



Enhancing Stability and Integration through Ireland's 2025 Rent Proposal for Asylum Seekers: A Win-Win Approach

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Abstract: This study examines the New Rent Proposal for asylum seekers by the Irish government in response to long-standing failures in the Irish asylum accommodation system. Hundreds of asylum seekers in Ireland live in cramped and squalid conditions, which frustrate integration and drive down mental-health standards, campaigners claim. The new scheme is an attempt to address these issues by offering refugees looking for work the chance to work in order to pay for their accommodation, in turn promoting self-reliance and reducing the reliance on the state. The importance of stable housing is referred to in the quality of life, school, work and social integration of the residents. The study takes the win-win state-asylum seeker situation and how a higher quality of life, integration, and beneficial impact on the economy and society that arise from it into account. Based on an examination of the design of the proposed policy, anticipated impacts and public response, the paper concludes that if Ireland is to become a more ethical and integrated society, one that prioritises the welfare of asylum-seekers, it must adopt a more humane and inclusive approach to this issue.

Keywords: Asylum seekers, Rent proposal, Ireland, Integration, Housing policy, Social inclusion.

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1.0 Background to the Study

1.0.1 The New Rent Proposal: The Current Situation for Asylum Seekers in Ireland

Between 2000 and 2023, the Irish asylum system has seen challenges. A large number of people escaping war, persecution or abuse come to Ireland in search of a place where they can feel safe and start a new life. However, the existing shelter system has often been insufficient, resulting in crowded conditions without essential services. Asylum seekers are frequently living in direct provision, which can act as a barrier to their integration in Irish society and their ability to contribute to the economy. The Irish Refugee Council (2021) notes that extended stays in emergency accommodation may contribute to negative mental health consequences, further growing the risk that this population is already exposed to.

1.0.2 The Role of Stable Housing in Integration

Decent accommodation is a cornerstone in the effective inclusion of asylum seekers in the host populations. Whether you rent or own, research has shown that adequate housing not only provides security but also enables access to schools, work and social networks (Kalin, 2015). The mental health benefits of a stable

home can be incredibly freeing, allowing people to concentrate on rebuilding new routines and connections in their new community. In addition, stable housing offers asylum seekers a base for building social relationships and for immigrants to integrate into local cultural, educational, and economic life.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

The study explores the potential outcomes and implications of the Irish state's 2025 New Rent Proposal for asylum seekers by examining the role that adequate and secure housing plays in enhancing integration, independence and well-being of asylum seekers and the prospects for the alignment of housing supports with the state's social and economic goals.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of the study is to examine the potential of the Irish Government's rent proposal for income-earning asylum seekers: A Win-Win Approach. The specific objectives consist of:

- to explore the current situation and dilemmas experienced by asylum seekers in Ireland in accessing housing and integrating into their host communities.



- to estimate the likely benefits of the New Rent Proposal for both asylum seekers and the Irish state.
- to examine the role that stable housing plays in relation to psychological health, employment, education, and social cohesion of asylum seekers.
- to make a recommendation for policy based on empirical evidence which are effective.

1.4 Purpose and Significance of the Study

This study hopes to clarify the advantages of the Irish government's new rent proposal for accommodation for asylum seekers planned for implementation in 2025. If we take a look from the points of view of the asylum seeker and the state at the proposal, we can understand the housing building palette better. Furthermore, this piece intends to emphasise the wider societal gain of backing humane and inclusive asylum-seeking policies. In order to accommodate who we become as a society, it is important to engage in a discussion of and support such initiatives while Ireland is grappling with its destination country status regarding asylum seeking, so that we can achieve a just and compassionate society. What is the new rent proposal? To understand the new rent proposal and its implications, we break down the multi-layered pros and cons of it, explain why the Dutch government came up with the idea and make short work of some popular misunderstandings about asylum seekers and the housing system. In way of conclusion, we would like to "illustrate" the argument of the previous section, being aware that our aim is modest: that investment in the well-being of asylum seekers is investment in a healthier, more vibrant Irish society.

1.5 Scope of Study

The analysis has been performed to cover a period of period 2000-2024, concentrating on the implementation and implications of the New Rent Proposal in 2025. It discusses the situation of asylum seekers in Ireland, the government policy response and the public policy as a whole.

1.6 Area of Study

The research is set in the Republic of Ireland, focusing on urban and rural localities where the accommodated and the New Rent Proposal are to be piloted or rolled out.

2.0 Literature Review: Conceptual Framework

It is grounded in the premise that secure and adequate housing is a base from which successful integration, health, and claims to asylum may be enhanced. The role of housing in the health of people is conceived not only in terms of shelter but as a mechanism to access education, work, social networking, and community engagement.

2.0.1 What Asylum Seekers Should Expect from the Rent Proposal

The asylum seeker rent system proposed in Ireland is a big step in the country's refugee and explain policy. The move is intended to offer a short-term welcome as well as further integration into Irish community life. This proposal can be appreciated through **three main dimensions**: (a. improved living and mental health conditions, (b. opportunities for work and study, and (c. support for the family reunion and social cohesion.

2.0.2 Better Living Standards and Mental Health Issues

As housing is one of the most urgent needs for asylum seekers, that is being overlooked. Existing shelter offerings sometimes do not deliver the level of comfort and security these individuals and families need after trauma and displacement. The latest rent proposal is intended to address those problems by making it easier for people to find decent housing, which could affect mental health. According to studies, having access to good housing could also lead to better mental health outcomes and decrease the rates of anxiety and depression in marginalised groups of the population (Gonzalez et al., 2017). The proposal will enable asylum seekers to provide for their own housing, creating a sense of home and stability. According to the World Health Organisation (2021), housing is an essential determinant of a person's health, and when the asylum seeker has some form of accommodation relatively readily accessible, the person's health as a whole can be improved. The focus on housing stability will be a win-win approach for the Irish government and the asylum seekers.

2.0.3 Employment and Educational Opportunities.

The key to successful integration is employment, because it gives the refugees independence, supporting themselves financially and giving them purpose in life (Kohli, 2020). Also, all asylum-seeking families, both adult and child family members, have access to schooling. The proposal allows families to live in places with stronger educational opportunities, an experience that influences the development and prospects of kids. Early access to education is crucial in the integration of children from asylum-seeking families into Irish society (Irish Refugee Council, 2022). Reform of the rent on this basis creates ideal conditions for study and career development and is a step toward lifting the asylum ban.

2.0.4 Assistance to Family Reunification and Social Cohesion

Family reunification is a central pillar of the asylum process and has a huge impact on the welfare of people who have fled their homes. The proposed new rent could actually promote family reunification by ensuring a stable living environment in which families can prosper together. Fixed family structures correlate with better emotional support and integration (Mastro Rillo et al., 2016). Housing stability could helps asylum seekers to add to the social fabric in their localities. Through facilitating the integration and interaction with locals, the proposal has the potential to break down barriers and misunderstandings regarding asylum seekers. There is evidence that interactions between refugees and host communities can result in positive attitudes and intergroup relationships (Ager & Strang, 2008). This plan is not only about the urgent needs of those seeking asylum, but also about creating a more inclusive society that ultimately benefits all in the community. In summary, the asylum seekers' new rent proposal in Ireland will achieve many benefits beyond housing simplistic solutions. This measure, by addressing living conditions, opportunities to work and study, and family unity and social integration, paves the way for a more humane and more robust asylum system for everyone, asylum-seekers and all of Irish society.

2.1 The New Rent Proposal: A Win-Win Approach

2.1.1 For the Irish Government (You Win, I Win):

- **Housing Payments:** People seeking asylum who have been working receive additional resources due to working payments to support government-funded Housing services in crisis.
- **Saved Public Spending:** As the asylum seekers contribute to their housing costs, the government can utilise these saved resources for other public purposes or to help more needy members.
- **Promotion of Self-Reliance:** The policy also incentivises asylum seekers to work and take care of themselves, lessening their dependence on state aid.
- **Creates Fairness:** The public sees a fairer system where possible workers are contributing to their own well-being.
- **Free Children's Education:** The family would see a fairer way of contributing back to their children's education for their own well-being.

2.1.2 For Asylum Seekers (You Win, I Win):

- **Increased Independence:** Monthly rental payments provide greater autonomy in terms of individual living conditions and yield greater responsibility within a home.
- **Employment:** Working would allow asylum seekers who have been issued a work permit and paying rent to seek jobs, learn skills, and become a part of society.
- **Better Living:** Giving asylum-seekers a stake in their housing as contributors could allow them more of a say and a choice, and in general, to live in a better environment.
- **Pathway to Integration:** Working and paying rent is a faster pathway to integration into Irish society for asylum seekers, allowing them to build their networks and enhance their prospects for the future.

Summary: The Irish government's coffers receive a boost, and pressure on public coffers is reduced, while asylum seekers increase their independence, their living standards and their prospects for integration. Both sides win: "You win, I win. (Ofanson C.E. 2025).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The study is grounded in **Social Integration Theory**, which asserts that social inclusion and participation are supported by access to fundamental requirements, including housing, education, and work. It is also grounded in Human Rights Theory, which highlights concerns relating to the right to adequate housing and the State's responsibility to protect marginalised communities.

2.4 Empirical Framework

2.4.1 New Rent Proposal from the Government's Point of View: Justification for and Design of the Proposal

The Irish government is fully aware that the provision of decent housing to asylum seekers is as much a strategic imperative as it is obtaining a basic right that is fundamental to foster social cohesion and integration. The new rent scheme is designed to fix ongoing deficiencies in the asylum seekers' accommodation system, which has caused many to live in overcrowded and poor-quality housing

(Doyle, 2023). Through having a clear approach to rental assistance, the government hopes that asylum seekers will be in a better position to integrate more easily with Irish life and, as a result, be more able to make a positive contribution to the community. The proposal mirrors their obligations under international laws and the duties of a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, on the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Through providing durable, dignified housing for asylum seekers, the government abides by its responsibilities according to international norms of social justice and human rights (UNHCR, 2021).

2.4.2 Financial Impact and Budget Implications

Although the new rental proposal does have some initial costs, it is considered an investment in the long-term future of the city and in society. Eschewing such support is contrary to existing study, which shows that interventions to increase the housing stock for more vulnerable people generate a positive return in terms of a reduced reliance on emergency and social welfare services (Bourne & Kearns, 2022). Investment in housing for asylum seekers is likely to save the government in health care costs resulting from substandard living conditions, which can cause mental health problems and chronic disease (O'Sullivan, 2022). Furthermore, it is our intent for the proposal to be budget-neutral and self-funding, subject to regular reviews and revisions based on economic circumstances as well as market factors.

2.4.3 Societal and Economic Returns in the Future

We think this proposed new rent would be a market-leader in helping create a more inclusive society for everyone, including asylum seekers, and the economy more generally. The ESRI argues that greater labour market involvement by asylum seekers could lead to an improvement in productivity and output (ESRI, 2023). By giving people seeking asylum stable accommodation will create an environment in which those people have access to education & employment will be economically self-sufficient. In addition, the proposal will also be consistent with the greater national objective of accommodating a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society and towards the making of a new pluralist and inclusive Ireland. It will help asylum seekers to prosper, and become part of society, fluidly moving in the community, being active participants in exchange of culture, innovation and entrepreneurship, thereby creating social cohesion and conjoint sense of belonging (Kelleher, 2022). In brief, Ireland's government deems the rent proposal as a solution to ensure that asylum seekers integrate well into society. Once there is an investment in stable housing from the government, not only is the suffering that comes from homelessness relieved, but the stage is set for all society to thrive.

2.4.4 Arguments Addressing Common Concerns and Misconceptions

As Ireland turns its gaze to the proposed new asylum seekers rent in 2025, there are some more everyday varieties of elephants in the room that need to be rooted out ahead of the discourse of its introduction. If there's one thing that not many people understand, it's the overabundance of incorrect information that can really cloud what the world looks like and create fear and misunderstanding. Reason and evidence-based argument on such an important topic would lead to a more informed and less opinionated conversation on something so very important.

2.4.5 Public Opinions Towards Asylum Seekers and Housing Policy

There are all sorts of stereotypes that people make about asylum seekers, and stereotypes can stigmatise as well. One of the most commonly cited myths is around asylum seekers' overconsumption of public resources, particularly the demand they create for housing. But studies have shown that asylum-seeker integration into local communities can have significant positive economic effects. It is sufficient to consider the recent (2020) European Commission study, according to which well-integrated migrants bring added economic value to local economies by being in work, paying taxes and therefore funding services that are accessible to all local populations.

2.4.6 Myths Concerning Impact on Local Communities

A second key fear is whether, by accommodating asylum-seekers, local neighbourhoods will suffer, for example, over the provision and cost of housing for the indigenous population. But inclusive housing policies can help build community resilience. For example, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) (2019) explains that local enhanced spending and investment in areas that value diversity and inclusivity contribute to local economic growth. And when asylum seekers are securely housed, they can work and participate in the local economy, alleviating some rather than adding to the pressures on housing markets.

2.4.7 Evidence-Based Arguments Supporting the Proposal

A stable home is one of the most important predictors of the success of integration for asylum seekers (Irish Refugee Council, 2021). Given a secure place to live, asylum seekers are able to build livelihoods and make the most of education and training opportunities in order to move into employment without the added complexity of housing instability. It supports them to be healthier and happier, and also supports the social fabric as people are connecting with their wider community. The proposed housing support measure had also been informed by measures applied in other European countries, such as Germany and Sweden, where housing support had been found to be critical in the successful integration of asylum seekers (OECD, 2022). These are nations that experienced a deterioration of security on social welfare while adopting more integrated housing policies and coping with better economic circumstances.

3.0 Descriptive Methodology

This study uses a qualitative descriptive focus, analysing policy documents, reports, and academic literature. The data is based on government publications, NGO reports and academic research on housing, integration and asylum seekers in Ireland. Methodology: The method used in this IDEA study was thematic analysis of expected effects of the New Rent Proposal, examining lived experience, advocacy outcomes, and integration outcomes.

4.0 Conclusion

Conclusion. The new asylum seeker rent model deals constructively and responsibly with an urgently needed response to the very urgent needs of some of the very vulnerable within, and of society as a whole. By providing asylum seekers with a stable home, will stabilise their living situation and, by doing so, help their mental health. Housing is an integral part of successful

integration, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2020). The plan will boost education, job training and job prospects- getting people off the couch and working.

This proposal will contribute right away to support for housing and, in the long run, to social peace and prosperity at a local level. Evidences suggest that better societal integration can be achieved when asylum seekers are provided with stable housing, which, in turn, can result in a higher economic contribution (Kerr et al., 2021). We also need to dispel the myths and misunderstandings around refugees and housing policy as we look to the future. Public scepticism runs high, and that scepticism is fuelled largely by misinformation. But people are shit scared, and people deserve more points of evidence to let a logical argument sink in, but according to an evidence-based one, they do not fit in with the evidence over time that those who do receive asylum can become part of communities and do make a contribution to the broader societal level (Benson, 2022). Unlearning silence and listening will help dispel such myths and make the environment much more welcoming. With that in mind, we request our leaders, our institutions and our citizens to sign off on the proposed rent and support one another by ensuring there is some decency left for those seeking asylum. We are not just legally and morally bound to accept this; we are investing in a future where diversity is admired. "Let's create a society that values everyone for who they are, no matter where they come from, and welcomes the contributions asylum seekers bring to our common community. "In this moment of crisis, we must reaffirm our dedication to a human policy that respects the dignity of us all. We can together build a fairer Ireland an Ireland for all where everyone can reach their full potential.

5.0 Recommendations

- Make the New Rent Proposal come with strong support services such as language classes, job help, and mental health aids.
- Foster cooperation between government, NGOs and local communities to smooth integration and combat misunderstandings.
- Regularly monitor and assess the policy's impact, with implementation adjusted based on input from asylum seekers and stakeholders.
- Support public education efforts to debunk misconceptions and create a friendlier atmosphere for people seeking asylum.
- Ensure that the housing offered is safe, private and respectful.

6.0 Contribution to Knowledge

It also contributes to the overall debate on how strategically tailored housing policies can be used as an engine for integration and social cohesion. It also demonstrates the win-win for both the state and asylum seekers and provides a model for an asylum accommodation policy that is humane and effective, and could inform future interventions in Ireland and beyond.

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