

## **IFSW European Delegates Meeting, October 2024**

### **BACKGROUND TO MOTION ON THE EU PACT ON MIGRATION and ASYLUM**

#### **Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW)**

The Irish Association of Social Workers urges IFSW (Eur) to write to the EU Commission and Heads of State of Member States that have 'opted-in' to the EU Migration Pact, emphasising:

- The importance of explicit commitment of the European Union and member states to human rights and protection of persons fleeing war and displacement. The right to asylum is explicitly named at Article 18 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. Article 24 lays out the rights of children in the EU, without distinction as to nationality or residency status within the member states. Those rights include that children's best interests must be considered by public bodies when making decisions that affect children, including decisions about asylum.
- The guarantee of rights is fundamental to achieving a fair and efficient system to address people's asylum claims.
- All asylum systems should be person-centred, bearing in mind the fundamental human dignity of all persons seeking asylum, and their human rights. This approach is outlined in the Reception Conditions Directive but has not been included in the 'four pillars' of the new Pact.
- The Reception Conditions Directive (RCD) enshrines minimum standards for all member states and there should be robust monitoring of the implementation of the RCD.
- As social workers, our role is to promote a human rights and social justice framework for the implementation of social policy. As a profession, we seek to uphold the principle of common humanity with service users, learning from their experiences when translating policy into practice.
- In proposing this motion, we are concerned that protecting the right to asylum and stepping up efforts in the area of resettlement, inclusion and integration appear to be given least priority in the common implementation plan information, being listed last of the ten 'building blocks.'

As social workers who work with and for persons in the asylum process and refugees, we believe in the inherent value of the right to asylum. Persons seeking asylum should be treated with dignity and kindness. The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum is weighted towards return. National Implementation Plans are an opportunity for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the right of all persons to seek asylum, and to uphold their human rights when doing so.

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