

London Irish Youth Forum (LIYF)

The next meeting of the London Irish Youth Forum scheduled for Thursday 14th December 1989 has been deferred.

Diary Date

The next LIYF meeting will be held on Thursday 1st February 1989 at 2.30pm in:

Camden Irish Centre,
50 Camden Square,
London NW1.

A further notice of this meeting will be included in the next edition of AGIY-INFO.

Irish Community Groups Meet The CRE

Representatives from several Irish community organisations met with Dr. Peter Sanders, Chief Executive of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and other senior officers on the 4th December 1989 to discuss the lack of attention given to Irish community concerns in Britain by the CRE.

The meeting which was organised by the Haringey Irish Liaison Unit was attended by representatives from the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme in Britain, the Irish in Britain Representation Group, Birmingham Irish Welfare Centre, London Borough of Brent's Race Relations Unit, CARA Irish Housing Project and the Action Group for Irish Youth.

The following issues were raised by the Irish community groups.

- The explicit acknowledgement and recognition of the Irish as an ethnic group by the Commission with a resultant change in the Commission's recommended ethnic classification system to include the Irish as a distinct separate category.
- The commissioning of a full scale research study and production of a report on the Irish community in contemporary Britain under the auspices of the CRE.
- The explicit recommendation to all relevant bodies of the need to monitor Irish ethnicity.
- The need to include the Irish community as a matter of course in any of the Commission's general writings, reports or research on racial equality and ethnic minority concerns in Britain.

After a thorough discussion of all the issues raised the CRE indicated that they would recommend their support for inclusion of the Irish as a distinct separate category in future ethnic classification systems. The CRE said that they would prepare a full report on all the issues raised for consideration by the Board of Commissioners in March 1990 and then report back their decisions to the Irish community groups at a meeting to be held in April 1990.

In the meantime you can support this initiative by writing to:

Dr. Peter Sanders,
Chief Executive,
Commission for Racial Equality,
Elliott House,
10-12 Allington Street,
London SW1.

AGIY Meets Minister for Labour

Following the national launch of "A Guide to London for Young Irish People" in Dublin last month, AGIY met Mr. Bertie Aherne T.D. and Minister for Labour to appraise him of current concerns facing young emigrants arriving in London. In a wide ranging discussion Mr. Aherne was informed of the effects on young people of the extensive changes in social security, employment and housing legislation in Britain.

Particular concern was expressed over the position of 16 and 17 year old emigrants when they arrived in London and the position of 16 and 17 year olds leaving care in Ireland.

Mr. Aherne noted that several Irish community conferences held in London during 1989 had called for female representation on DION, the Irish Government Committee for Welfare Services Abroad, which advises the Minister on the funding of community groups in Britain.

In response to the request made to the Irish Government to make representation to the British Government on the issue of including an Irish ethnic category in the 1991 Census, Mr. Aherne said he would "pursue this with the Department of Foreign Affairs".

AGIY Meets NYCI

While in Dublin AGIY also met the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), an umbrella body for over 40 youth organisations in Ireland. The NYCI has adopted a wide ranging policy on emigration and recently made a pre-Budget submission to the Minister for Finance calling for Irish Government funding to groups in Britain to be doubled from £500,000 to £1,000,000 in the 1990/91 financial year.

Christmas Cheer!

DION the Irish Government Committee for Welfare Services Abroad have indicated that the second tranche of grants to community groups amounting in total to approximately £250,000 for the current financial year will be announced by the Government towards the end of December.

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HAPPY XMAS !

AGIY INFO IS A SIX WEEKLY PUBLICATION. SHOULD YOUR GROUP WISH TO PUBLICISE ANY EVENTS, NOTICES ETC. SEND DETAILS TO EITHER JOAN OR DAVE AT THE ACTION GROUP FOR IRISH YOUTH ON TEL. 278 1665

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