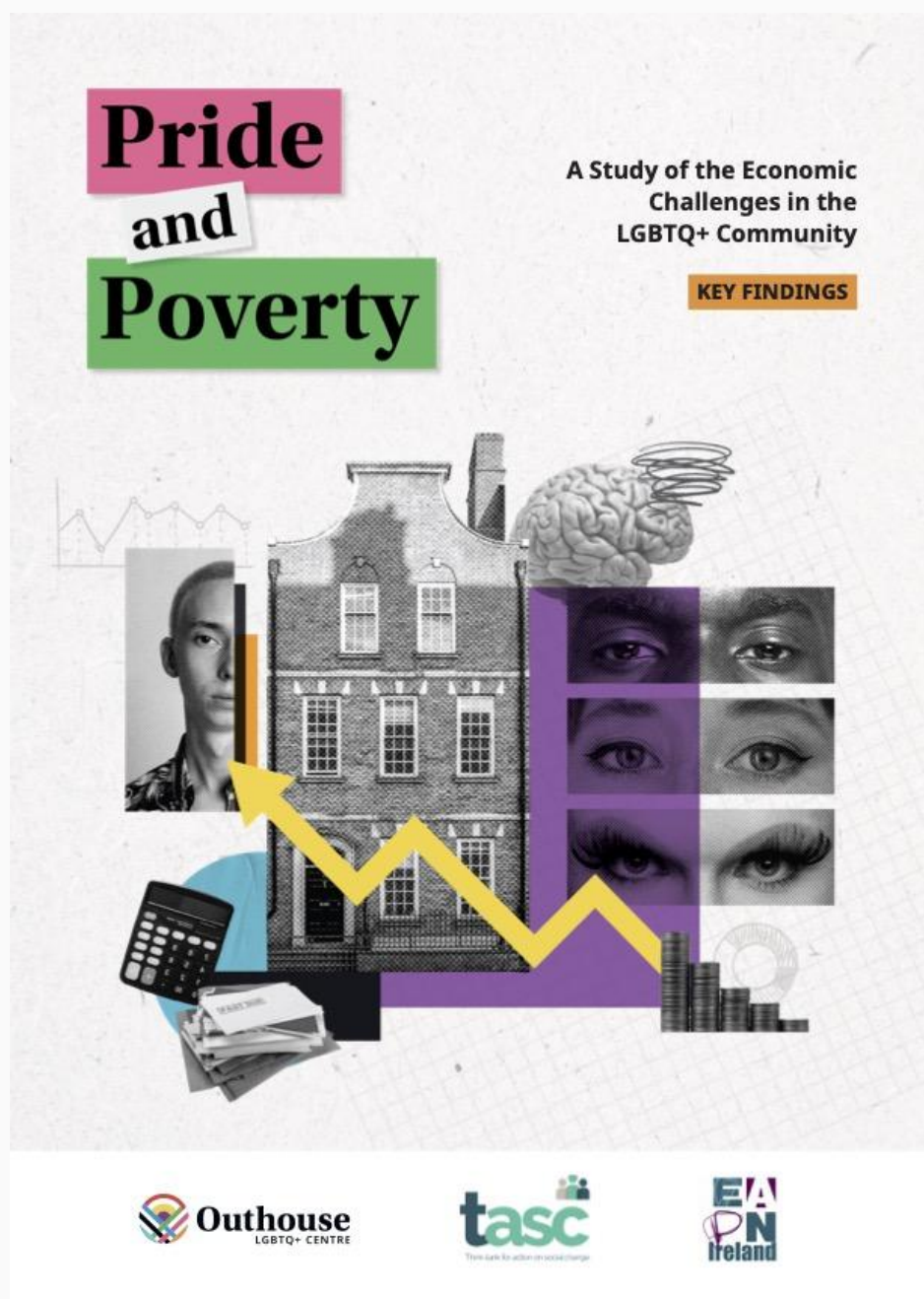
Joint statement by the Coalition on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY VOTE

On Thursday, 12 February 2026, the European Parliament adopted its position on the upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy of the European Commission. The [report](#) sends a strong political signal to the Commission: the first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy must be ambitious, comprehensive, and firmly grounded in human rights. However, the Coalition is alarmed that a majority of MEPs voted to dilute the final report, creating divisions among people experiencing poverty who should be covered by the Strategy. While all Irish MEPs voted for the report, the Fine Gael members were unfortunately among those who diluted it, removing references to fair taxation and a minimum income, among other issues. This is not good enough. These are essential components of any Anti-Poverty Strategy. Full statement from the Coalition on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, available [HERE](#).

OTHER NEWS



PRIDE & POVERTY REPORT

EAPN Ireland salutes the work of Outhouse and TASC in putting together one of the first pieces of research into poverty in the LGBTQ+ community. We were delighted to play a small role in the project and hope that this important research will play a role in informing policy in the future. The full findings of the report are available [HERE](#).



AFFORDABLE IRELAND CAMPAIGN

On Saturday February 28th a broad range of civil society organisations will gather in Parnell Square at 1pm for a protest under the umbrella of a series of demands such as a living wage, rent cap and emergency winter payment to counteract the crippling cost of living, which is having a devastating impact on living conditions of many citizens.

COST OF DISABILITY

The Disability Federation of Ireland, (DFI) has produced a an excellent fact sheet on the Cost of Disability to support their ongoing campaign on the emergency winter payment. The estimated annual cost of disability is between €10,766 and €15,221 (Indecon 2021 figures, adjusted for inflation). This equates to a massive extra cost per week of between €488 and €555 (ESRI 2025). It is therefore unsurprising that while the official "at risk of poverty" rate is 32.5%, the rate rises to 65%–76% when the cost of disability is factored in. This is unacceptable. Download the factsheet ***HERE*** and support the campaign.

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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