



**ombudsman
do leanaí
for children**

Micheál Carrigy TD,
Chairperson
Joint Committee on Housing,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th May 2025

Re: Request for Urgent Report on Addressing Child and Family Homelessness

Dear Deputy Carrigy,

I am writing to you in your role as Chairperson of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing to request that one of the first actions of the new Committee includes a focus on child and family homelessness, and specifically on homeless prevention for children.

The Ombudsman for Children's Office is making this collective request in the best interests of children with the support of the following organisations who working directly with families and children experiencing homelessness:

- Focus Ireland
- Crosscare
- Simon Communities of Ireland
- SVP – Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Threshold
- Respond
- Depaul Ireland
- Clúid Housing

We are asking the Joint Committee on Housing to prioritise child homelessness and to provide robust oversight in relation to Ireland's commitment under the Lisbon Declaration to end child homelessness by 2030. We are deeply alarmed by Ireland's worsening homelessness crisis, highlighted by a record-breaking 4,675 children in emergency accommodation in the latest figures released in March 2025—this is a 11% increase since March 2024.

I have also written to the Minister for Housing asking him to develop a new child and family homelessness strategy without delay and to encourage that the work of the Committee feeds into its development.

The Joint Committee on Housing, Planning & Local Government's 2019 Report on Family and Child Homelessness provided comprehensive recommendations, but the majority are not implemented, despite the severity of the situation. The continued rise in family homelessness underscores the urgent need to revisit these outstanding measures and conduct a fresh analysis of systemic failures. We therefore formally urge the Housing Committee to prioritise a comprehensive review of child and family homelessness as a matter of urgency.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines children's right to adequate housing under Article 27, obliging Ireland to ensure a standard of living that supports their development. The UN Committee has explicitly called on Ireland to phase out reliance on emergency accommodation and prioritise secure, long-term social housing. Without decisive action, children experiencing homelessness will continue to suffer severe and lasting consequences, including disruptions to their education, health, and overall well-being.

A dedicated review of child and family homelessness by your Committee is crucial to evaluating the effectiveness of existing supports for homeless families. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how our organisations can support the Committee in this critical work.

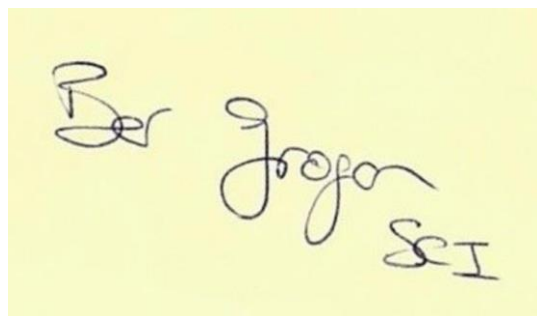
Yours sincerely,



Dr Niall Muldoon
Ombudsman for Children



Louise Bayliss
Head of Social Justice and Policy, The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



Ber Grogan

Executive Director, Simon Communities of Ireland



Andrew Daly

Housing Policy Manager, Clúid Housing



Niamh Randall

Director of Strategy and Public Affairs, Respond



Pat Dennigan's

CEO, Focus Ireland



John-Mark McCafferty
Chief Executive Officer, Threshold



David Carroll
CEO, DEPAUL



Conor Hickey
Chief Executive Officer, Crosscare