

Census to omit Irish?

The Government is currently drafting trial census forms that may be used in the administration of the National UK Census in 1991. The Government proposes to include a specific ethnic group question which would help to provide information and data that would contribute to improving and developing new programmes aimed at overcoming racial discrimination and disadvantage.

The Government proposes not to include the Irish as a distinct category in the ethnic group question.

Instead the Irish as a distinct ethnic grouping will be submerged and hidden within the "white" category question. The consequences of this are twofold:

the loss of opportunity for a true assessment of the numbers of Irish people in Britain and the denial of data and statistics that would enable an overall assessment and description of the economic and social experiences of Irish people here. Independent research has proved that the Irish experience in Britain is one of disadvantage, particularly in terms of access to housing and employment. This experience of racial disadvantage will fail to be adequately identified if the current ethnic group question remains unchanged and will have serious implications for Irish community groups' attempts to secure statutory funding in the future.

Following the 1991 Census, the next Census will not be until 2001. Does the Irish community in Britain have to wait until the 21st Century before it can be counted and identified and can claim its rightful share of central and local government resources?

What can you do?

A campaign to amend the existing format and to include a distinct Irish category in the ethnic group question has been underway for some time. You can help by making an independent submission on the issue by writing to: **Head of Census Division, Office of Population and Census Studies, St. Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP** or to the relevant Government Minister: **Mr. Roger Freeman, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A** or by contacting **Haringey Irish Liaison Unit Tel. 975 9700** who are co-ordinating the campaign.

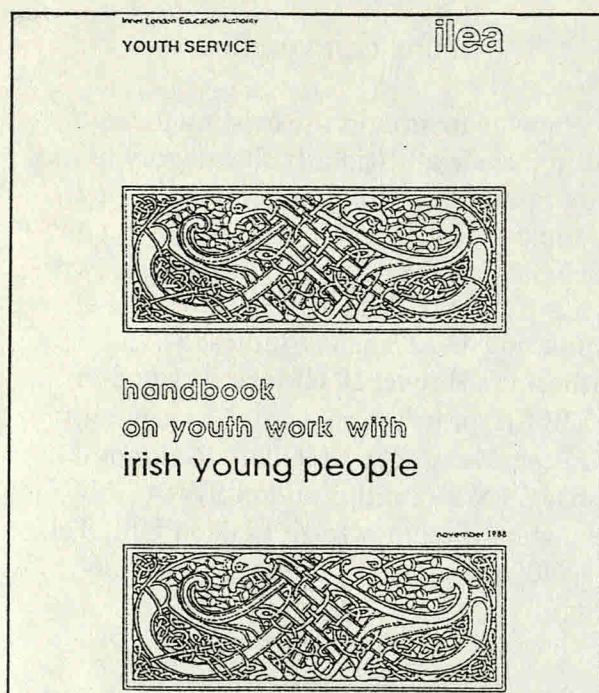
Travellers - New Initiative

The last meeting of the London Irish Youth Forum raised and discussed some of the issues and concerns affecting Irish travellers in London. A number of specific needs and demands as well as gaps in current service provision were identified and at a subsequent meeting between travellers and London statutory and voluntary sector workers it was suggested that an attempt should be made to co-ordinate and bring together the wide range of work and activities across London of travellers, individuals, agencies and support groups working with Irish travellers or interested in working with Irish travellers.

To this end an open meeting has been arranged for: **Tuesday April 18th 1989 at 2.30 p.m. in the Douglas Hyde Room, Irish Centre, Murray Sq., Camden, London NW1.** The meeting will look at ways of developing as an independent umbrella organisation coming together on a regular basis to exchange information and ideas and developing a co-ordinated response and strategy to travellers' issues in London.

Everybody welcome!

Irish Youth Handbook



The ILEA Irish Youth Workers Group has recently produced a very useful and comprehensive handbook on "Youth Work with Irish Young People". The Handbook is compiled by ILEA Youth Workers based on their experience of face-to-face and contact work with both first and second generation young Irish. It includes a broad outline of the history and experience of Irish emigres to London and includes lots of information on the range of services available here to support work with Irish youth as well as suggesting good youth work practices. It also explains Irish educational and training qualifications and offers a comprehensive list of books, videos and additional materials useful for training and youth work discussion practices.

The Handbook is available by writing to:

**ILEA Community Education Branch,
Room 431A, County Hall, London SE1**

There is no charge for the first copy of the Handbook - additional copies cost £1 each.

FÁS distribute Guide to London

FÁS, the Irish National Training and Employment Authority has just received 5,000 copies of A Guide to London for Young Irish People which they intend to distribute in Ireland through their national network of 80 offices in cities and towns.

This initiative has been taken by FAS as part of their responsibility in providing information to young people who may be considering emigrating to London.

To date the number of Guides distributed in both Britain and Ireland equals 14,999 plus one copy to Washington DC, USA making a grand total of 15,000!

To meet demand AGIY has received a further supply of 1,000 Guides which are obtainable by telephoning 328 9029.

Construction Safety Campaign (CSC)

Last month's AGIY INFO included the work and activities of the Construction Safety Campaign in its attempts to improve the levels of health and safety on construction sites.

The CSC is holding its first AGM on Saturday April 8th at 11.00a.m. in Kingsway College, Gray's Inn Centre, Sidmouth St., King's Cross, London WC1. The Labour Shadow Employment Secretary, Mr. Michael Meacher, is the guest speaker.

**Further info from CSC Campaign, c/o 52
Ansdell Road, London SE15 2DL**

Irish in Britain Research Forum

The Irish in Britain Research Forum is currently running its 4th Series of Seminars from Feb. - June 1989 at the Irish Studies Centre, Polytechnic of North London, Prince of Wales Road, London NW6. Outstanding seminars include (a) A Case Study of the Operation of the PTA: The Arrest of Paul Hill (April 20th); (b) Working Experiences of the Irish in Britain (May 18th); and (c) Images of Irish Women: A Second Generation Appraisal (June 22nd). Each seminar runs from 5.00 - 7.00 p.m. **Further info please telephone 607 2789 Ext. 4092.**

*** Funding News *** **Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE) People in Need Telethon Appeal**

On Friday 21st April 1989, People in Need Trust in conjunction with RTE will stage a non-stop entertainment show to raise money for charity. Money raised from the show will be distributed throughout Ireland and to Irish organisations in Britain.

If you would like to organise a fundraising event or make a donation you can contact the Telephone Hotline - Dublin 0001 797880 or London 01 263 1477.

People in Need is a central fund which raises and distributes money to a variety of charitable organisations with a special emphasis on the smaller lesser known charities. It was established in May 1988 and distributed £200,000 to forty such organisations last year.

This year the People in Need Trust will distribute funds to charities providing services for:

- the homeless,
- the elderly,
- deprived children,
- the disabled,
- other disadvantaged groups.

All monies raised in Britain by the event will be distributed to Irish welfare organisations working in Britain. Grants which will usually be made in the region of IR£2,000 - IR£10,000 will be directed towards smaller charities for specific non-recurrent projects. Funds will not be provided for recurrent revenue purposes.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 31st May 1989. Application forms can be obtained from **Executive Director, People in Need, 34/35 South William St., Dublin 2 Ireland. Tel. Dublin 0001 797880**

AGIY INFO Questionnaire

Included in this issue of AGIY INFO is a brief questionnaire that is an attempt to assess readers' satisfaction or dissatisfaction with our regular newsletter and its contents! AGIY INFO would like to know your thoughts on the info you receive, its usefulness or uselessness, what you like about it, what you don't like or what you would like! Please return the questionnaire a.s.a.p. to AGIY.

An Eye on Ireland

AGIY INFO often highlights articles and information about events and issues as they happen in Ireland and as they affect Irish youth. This month we depart a little from that theme to focus on the "new" Irish emigrant - workers on the Channel Tunnel in Dover.

London Irish Youth Forum Fee

Since the inaugural meeting of the London Irish Youth Forum (LIYF) in September 1987 AGIY has been able to facilitate and service LIYF meetings at no cost to its participating agencies.

This year however, due to financial and funding constraints, AGIY is forced to ask LIYF agencies to pay a £10 subscription fee.

In return AGIY guarantees that each paid up LIYF agency will receive in 1989:

- participation in bi-monthly LIYF meetings which serve as a useful information exchange, liaison and co-ordinating resource on issues relating to the interest and welfare of young Irish emigres;
- regular copies of our bi-monthly newsletter AGIY INFO that informs on issues affecting young Irish people in London;
- on request, free stocks of A Guide to London for Young Irish People and free stocks of AGIY/LIYF publications including information leaflets, pamphlets, reports etc.

If you want to join the LIYF please return the enclosed payment form without delay to AGIY.

London Irish Youth Forum

(LIYF)

**The date of the next LIYF
meeting is**

Thursday 13th April 1989

at 2.30 p.m.

Irish Centre

50 Camden Square

London NW1

THE MAIN AGENDA ITEM WILL BE
**Launch of information leaflet: IRISH
YOUTH - TO BENEFIT OR NOT TO
BENEFIT?** An experience of the social
security system.

GEOFF FERRES OF CLSSAF WILL AD-
DRESS THE MEETING.

**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. 328 9029**

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