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For the attention of: Jean-Claude Vignoli and Kira Youdina
UPR Info, 3 Rue de Varembe, Ground floor, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Re: UPR Follow-up Programme on Recommendations received by Ireland.

Focus of Response: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. No. 98 Consider incorporating the right to health and the right to housing

Ireland continues to experience a serious housing crisis. The most recent national figures reveal 89,872 households on waiting lists for social housing. While this is a decrease of 8,446 households in 2011 it is significantly higher than the 2008 figures of 56,249.

Some of the key factors in the ongoing crisis include:

- Over reliance on the market to provide for the level of housing required.
- Over reliance on the Rental Accommodation Scheme and Social Housing Leasing.
- Failure to provide substantial additional new Local Authority Housing.
- Inadequate resourcing of the Voluntary Housing and Services Sector.
- Small, fragmented and largely unregulated private rented accommodation sector.
- Those on low incomes or social welfare payments unable to compete for good standard accommodation in the private rented market.

These factors are likely to ensure the continuation of this crisis and in the long term result in poor value for money for the tax payer and inadequate security of tenure for families and single person households.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Housing is an integral aspect of economic, social and cultural rights and Cork Social Housing Forum calls on the Irish Government to immediately incorporate the right to housing into this body of human rights.
- ✓ The demand for social housing in Ireland has never been greater, and the challenge faced by both the voluntary and statutory sectors in meeting this need is significant. We therefore recommend that each local authority establish a Strategic Social Housing Forum where the goal would be the delivery of sustainable, integrated social housing as part of the overall housing plan for the local authority area. Membership of these Fora to comprise of Local Authorities, Voluntary Housing providers and other relevant parties to drive implementation and to ensure that it is done in a co-ordinated way.

Statistical Sources: Social Housing Assessment Key Findings - Dec 2013 and Housing Needs Assessment 2011