



THE COUNTESS

Women's Coalition on Immigration

Through a safeguarding lens, darkly:
Thematic report on International Protection
provision in Ireland

Women’s Coalition on Immigration

Through a Safeguarding Lens, Darkly: A Thematic Report on International Protection Policy in Ireland.

Barbara McCarthy and Laoise de Brún BL

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Rationale for the report	3
3. Terminology	5
4. Phenomenon	6
5. Causes and consequences	6
6. Sexual violence correlation: The impact on women and children	7
7. International Human Rights Legislative Framework	11
8. Policy recommendations	12
9. Conclusion	13
10. References	15
11. Appendix 1: The Danish Model	18

1. Introduction

Over the past decade, Ireland has undergone a significant demographic transition, including a rise in asylum applications and refugees. The dispersal of applicants across towns and suburban areas has generated discussion concerning public safety, social integration, and governance structures. In 2024, the International Protection Office (IPO) recorded approximately 18,651 new applications (McGee, H 2025). This represents a sixfold increase in the number of applicants compared to the average annual figures prior to Covid.

The **Women's Coalition on Immigration** is a non-partisan group of Irish women who examine Ireland's asylum and migration framework through the lens of women's safety and public accountability. The Coalition was formed in response to heightened public interest in Ireland's migration landscape and the limited availability of transparent, disaggregated data for policy analysis. Through promoting improved data collection and publication, the Coalition is calling for a migration legislative framework that is transparent, compliant with legal standards, and responsive to both community needs and individual rights.

Recent Shifts in Domestic Policy

The newly appointed Minister for Justice Jim O' Callaghan, whose department is responsible for the implementation of the EU Migration pact, has recently toughened the rules on immigration citing concerns around population growth and accommodation costs, which ran to over €1 billion last year with the 2025 budget for accommodation at €1.2 billion (gov.ie).

- The Minister has pointed out in recent media interviews that Ireland's population is growing at a rate seven times faster than the European average. (Leahy P. 2025).
- The government has proposed giving itself the power to revoke refugee or protection status for persons convicted of serious criminal offences or deemed a threat to national security.
- Minister O'Callaghan outlined the package of measures which have received Government approval, including a rule that those living in international protection accommodation should pay a contribution of up to 39.6 per cent of their income towards accommodation. *"If you're earning money through work, you don't have to live in IPAS accommodation."* (Irish Times, November 2025)

2. Rationale for the Report

Policy Lacuna: The Government has yet to officially link immigration to an increase in crime and or indeed to sexual violence. In fact there would appear to be a policy of downplaying this link evident in parliamentary debate and media reporting. Factual analysis must trump political correctness lest public trust in our institutions be eroded. This was a key finding of the Louise Casey report into grooming gangs in the UK (Casey, 2024).

1. Data from several EU member states, including Italy, Finland, Sweden,

Germany, Austria, and Denmark, indicate that foreign-born individuals or those with migrant backgrounds are overrepresented in sexual offending statistics (BKA, 2022) (BRA 2020). Across Europe, foreign nationals are on average three to four times more likely to be represented in these statistics compared to native men, with rates rising exponentially for specific countries of origin and specific offences.

2. Recent cases have highlighted shortcomings in the oversight of Ireland's asylum system. Convicted rapist Randi Gladstone, who had been deported from our neighbouring jurisdiction, was able to enter Ireland and within two weeks brutally rape an 18-year-old, illustrating a lack of screening in the system (O'Donoghue N, 2025). These incidents underscore the need for more rigorous vetting and monitoring within the international protection framework. International Protection Applicants are screened pursuant to the Dublin Protocol but they are not screened against European crime databases.
3. As of early 2025, approximately 33,800 individuals are accommodated in Ireland's International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) centres. These centres provide housing, meals, and financial support while asylum applications are processed (Government of Ireland, 2025). However, many residents – particularly young men – are housed together, often separated from family and community support, with limited access to employment, education, or purposeful activity during the often-prolonged claims process (ESRI, 2024). Research indicates that prolonged inactivity and social isolation in such environments can exacerbate mental health challenges, increase feelings of frustration, and potentially contribute to tensions within accommodation centres (Irish Times, 2025; ESRI, 2024).

These conditions not only affect residents' well-being but can also strain social cohesion, complicate integration efforts, and increase the risk of behavioural issues or conflict among young men who lack structured daily routines.

It is incumbent on policymakers to address the heightened risk to women and children this unscreened male population represents which has been well documented in other member states. We will provide a framework for a conversation on this precise issue – the threat to women and children – and offer pragmatic policy alternatives.

In the absence of the publication of Irish data this report draws on comparative European data from official domestic Member State bodies to examine potential patterns of criminal offending affecting women in host countries. This report presents comparative findings and suggests evidence-informed recommendations derived from European practice, identifying potential risk factors, data gaps, and policy weaknesses relevant to the Irish context. The report therefore examines the intersection of migration governance, accommodation systems, and women's safety, highlighting areas where enhanced data collection, institutional transparency, and targeted policy intervention are necessary to support both protection and integration.

3. Terminology

Ireland's asylum system is centred on three institutions: the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT), which hears appeals against negative decisions; and the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), which provides housing and support through the Direct Provision system and temporary protection schemes. Understanding IPAS is particularly important for assessing women's safety, as accommodation centres concentrate large numbers of asylum seekers, creating contexts where oversight, protection, and support services are critical. These institutions operate under domestic legislation and international obligations from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) providing judicial oversight.

Definitions

Asylum Seeker: This is the vernacular for a person who has applied for international protection but whose case has not yet been decided. They are **not refugees** until and unless their application is approved.

Designated safe country: Is a country the EU or a member state classifies as generally safe, meaning asylum claims from its citizens are fast-tracked because they are *not usually* at risk of persecution.

ECHR: European Convention on Human Rights

ECtHR: European Court of Human Rights

IPO: International Protection Office on Mount Street, which processes International Protection applications

IPAS: International Protection Accommodation Service

IPAT: International Protection Appeals Tribunal

MENAP: Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

MVAWG: Male Violence Against Women and Girls. This is more accurate than the commonly used 'gender-based violence' which obfuscates who the perpetrators and victims are.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation. An independent, non-profit group **operating separately from government** and works to address social, humanitarian, environmental, or community issues, often through advocacy, services, or fundraising. Due to the nature of their funding and the ideological agendas promoted, some NGOs operate as a de facto arm of Government.

Refugee: A person whose asylum claim has been accepted under the criteria of the **1951 Refugee Convention or EU law**. Refugees have legal protection and long-term residency rights.

Undocumented: It is common practice for some international protection applicants to destroy their passport ahead of claiming asylum in Mount Street, having come to Ireland from the UK. This cohort is undocumented. At least 80% arrive in this manner from the UK.

Unvetted: This term is used widely in dissenting discourse. The dictionary definition is someone *who has not undergone a process of evaluation, scrutiny, or verification* which would align with the process in place which scrutinises applicants pursuant to the Dublin Convention but not, in fact, their past criminal record.

4. Phenomenon

Ireland is undergoing its most significant demographic shift in modern history. Between 2023 and 2024, the population rose by 98,700 — reaching about 5.38 million — the largest 12-month increase in over 15 years. (CSO) As of 2024, nearly 23.3% of the population was foreign-born. (OECD 2025) In that same year, first-time asylum applications reportedly reached about 18,000, reflecting a sharp upward trend. (OECD 2025). These developments mark the most profound sociological transformation since Independence (McCrea R. 2024). Policymakers need to address this seismic shift as it affects all stakeholders including women and children

Breakdown of Asylum Applications

The top ten countries of origin for asylum applications to Ireland in 2025 were: Nigeria; Pakistan; Somalia; Afghanistan; Georgia; Bangladesh; Jordan; India; Algeria; South Africa. The Irish government's official list of designated "safe countries of origin" includes Algeria, Georgia, India and South Africa. Applications from nationals of these countries are processed on an accelerated basis, as the Irish Minister for Justice has determined there is generally and consistently no persecution, torture, or threat of violence from armed conflict. (Dept of Justice 2025).

5. Causes and Consequences

In Ireland, the social and infrastructural consequences of a large increase in international protection applications over recent years are becoming increasingly visible. According to recent government and homelessness-sector data, around half of those in emergency accommodation are non-nationals (Irish Times, 2025a), and the number of unaccompanied minors under the care of Tusla has risen sharply (Irish Times, 2025b; Asylum Information Database, 2024), now totalling 50% according to CEO Kate Duggan, in her recent oral testimony before an Oireachtas Subcommittee. (Oireachtas TV).

This rapid demographic change presents a challenge for many communities, namely, how to integrate large numbers of new arrivals without undermining social trust, infrastructure, or public services. The swift expansion of asylum-seeker and emergency accommodation facilities has reshaped daily life in many towns and villages. Public debate has grown increasingly polarised: human-rights groups and NGOs emphasise Ireland's international obligations towards people fleeing conflict and persecution, while many local groups are concerned that women and girls are being put at risk. Residents argue that the State has imposed a disproportionate burden on housing, education, healthcare, and social services without adequate planning or safeguarding measures in place.

Healthcare services have come under particular strain. For example, the Mater Hospital Casualty Department has recorded a 68% increase in knife-related injuries over the past five years, prompting calls from ER doctors for more measures to tackle the issue (Irish Times, 2024). The Court Service has also seen soaring costs

for translation and interpreting services from €103,000 in 2000 to €5 million in 2025 (Foxe K, 2025). In public health, the majority of HIV diagnoses in the past year (74%) were among people born outside Ireland; of these, 39% were likely acquired abroad, 30% in Ireland, while the origin was unknown for the remaining 31% (McHale M, 2025).

These trends underscore the multifaceted impact of rapid immigration on Irish society and the pressing need for coordinated planning across healthcare, social services, integration and safeguarding policies.

6. Sexual Violence Correlation: The Impact on Women and Children

The recent sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl near Citywest Hotel in Dublin on 20 October 2025 prompted a significant public reaction across Ireland. The suspect, a 26-year-old male (initially reported as being in his thirties), has been charged with sexual assault under Section 2 of the Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Act and required an Arabic translator in Court (Tuite T. 2025). This incident occurred against a broader backdrop of rising sexual offence cases entering the Irish courts. According to the Courts Service 2024 Annual Report, the number of new sexual offence cases – including rape, attempted rape, and related offences – increased by 13.67% compared with 2023. These figures represent judicial case filings rather than Garda or CSI crime counts (Irish Times, 2025, Courts Service 2025).

Key Statistics:

- **Increase in Sexual Offence Cases**
The Courts Service 2024 Annual Report shows that new sexual offence cases – including rape, attempted rape, and related offences – **increased by 13.67%** compared with 2023 (Irish Times, 2025, Courts Service 2025).
- **Long-term Rise in Violence Against Women**
Incidents of violence against women have reached a 50-year high (English E. 2025).
- Dublin Rape Crisis Centre dealt with 22,700 calls to its 24-hour helpline last year, an increase of 22% increase.
- **Public Perceptions of Safety.** According to a Sunday Independent / Ireland Thinks poll, **36%** of respondents believe their community is becoming “less safe,” and **17%** believe it is becoming “much less safe,” with a majority reporting no visible increase in Garda presence.

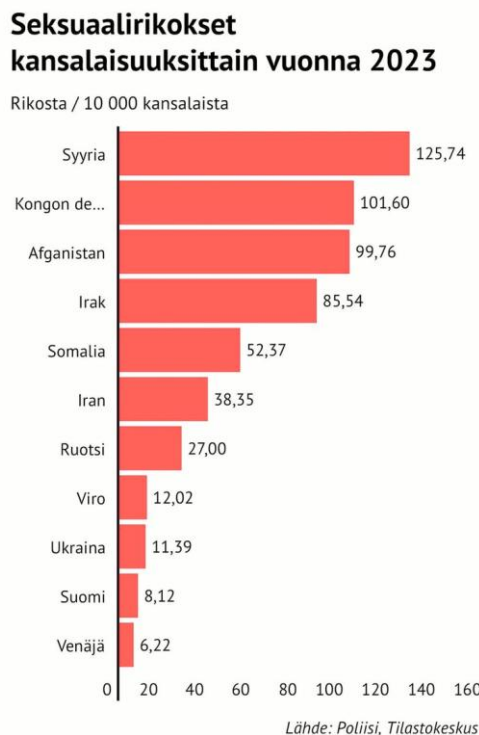
EU Member State Data Sets

Across Europe, statistics highlight an overrepresentation of non-nationals in those jurisdictions where data is released on the ethnicity and country of origin of sexual offenders, namely Germany, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Denmark. Foreign males are overrepresented among suspects and convictions for sexual offences, including rape and sexual abuse of children. This overrepresentation is calculated as the rate of

suspicion or conviction per 1,000 population, adjusted for demographic factors like age and sex where possible. Data is based on police or official state records of offences and provides a reliable indicator of offending patterns. These patterns hold across reports, with underreporting of sexual violence potentially affecting raw numbers but not the relative overrepresentation.

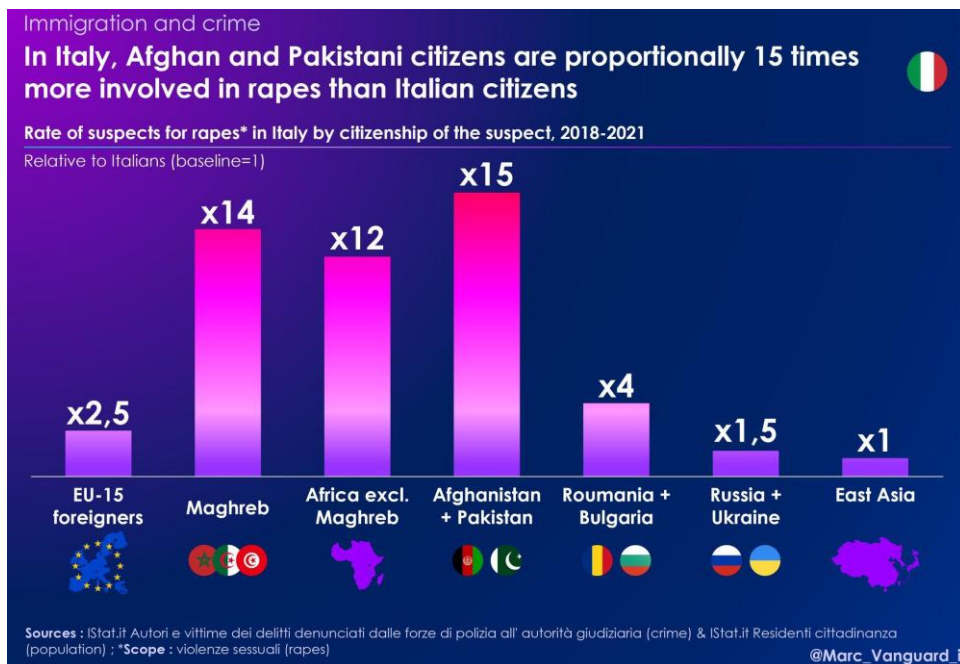
Official data from Germany: German official statistics from the Federal Kriminal Police Office (BKA) via the Police Crime Statistics show non-nationals are overrepresented as suspects in sexual offences relative to the population share of 14%. Non-national overrepresentation has been consistent at $\times 2.5$, with peaks among specific groups such as North Africans and Afghans $\times 20$.

Official data from Denmark: Data from the Ministry of Justice consistently show that non-Western immigrants and their descendants are overrepresented in convictions for sexual offences relative to their share of the population. Non-Western immigrants-descendants were convicted in 32.4% of rapes. This is an overrepresentation factor $\times 3.5$.



*Official Danish police statistics, 2023 depicting sexual crimes per 10,000 citizens.

Italy: In Italy, Afghan and Pakistani citizens are 15 times more involved in rapes than Italian citizens.



Rate of suspects for rapes in Italy by citizenship of the suspect between 2018 and 2021.

Sweden (Peer Reviewed Study): A 21-year Swedish longitudinal study found that immigrants were up to 3–6 times more likely to be convicted of rape and it mattered whether they arrived in Sweden before or after age 15. Overrepresentation in stranger rape cases was stark at 75-80% (Sundquist).

Official Data from Finland: Finland's official crime statistics, published by Statistics Finland (Tilastokeskus) and the National Police Board, consistently show that foreign-born individuals (who make up about 8–9% of the population) are over-represented in sexual offending data.

- **Key Findings:**

- Iraqi men were suspected of sexual offenses **12.8 times more often** than Finnish men
- Foreign-born individuals (7% of population) accounted for **27% of all rape suspects** and **15% of child sexual abuse suspects** over the 2011–2020 period.
- In 2020: **Nearly 38% of rape suspects** were foreign-born.
- Current statistics (2024):
 - Iraqis ~0.805 (×15 Finnish rate of 0.051)
 - Afghans ~0.73 (×14)
 - Somalis ~0.307 (×6)
 -

Official data from Austria: Austria's Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium für Inneres, BMI) publishes annual police crime statistics (Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik, PKS), which include breakdowns by citizenship for suspects. Adjusted for population share (foreign ~18% in 2023), yielding ×3 rate for sexual offenses overall; higher up to ×10 for young Syrian males.

Emergent trends in subcategories of sexual offences across Europe

1. Street or stranger rape as opposed to 'date rape'.

According to media reports of data from Paris Police Headquarters called the Paris Police Prefecture from April 2024, 77% of individuals arrested for solved street-rape cases in Paris in 2023 were foreign nationals. (CF. Paris Police data reported in *The European Conservative*, 2024). The percentage of women who said that they had experienced non-partner violence was higher in Finland (47%), Sweden (42%), Denmark (38%), the Netherlands (36%). In contrast, Bulgaria (6%), Poland (8%) and Czechia (10%) registered the lowest percentages, where a different approach to immigration is taken (Eurostat).

2. Group sexual offending

Subtype: opportunistic

On New Year's Eve 2015–2016, over 700 women in Cologne, Germany, reported being sexually harassed, groped, or assaulted in and around the main railway station (Hauptbahnhof) and the plaza near the cathedral, with reports of between 9 and 100 North African men encircling women and sexually assaulting them. The attacks occurred in large, chaotic crowds during the celebrations ([Euronews, 2016](#), [Guardian 2016](#)).

Recorded cases of '*gemeinschaftliche Vergewaltigung* (gang rape)' in Germany are tracked as a specific sub-category of sexual offences under s.177 of the German Criminal Code, which classifies incidents involving multiple perpetrators acting together. According to the *Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik* (PKS) 2024 – Germany's official annual police crime statistics – approximately 788 such offences are recorded each year, averaging around two per day. PKS data also show that 51% of suspects in these cases are non-German nationals, despite non-nationals representing roughly 15% of the resident population.

In November 2025, up to five migrants smashed into a couple's car, pinning down the boyfriend and forcing him to watch as they gang raped his 18-year-old girlfriend near Tor Tre Teoste, eastern Rome REF.

3. Group sexual offending

Subtype: organised

The organised use of grooming or Loverboy tactics by organised criminal networks or clans is occurring across Europe. The Casey Audit reviewed over 500 cases across England and Wales and found preparators operated in networks using grooming tactics of gifts, drugs, and coercion targeting vulnerable underclass white girls, most of whom were known to social workers (Casey L 2025, BBC 2025). The National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, June 16, 2025, led by Baroness Louise Casey of Blackstock, criticised the repression of ethnicity data which was used to downplay patterns which she concluded resulted in eroded public trust. Her report demanded the mandatory recording of ethnicity and nationality and a cultural shift to encourage open discussion of ethnicity without fear of holding institutional failure to account (Casey L 2025).

7. International Human Rights Legislative Framework

Emphasis has been focused on vindicating the rights of immigrants, even those who have been convicted of rape, and must shift to vindicating the rights of women and children and protecting their rights.

While much attention focuses on the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers, host states also carry positive obligations to protect the rights and safety of host-community women and girls. Women in host societies are entitled to protection from violence, equality, participation, and access to remedies. The right to personal security and freedom from violence, enshrined in the ECHR (Arts 2, 3) and Istanbul Convention (Art 5), may be infringed if states fail to prevent foreseeable harm from third parties, including MVAWG. Equality and non-discrimination obligations under CEDAW, the ECHR (Art 14), and the EU Charter (Arts 21, 23) require that women are not treated less favourably in access to protection or justice due to the status of the perpetrator. Women's freedom of expression (ECHR Art 10) must be safeguarded so that they can voice concerns about public safety without fear of stigmatisation. Finally, the right to an effective remedy (ECHR Art 13; EU Charter Art 47) obliges the state to investigate, prosecute, and provide redress for acts of violence, ensuring accountability and systemic safeguards.

Human Rights Legislative Framework Applied to Ireland

Ireland's obligations under the ECHR, Istanbul Convention, CEDAW, and domestic law require that host-community women's safety be actively protected within the context of mass migration. While migration policies focus on the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees, the state must also fulfil its positive duties to prevent, investigate, and respond to violence against women in the host population. Failures to maintain adequate safeguards in public spaces, residential care, or integration programmes could breach due-diligence obligations. The proportionality principle under EU and ECHR law demands a balance between compassion for migrants and protection of host-community rights, ensuring that security, equality, and freedom from harm are not compromised. Recent ECtHR case-law (e.g., *N.T. v Cyprus*, 2025) highlights that states may be liable for insufficient protection of women from foreseeable violence, reinforcing the need for robust Irish mechanisms. To ensure compliance with international and European human rights obligations, Ireland should implement gender-sensitive risk assessments in migration, housing, and integration policies; maintain specialist services for women, including shelters and sexual-violence units; and provide transparent, disaggregated reporting on offences and protective measures. All allegations of violence, regardless of perpetrator origin, must be investigated and prosecuted promptly, with victims afforded effective remedies in line with CEDAW, Istanbul Convention, and ECHR standards. Public-order and integration policies should be regularly reviewed to ensure proportionality, and host-community women should have meaningful participation in policy development to protect their rights to safety, expression, and equality.

8. Policy Recommendations

Immediate:

- As many mechanisms of the Danish Model as possible to be implemented within the framework of the EU Migration Pact (see Appendix 1).
- Immediate release of crime statistics on origin and ethnicity; transparency and accountability across all agencies and apparatus from An Garda Síochána, the DPP, IPS, Judiciary and Media.
- Buffer zones at schools and community centres and outside IPAS to mitigate real safeguarding flaws in the current policy.
- **Integrate or leave.** Define clear integration requirements: respect for women's rights, secular law, LGBT rights, and freedom of expression. Address cultural incompatibilities.
- Reform of welfare and incentive structures. Limit non-essential welfare payments until legal protection status is granted or employment begins; avoid promotional messaging abroad portraying Ireland as a high-benefit destination.
- Independent age verification in line with safeguarding and best practice.
- Mandatory health and background check. Full health screenings and criminal background checks before placing individuals into communities, cross-referencing with international security databases.

Medium Term:

- The end of Ireland as an Appellate Court for international Protection. No processing of applicants with European passports.
- Deport first, Appeal later from outside the Jurisdiction. This is the Danish Model and has been held up by the ECtHR.
- Media accountability. Require the media to present both sides of the debate; balanced immigration coverage without dismissing or labelling as 'far-right', legitimate safety concerns.
- Clear factual reporting of ethnicity and country of origin in the media is essential lest public confidence in institutions erodes as outlined in the Casey report. Contributors who work for pro-immigration NGOs must be described as such.
- We recommend the publication of all NGO funding related to immigration. Under the Danish model, all NGOs who pushed open-border migration had their funding cut.

Medium to Long Term:

- **Risk-assessment & victim-protection (CEDAW GR 35):** Women's safety must be factored into all social and migration policy and IPAS Centres in residential areas wound down.
- **Equality mainstreaming (CFR Art. 23):** Impact on women should be assessed in every EU-level measure concerning migration, integration, and housing due to the evidence of an increase in sexual violence.

- **Clear exit strategy & deportation enforcement.** Establish timelines for rejected applicants to leave and enforce deportations promptly. Only one in five failed applicants are physically deported in the current system.
- **Public-security proportionality test:** Policies must not be inhumane but equally they must not neglect the duty of the State duty to safeguard women's rights.
- **Phase out IPAS in residential areas** and replace with reception centres at our ports of entry

Apply pressure to revise the refugee convention, which was drafted before the globalisation of economic migration and was not intended to be used by this cohort, 80% of whom are economic migrants.

8. Conclusions

Globally and domestically we have seen recent dramatic shifts in immigration policy and thinking. The US State Department now views mass immigration as “an existential threat to Western Civilisation”, a “human rights concern” and has ordered its embassies to monitor the impacts on host country populations, in particular the heightened risk and incidents of sexual offences.

“Just to go through a couple of those concerns, the foremost of these is sexual assault. If you look at Europe, for example, and various countries in Europe, there are concerning increases that we’re seeing in sexual assaults and violent sexual aggravated attacks, particularly on women and young girls, by people of a migration background, particularly people of extremist Islamic background as well, everything from violent rape gangs and organized rape gangs in the United Kingdom to targeting of young girls in other countries. We also see instances of human trafficking, antisemitic and anti-Christian attacks, largely by people of radical Islamic backgrounds.”

US State Department Official Briefing for Foreign Press on 21 November 2025.

The lack of disaggregated crime and demographic data, combined with overstretched accommodation and integration systems, hinders transparent assessment of safety risks and the effectiveness of protective measures. Comparative evidence from other European countries suggests that women and children's safety is disproportionately affected in contexts of rapid immigration and communal accommodation in residential areas. Ireland's proportionality obligations under EU and International human rights law require balancing the protection of migrants' rights with the positive duty to safeguard host-community women and children, ensuring that neither security nor equality is compromised. To uphold these obligations, Ireland must release disaggregated sexual offending data, implement risk assessments of IPAS centres, strengthen safeguarding frameworks for women and children, ensure transparency in reporting and NGO operations, enforce mandatory health and background checks, and maintain accountability in immigration and integration policy. Clear procedures for rejected applicants, integration codes of conduct, and open public reporting are essential to maintain public trust, social cohesion, and the fundamental right of women and girls to live free from violence. Protecting host-community women is not secondary to migrant

protection; it is a core human rights responsibility that the state must uphold in all circumstances.

References:

Al Jazeera, 2025. Ireland tightens immigration rules to check population growth. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/11/26/ireland-tightens-immigration-rules-to-check-population-growth>

BBC News (2025) 'Grooming gangs exploited children using "boyfriend model", Casey report finds', *BBC News*, 16 June. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clnyyqdnrdo> (Accessed: 30 November 2025).

BRÅ – Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (2020) *Crime among people born in Sweden and abroad*. Stockholm: Brå.

Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) (2022) *Bundeslagebild Kriminalität im Kontext der Zuwanderung*. Wiesbaden: BKA.

Casey, L. (2025) *National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*. London: UK Home Office. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-audit-on-group-based-child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse> (Accessed: 30 November 2025).

Central Statistics Office (2025) Summary of key statistics CSO, *Population and Migration Estimates, April 2025*, CSO.

Connolly, K. 2016; Cologne inquiry into coordinated NYE sex attacks, *The Guardian*. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/05/germany-crisis-cologne-new-years-eve-sex-attacks>.

Courts Service (2025) *Courts Service Annual Report 2024*. Dublin: Courts Service. Available via data.gov.ie. [Data.gov.ie+1](https://data.gov.ie)

"Courts Service deals with rise in new sexual offences cases" (2025) *Ireland Live / Laois Nationalist*, 7 July.

Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (2025) *International Protection in Numbers: Top 10 applicants by nationality — 2023*. Available at: gov.ie

Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (2023/2024) 'Safe Countries and International Protection'. Available at: gov.ie

English E. 2025, *Irish Examiner*; Domestic violence now 'endemic', says Women's Aid as abuse reports hit 50-year high.

Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) (2024) *Asylum seekers and integration in Ireland: living conditions and social outcomes*. Dublin: ESRI. Available at: <https://www.esri.ie/publications/asylum-seekers-and-integration-in-ireland-2024>

The European Conservative. 2024. *Foreigners Committed 77% of Solved Rape Cases in Paris in 2023*.

Euronews (2016) 'New Year's Eve attacks on women in Cologne stun Germany',

Euronews, 5 January. Available at: <https://www.euronews.com/2016/01/05/new-year-s-eve-attacks-on-women-in-cologne-stun-germany>

ENM, 2025, European Migration Network (2025) *EU Asylum and Migration Legislation and Ireland's Participation*. EMN. Available at: <https://emn.ie/legislation/eu-asylum-and-migration-legislation-and-irelands-participation/>

European Union Agency for Asylum (2025) *2025 Asylum Overview — Ireland*, EUAA.

Gilmartin M, Murphy C, 2024, A Small Country with a Huge Diaspora, Ireland Navigates Its New Status as an Immigration hub June 5, 2024.

Foxe K. 2025. Irish Examiner: The Court Service has also seen soaring costs for translation and interpreting services, rising from €103,000 in 2000 to €5 million in 2025.

Government of Ireland (2025) *Minister O'Callaghan receives government approval for the EU Asylum & Migration Pact National Implementation Plan*, 25 March.

Government of Ireland (2025) *Migration — the facts*, Department of Justice, Home Affairs & Migration.

Immigrant Background and Rape Conviction: a 21 Year Follow-up Study in Sweden Khoshnood, Sundquist, Sundquist. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Jan 6 2025, ISSN 0886-2605

Leahy, P. (2025) 'Jim O'Callaghan says new migration restrictions aimed at cutting Ireland's population growth rate',

The Irish Times, 26 November Interpreters had been provided in 76 different languages last year

McHale M, 2025, IMT (Irish Medical Times). First-time HIV diagnoses return to pre-pandemic levels, with 239 new cases recorded in 2024.

McCrea R; Irish Times Podcast on Immigration.

McGee H. (2025) Ireland Saw record number of asylum applicants in 2024 <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/social-affairs/2025/01/27/ireland-saw-record-number-of-asylum-applicants-in-2024/>

Oireachtas TV: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2025) *International Migration Outlook 2025: Ireland*, OECD.

O'Donoghue, N 2025 'Rapist, 41, gets further jail time after failing to inform authorities he was sex offender', *Kildare Nationalist*, 12 July. Available at: <https://www.kildare-nationalist.ie/news/rapist-41-gets-further-jail-time-after-failing-to->

inform-authorities-he-was-sex-offender_arid-62398.html

Tuite, T, 2025; The Journal. Man accused of sexual assault on 10-year-old girl in west Dublin fit to be tried. Article: <https://www.thejournal.ie/man-accused-of-sexual-assault-on-10-year-old-girl-in-west-dublin-fit-to-be-tried-6879506-Nov2025/>

The Irish Times (2025) 'Unvetted staff and overcrowding in asylum-seeker accommodation report finds', *The Irish Times*, 5 March. Available at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/social-affairs/2025/03/05/unvetted-staff-and-overcrowding-in-asylum-seeker-accommodation-report-finds/>

The Irish Times (2025) 'Record numbers in asylum accommodation as IPAS houses 33,800 residents', *The Irish Times*, 15 January. Available at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/record-numbers-in-asylum-accommodation-ipas-33-800-2025/>

The Irish Times (2025) 'Man accused of sex assault of girl (10) near Citywest "fit to be tried"', *The Irish Times*, 19 November. Available at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2025/11/19/man-accused-of-sex-assault-of-girl-10-near-citywest-fit-to-be-tried/> The Irish Times

UK Government (2025) *National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Terms of Reference*. London: Home Office. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-audit-on-group-based-child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-terms-of-reference> (Accessed: 30 November 2025).

Appendix 1: The Danish Model

The "Danish model" refers to Denmark's highly restrictive immigration and asylum system, pioneered under Social Democrat Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen since 2019. It is unique in Europe for being driven by a centre-left government, not the far-right, and has bipartisan support. The goal: deter arrivals, prioritise rapid return over integration, and protect the welfare state by limiting "non-Western" immigration.

Temporary protection only: Asylum is granted for 1–2 years max, then reviewed. No automatic path to permanent residency or citizenship.

Focus on return, not integration: Refugees are expected to go home as soon as their country is "safe" (e.g., Denmark revoked Syrian permits in 2021, calling Damascus safe).

Zero spontaneous asylum goal: Frederiksen openly wants "zero" asylum seekers arriving uninvited.

Key Policies

1. Deterrence tactics

Ads in Arabic/African media warning: "Denmark is NOT welcoming – strict rules, low benefits, fast deportation."

Confiscate valuables worth >€1,340 to cover asylum costs (the "jewellery law").

2. Tough family reunification

"24-year rule": Spouses must both be 24+, prove strong Danish ties, and have full-time jobs.

3-year waiting period for refugees.

3. Welfare & work requirements

Immigrants on benefits must work 37 hours/week (e.g., beach cleaning) or lose aid.

Lower benefits for non-EU migrants.

4. Ghetto laws (anti-parallel societies)

Neighbourhoods >50% "non-Western" immigrants labelled "ghettos". Force evictions, demolish buildings, disperse residents.

From age 1, "non-Western" children must attend 25 hours/week Danish values classes (Christmas, Easter, language) or parents lose child benefits.

5. Deportation

€20,000 cash bonus for voluntary return + free flight.

Detention centres for rejected claimants; publish weekly deportation stats.

Tried (but paused) Rwanda outsourcing plan.

6. Externalisation push

Denmark leads 15 EU countries calling for "return hubs" in Africa (e.g. Kosovo, Tunisia) to process asylum outside Europe.

Results (as of Nov 2025)

Asylum applications: ~2,100 in 2023 – lowest in 40 years (down from 21,000 in 2015). Net migration from non-Western countries: negative in some years. Far-right Danish People's Party collapsed from 21% to ~2%.

Influence across Europe.

Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, UK Labour – all now copying elements. In 2025 Denmark holds the EU presidency and is pushing the model EU-wide.

Women's Coalition on Immigration

Laoise.debrun@lawlibrary.ie