



Immigration Control Platform An Feachtas um Smacht ar Inimirce

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NEWSLETTER NO. 19

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AGM

The 2007 AGM of ICP was held in Dublin on October 6th.

An Executive Committee was elected.

The following motions were passed:-

Immigration Control Platform proposes that measures be put in place to limit the proportion of foreign-born persons who are not entitled to Irish citizenship to no greater than 5% within the jurisdiction. This represents a sustainable 'organic' level of migration without the attendant costs and difficulties of maintaining social cohesion inevitable in greater inflows.

Immigration Control Platform welcomes the admission of the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, on 23rd April 2007 that we cannot go beyond the current, alleged 10% or 11% at most of immigrants in our population.

The State, where possible, should limit immigration to those who can already communicate in English or Irish

Note: It is not that we expect to receive Irish speaking immigrants from Hy Brazil. This merely acknowledges the constitutional position as it is, for example, acknowledged in the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2007, Section 34 (2) (a) (II) which specifies as a standard eligibility requirement for a long-term residence permit that a person "can demonstrate a reasonable competence for communicating in the Irish or English language".

ICP deplores the decision made some time ago that non-nationals on student visas be allowed to remain to seek employment after graduation, considering this an abuse of student visas, conducive to the driving down of salaries and conditions for graduates and a boost to already excessive immigration levels.

General Election 2007

There is no point in pretending that the results of the general election were not very disappointing for ICP. We stood 3 candidates, admittedly on shoestring budgets and 2 of our candidates were somewhat late entering the field. Nevertheless, the results were deeply disappointing, if not incomprehensible. Two of our candidates stood in areas very affected by immigration, Dublin Central and Dublin North. Subsequent to the election the pressures on school places in Dublin North made major headlines nationally. The candidates in those two constituencies received 239 and 286 first preferences respectively. Our best result was with Ted Neville in Cork South Central (804). It is worth noting that Ted received quite a bit of media coverage during the campaign and performed very well. This proves, what we already know to be the case, that when immigration control arguments are allowed to be aired, they find strong support. It was said widely after the campaign that in the end all small groups were marginalised as people voted in a Bertie vs Enda way and to maintain their incomes. One other

thing that was remarked by those watching the count is that groups such as ours get lots of lower preferences, maybe 3rd or 4th but with a low first preference count these make no impact.

New Minister for Justice

ICP sent the following letter to the new Minister, Brian Lenihan.

Brian Lenihan, TD
Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

9 August 2007

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Immigration Control Platform, the main voice in civil society speaking for immigration control. We think it appropriate to indicate to you some of our main areas of concern as you take up office.

After many years of bearing the brunt of politically correct notions on immigration, we now find ourselves at one with the opinions of the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern who has said that Ireland cannot continue to accept the levels of immigration that it has recently seen or go beyond the 10% level that the foreign population has reached. (We refer to his remarks on Today FM on April 23rd which we have publicised on our website). At our last AGM in October 2006 we too reached the conclusion that the level of 10% should be the cut-off point beyond which Ireland should not go.

To achieve this limit will require great efforts on the part of your department. It will also require joined-up government as other departments like Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Education and Science are major drivers of immigration.

We are extremely disappointed at the shockingly low levels of deportation which some years ago were almost 600 per annum (in itself risibly low) and have fallen to 300 or so per annum. This is in spite of our now being in a position to deport illegals who have had children here.

The discrepancy between the recent census figures, e.g. 11,161 Chinese-born or 16,533 of Chinese ethnicity and all reasonable estimates, e.g. 100,000 or so in the case of Chinese, is glaring and is a certain indicator of high levels of illegal presence.

It would appear that deportations, such as they are, are almost entirely of failed asylum-seekers and that the attempt to detect and deport other illegal immigrants is negligible.

There is strong anecdotal evidence which has been confirmed previously by the GNIB, that the border with Northern Ireland is a major crossing-point for illegals.

We have already made our submission to the previous minister on the upcoming Bill on Immigration, Residence and Protection and we trust that you will not water down the control elements of that Bill.

As a movement with almost 10 years experience of monitoring immigration into Ireland and the effects it is having on our society, we would appreciate it if you would include us in consultations when making decisions or drawing up policy.

We congratulate you on being appointed Minister for Justice and wish you every success in the office.

Yours sincerely,
GERARD KINNEAVY, Secretary.
Submission for Garda Policing Plan 2008

21 August 2007

ICP wishes to make the following suggestions in relation to the Garda Policing Plan 2008.

We do not have confidence that, particularly outside of the Dublin area, where the GNIB itself is responsible, the local Gardaí are sufficiently proactive in determining if illegals are resident in their area or if business permissions have been obtained by non-EEA nationals who have set up business in their area.

We would wish to see the Garda Policing Plan 2008 include a proactive effort by registration officers to ensure that those foreign nationals who must register do so and have the necessary business permission.

Currently if someone sets up a Chinese / Indian / Pakistani eatery or any other type of business is any check made?

Given the estimate of up to 100,000 Chinese in the country, a huge proportion must be illegal. The number of other Asians seems to be also increasing apace.

We are also very troubled about the entry of illegals across the border. We have anecdotal evidence of Chinese offering extra payment to taxi drivers to have them remove the taxi sign from the roof of the vehicle as taxis were more likely to be investigated than private cars.

This constitutes smuggling illegals and a prosecution of such a case under the Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000 would be a worthwhile deterrent.

We continue to be dismayed at the very high number of people who “go missing” after deportation orders are made against them.

Submission on Education for Sustainable Development

The public was asked for submissions on ESD a few months ago. For quite some time, as you will have seen in recent newsletters, ICP has been pushing for sustainable development or to put it another way, for optimum growth as opposed to maximum growth.

We made a submission which largely consisted of extracts from our newsletters on this topic and our submission concluded as follows:-

We would suggest that the trade union movement, which has already shown some understanding of this (e.g. David Begg of ICTU) is a grouping which is very suitable for promoting these ideas of sustainability in trade union arenas and through its media contacts. It will often have speakers at conferences and will have various media opportunities. The media is crucial to undermining the idea of “growth for growth’s sake”. It has taken such hold that one risks being seen as a flat-earther to question it. All the more credit to the people cited above.

Third level business schools and courses should be encouraged to distinguish between overall GNP and income per capita as goals but who is to promote it there? One body which might be expected to raise the issue in its courses is the Institute for Public Administration.

A special effort should be made to influence courses / training in human resources. Recruitment agencies staying with comfortable, convenient channels of migrant labour are particularly problematic. Again from Managing Migration in Ireland 2006:

“The experience of other immigration countries has shown that under employer-led immigration policies, such as Ireland's before April 2003, private recruitment/employment agencies can become a powerful and often driving force in determining the size and composition of labour immigration”.

Three of the key themes of ESD deserve attention:

Poverty Alleviation

It is generally accepted that the best way out of poverty is through employment. A too-easily available pool of migrant workers may lead to the exclusion of indigenous workers who are unemployed, in need of retraining etc. Note the following quotes from two reports on migration published by NESC in September 2006.

“In other cases, an unregulated private recruitment industry can generate a dependence on particular employment channels for migrant workers, i.e., the ready supply of cheap workers provided by recruitment agencies creates a demand for such workers by employers whose business practices gradually become dependent on migrant workers that are available at very short notice”. (Managing Migration in Ireland).

“Another concern was the danger that the ready availability of migrants could reduce pressure to raise the skills of the resident population and tackle the obstacles to the participation of Ireland's most marginalised citizens, including welfare-to-work disincentives”. (Migration Policy).

Gender Equity

Women are another group more likely to be returning to work after time out for child-rearing or to require flexible or part-time working for the same reasons. A too-easily available pool of migrant workers will discourage employers from accommodating such people.

Natural Resource Management

Recent worries about water supplies and the possibility of having to bring water supplies from the Shannon to the east coast raise questions of the advisability of rampant population growth. Our dependence on fuels from abroad raises similar concerns.
