



# EAPN IRELAND

## NEWSFLASH

### JULY 2026

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Dear Friend,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic & well deserved Summer break and look forward to linking in with you in September. We will be back without James our Director, who is moving on to pastures new. We wish him all the best, and invite anyone interested in joining the team to apply for the position as outlined below.

With the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union at a time of important discussions on the new EU budget, and the launch of Ireland's new Roadmap for Social Inclusion, there is much work to be done to preserve the idea of a social 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



Website of the  
Irish Presidency of  
the Council of the  
EU 2026

EAPN Ireland welcomes Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As war & conflict, and a catastrophic climate emergency continue to have a devastating impact on people all over the world, particularly the most vulnerable, now is the time for Ireland to use its position to reclaim the idea of a social Europe. To push the ideas of peace and co-operation, and the delivery of a society where nobody is excluded and denied the basic necessities of life such as housing, healthcare, decent wages, food and energy security.

We are concerned at the focus on competitiveness and security and the silence around the issues of social justice. With the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the EU's budget for the next seven years being negotiated under Ireland's stewardship, this is the time to secure the European Social Fund and other vehicles which can be leveraged to improve the lives of citizens across Ireland and Europe. Failure to do so will result in huge human and societal costs. We wish the Government well and will be watching events closely.

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# We ARE HIRING!

## Director Position

Part-Time/Flexible Working Hours, Ideal for someone committed to social justice & eliminating inequality

Applicants should send a CV and cover letter, outlining their interest and suitability for the post, to [enquiries@eapn.ie](mailto:enquiries@eapn.ie) by Friday 31st July 2026.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland is recruiting a Director – Part time (2.5 days per week) with the possibility of additional hours.

The successful candidate will lead the organisation in realising its mission of putting the eradication of poverty at the top of the Irish and European policy agenda and empowering groups working to end poverty to understand and influence policymaking. They will be responsible to the Board for the day to day running of the organisation, for supporting its strategic focus and being a strong voice in the fight against poverty.

The position is permanent, subject to the availability of resources, with a six months' probation.

Salary will be on a scale from €57k to €62k pro-rata (€28,500 to €31k half time), commensurate with experience.

The position is based in Dublin, but EAPN Ireland has a flexible home/work hybrid Policy.

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## A Message from Outgoing Director James Casey

*I would like to take a moment, as I move on to another social inclusion role, to thank everyone for the warm welcome and support I have received over the past six months. Although my time with the organisation has been relatively short, it has been an immensely rewarding period, and I have greatly enjoyed working alongside such dedicated colleagues, members, allies and partners.*

*While I am moving on to a new chapter, I leave with enormous respect for the work of EAPN Ireland and for everyone who contributes to its mission. I look forward to staying involved in the years ahead and to continuing many of the relationships and conversations that have begun during my time here.*

*Thank you once again to everyone who made my time at EAPN Ireland so enjoyable and meaningful.*



## Pre Budget Forum

The Department of Social Protection hosted its annual PreBudget Forum for Civil Society in Dublin on July 1st. Organisations across the sector turned out for this important event which was addressed by Minister Calleary. We very much welcome this opportunity to engage in advance of Budget 2027. Many important points were made about the measures that need to be adopted to target the groups who are more at risk of poverty such as lone parents, disabled people, older people living alone, Travellers, renters and others.

An interesting presentation from Maynooth's Dr. Aedin Doris discussed some of the recommendations of the Tax & Welfare Commission and particularly the idea of introducing a second tier child benefit payment to low income families in addition to child benefit, whether in receipt of social welfare or not. We believe that this is a key measure to be explored and look forward to further work from the Department in this regard. The proof of whether the Government meets the expectations of those who attended the Forum will be revealed later in the year, but for many the urgency of the situation is clear.

**REMINDER OUR FULL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

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## **COMMITTEE on SOCIAL PROTECTION PRE-BUDGET SCRUTINY**

EAPN was absolutely delighted to attend the public hearings of the Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, as part of their pre-budget scrutiny. We would like to extend our thanks to Committee Chair Deputy John Paul O'Shea and all of the TDs and Senators who engaged in the discussion.

Watch the video, ( commencing at 38.47) [HERE](#)

While we are conscious that many groups will have a long list of immediate demands for Budget 2027 to try and alleviate many of the cliff edges that exist in terms of social protection payments, and the desperate need to increase the overall amount of supports, there also needs to be a space given to take stock of the overall direction that we are going as a society. The eradication of poverty has been deemed to be a key objective outlined in the Government's new Roadmap for Social Inclusion but this will not be successful unless we change direction. There needs to be a focus on outcomes and a meaningful involvement of people experiencing poverty in designing and implementing the strategy. Looking at how we define poverty, establishing a benchmarked minimum income, along with the exploration of a universal care income, would be a huge step forward. If supported by a shift away from subsidising the private sector in the delivery of public services and introducing a progressive taxation system, with the extra revenue ring-fenced for poverty reduction, this could transform the situation. We wish the Committee well in their deliberations and look forward to working with them in the future.

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# EAPN EUROPE NEWS

EAPN Capacity-Building Webinars  
Advocating for a EU budget contributing to  
the eradication of poverty



## WEBINAR 2

Having an impact on the MFF negotiations

Wednesday 2 September 2026

14:00 - 16:15 CET



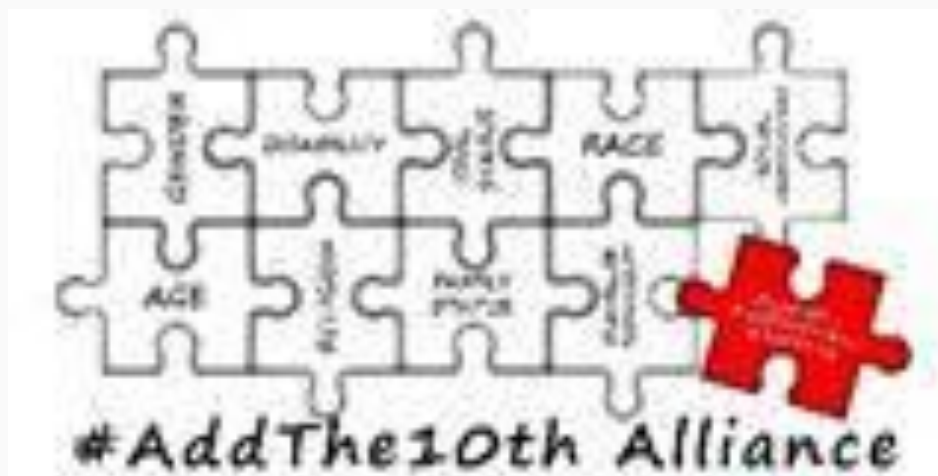
## UPCOMING WEBINAR ON NEW EU BUDGET

The European Union's long term budget, the MFF 2028-2034 will play a **crucial role in shaping efforts to combat poverty**, particularly in the context of the **EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**. Without sufficient financial resources dedicated to poverty eradication, it risks falling short of its ambitions.

Earlier this year EAPN Europe hosted a webinar on how the MFF works and how it is negotiated at EU level. Since then the negotiations have progressed significantly. Both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU have now adopted their positions on the MFF. The next phase will focus on negotiating the sectoral programmes, including key instruments such as the European Social Fund.

It is at this stage that civil society can play an important role by engaging with national and European decision-makers to ensure that MFF funding is directed towards poverty eradication objectives. The second webinar on September 2nd is an important part of this process. While it will be a little complicated to deal with EU processes, it will be an important tool for advocates of social justice. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at [enquiries@eapn.ie](mailto:enquiries@eapn.ie)

## OTHER NEWS



### WE NEED ACTION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION NOW

As the Oireachtas breaks for the Summer, it is deeply regrettable that the Government has failed to advance the issue of establishing socio-economic disadvantage as a ground for discrimination in Equality legislation. This is despite the almost unanimous agreement of political parties and the recommendation of the Committee on Equality. Meanwhile many people continue to experience discrimination because of their accent or where they come from. The deliberations have gone on for years. There is no impediment to this issue being enacted except lack of political priority. With Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and tackling socio-economic disadvantage a priority in the EU's Anti-Poverty Strategy, this is doubly unacceptable. We have waited long enough. This issue must be addressed in the Autumn.

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### BEFORE WE DIE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Parents of children with intellectual disabilities are stepping up their campaign to ensure that the state engages in long term planning for people with intellectual disabilities in terms of catering for their housing and healthcare needs. The 'BEFORE WE DIE' campaign involves over one thousand parents, who as they are aging, and their adult children are aging, are left with no idea of

what will happen to their children when they die. Their adult children need suitable care in the communities they live, where they have grown up and feel secure. This issue needs to be urgently addressed. We fully support these parents and their right for themselves and their children to live their lives with dignity and support. We welcome the fact that RTE's Drivetime programme has consistently highlighted this campaign and refer you to their latest interview, available [HERE](#).

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## SAVE THE DATE - UN DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Under the stewardship of ATD, the Irish Committee for October 17th is meeting to organise the annual ceremony to mark UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This event takes place every year at the Human Rights & Poverty Stone, Custom House Quay in Dublin and will feature artists and testimonies from people experiencing poverty. This year's theme is United for Peace & Human Rights - Secure Homes for All. More details to follow.

**Save the date: Saturday 17th October, 2026**

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## ***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!***

EAPN Ireland, Carmichael House, 4 Brunswick Street North, Dublin, D07 RHA8, Ireland

Tel: + 353 (0) 1 8745737 / +353 (0)87 6402200

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](http://www.eapn.ie)

EAPN Ireland staff e-mail addresses are:

James Casey, Director: [james@eapn.ie](mailto:james@eapn.ie)

Clare Daly, Policy and Communications Officer: [clare@eapn.ie](mailto:clare@eapn.ie)

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EAPN Ireland receives core funding from the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO) which is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Rural and Community Development



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