



**ActionAid Ireland is seeking a consultant to
develop research and policy
recommendations on the right to housing
for lone parents transitioning from
international protection.**

Terms of Reference

ActionAid Ireland is seeking a consultant for approximately 20 days to deliver the below consultancy by June 2025.

ActionAid Ireland background

ActionAid Ireland supports the leadership and agency of women and children who are excluded and live in poverty. Our vision is a just and caring world where women's and children's rights are respected. We take a human rights-based approach to development and are guided by feminist leadership principles.

The women we work with take the lead in claiming their rights and changing systems so that they can live safe lives and have to access greater public services. They decide their priorities, and we support them as they engage with the rest of their community and the power-holders (government, semi-state institutions), to bring about change that benefits the whole community.

We also work together to hold governments and international institutions to account, campaigning side by side to achieve meaningful long-term change to create a more just world. Along with demanding state accountability for human rights, we go beyond a legal or technical approach to rights. We support people to

analyse and confront power imbalances and we place people living in poverty at the centre of our work.

Project background

ActionAid Ireland is coordinating a project, Paving the Way, funded by St. Stephens Green Trust, which aims to support newly arrived lone parents living in Direct Provision and provide them with the vital information they need to know about their human rights.

The project started in 2023 and will run until the end of 2025. The project directly involves lone parents who are experiencing firsthand the challenges of navigating the Direct Provision system in Ireland. Over the three years, the project aims to empower lone parents living in Direct Provision to engage in advocacy to improve their living conditions, rights, and overall well-being and improve the overall response to lone parents.

Throughout our work, a recurrent issue raised is the difficulty in accessing housing, specifically the difficulty in the transition from living in Direct Provision to private accommodation. Lone parents face discrimination at every step when trying to transition to their own private accommodation, from sexism to racism to classism, making it even more difficult to get their own home in the midst of an already challenging housing crisis in Ireland.

In September 2024, ActionAid Ireland secured a grant from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) to conduct research into the policy gaps and systematic barriers that lone migrant parents face with respect to transitioning from Direct Provision to private accommodation.

The scope of this consultancy

As part of the project, **we are seeking a consultant to produce participatory research with rights holders highlighting gaps in policy and the systemic barriers lone parents who are transitioning from international protection face with respect to accessing housing.** There is a lack of research looking at the specific challenges and policy gaps for this group during this period of transition, therefore this study will produce important analysis that will be used to influence policy change.

The consultant should address the following:

- **Identify how the right to housing of lone parents is denied:** Conduct research with lone parents across Ireland transitioning from Direct Provision to determine the specific housing challenges they face, in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted and intersectional challenges experienced.
- **Policy analysis:** Evaluate existing housing policies, both in Ireland and other European countries that address the identified challenges faced by migrant lone parents accessing housing. The aim is to identify gaps and shortcomings in current policy frameworks and highlight areas where targeted interventions are necessary.
- **Propose practical policy recommendations:** Based on the findings from the research and policy analysis, the consultant should develop a set of policy recommendations informed by evidence-based insights gathered from the research and designed in partnership with the rights holders themselves.

The consultant should draw upon research completed by the ESRI¹ in June 2024 which identified a range of challenges facing those who are attempting to leave international protection accommodation. Similar research from the Irish Refugee Council² in 2016, found the following challenges facing those transitioning from direct provision to private accommodation:

- **Housing shortages:** Limited availability of affordable and suitable housing options.
- **Barriers to the private rental market:** Discrimination, lack of references, and difficulty accessing rental deposits.
- **Discrimination:** Ranging from discriminatory attitudes towards people of colour and those coming from the direct provision system.
- **Employment and income challenges:** Low-income levels or reliance on social welfare impact rental affordability.
- **Administrative delays:** Issues with accessing social supports and housing services.

¹ Murphy, K., & Stapleton, A. (2024). [Access to autonomous housing for beneficiaries of International Protection in Ireland](#). The Economic and Social Research Institute.

² Ní Raghallaigh M, Foreman M, Feeley M, Moyo S, Mendes GW, Bairéad C. [Transition from Direct Provision to Life in the Community: The Experiences of Those Who Have Been Granted Refugee Status, Subsidiary Protection or Leave to Remain in Ireland](#). Irish Refugee Council; June 2016.

- **Geographical constraints:** Housing opportunities often limited to specific regions, creating access barriers.

ActionAid Ireland would like to build on this research and explicitly examine the reality for lone parents who face compounded discrimination in the transition from direct provision. The consultant should also pay careful attention to the delineation of accountability between the departments responsible for international protection applicants. The consultant should also explore the different approaches to supporting those wishing to leave direct provision across the different councils in Ireland.

The successful consultant would work in partnership with an advisory board of lone parents who are at different stages of transition from direct provision. This group would also support the successful consultant to engage with other lone parents across Ireland who are attempting to transition or have successfully done so.

The consultant will also work with ActionAid Ireland, who will oversee the research. A key priority is ensuring that we mitigate specific risks to rights holders engaged in the project and the wider cohort of lone parents living in international protection.

Key questions for this consultant to cover

Identify how the right to housing of lone parents in international protection is denied:

- What are the actual experiences of lone parents attempting to transition from direct provision to private accommodation, highlighting in particular the barriers they face?
- How is the right to housing denied for lone parents in international protection?
- What has worked well for lone parents who have successfully transitioned to private accommodation?
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Policy analysis:

International:

- What are the current international debates and thinking on supporting those who are given international protection to transition from state reception centres?

- What are specific examples of good policies on transition and housing from other jurisdictions, within Ireland through local authorities, the EU and globally?
- Are there any relevant human rights Special Rapporteur reports, Treaty Body submissions or other relevant human rights jurisprudence to draw upon?

Domestic

- What are the current policies that apply to lone parents transitioning from international protection to private accommodation?
- Within the relevant policies, which address specifically the needs of lone parents?

Propose practical policy recommendations:

- What recommendations should the Irish government take on board to ensure policies are reflective of the human rights of lone parents transitioning to private accommodation?

The successful tenderer will be expected to:

- Maintain regular contact with ActionAid Ireland, responding to communications in a timely manner.
- Be flexible and responsive to the needs of the organisation as they arise.
- Ensure a participatory and reflective process putting rights holders at the centre of the research, analysis and recommendations.
- Be proactive in seeking clarification, information or guidance as needed. Be willing to consult with key organisations working in a similar field and collaborate where necessary.

Duration of the consultancy

Twenty working days, ideally with an inception call in March 2025 and to be completed by June 2025.

Deliverables

- 1) Set up an advisory board of lone parents and submit a clear methodology for the research to ActionAid Ireland.
- 2) Share a report of not more than 15 pages capturing the lived experience of lone parents and their realities of attempting to transition from direct

provision with clear recommendations for policy and practice in Ireland, supported by domestic and international best practice.

- 3) Produce a summary paper for policy makers, politicians and advocacy groups (5 pages)

Required expertise and qualifications

The consultant/s should have the following expertise and qualification:

- A master's degree in human rights / women's rights / public policy, migration policy, or any other relevant university degree.
- Extensive policy and legal expertise, knowledge, and experience in the field of migration, housing and human rights.
- At least 10 years of experience working in a relevant field.
- Knowledge and understanding of the international protection system in Ireland.
- Experience in participatory approaches to research and ensuring rights holders guide the design, analysis and communication of the final report.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English

Reporting

The lead consultant will report to the ActionAid Ireland Programme team and CEO.

Expected budget

The expected budget for this is a maximum of €10,000.

Expectations

ActionAid Ireland values transparency and accountability. We expect the successful tenderer to adhere to ActionAid Ireland's values and to observe any of our policies which are deemed relevant.

Diversity

We value diversity and strongly encourage those with experience of international protection to apply.

How to apply:

Please submit your applications to cillian.quinn@actionaid.org by February 25th, 2025. The subject of the email must be entitled: Consultancy application: Lone parents housing.

An interview will take place the week commencing the 3rd of March 2025.

Tenders for this work must include:

- Name of applicant / organisation name, address and contact details
- A statement outlining the understanding of the brief and relevant experience (max 1000 words)
- Personnel involved – details of all personnel who will be involved, including a CV which outlines their qualifications/experience. In the case of consortia, please assign one person / organisation as the principal contact
- Description of proposed project approach, methodology, actions, and timeframe (max. 2000 words)
- Examples of two relevant previous projects along with a separate referee for each, including contact details, for both projects
- Costs – detailed costs including any associated costs, VAT inclusive
- Notification of any potential conflicts of interest
- An up-to-date copy of the tenderer's Tax Clearance Certificate and relevant insurances.
- Signed Declaration of all the above the contract for services rests with ActionAid Ireland. The primary point of contact for the successful tenderer will be Cillian Quinn, ActionAid Ireland.

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