



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

Press Statement - for immediate release

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Latest CSO report shows a decrease in poverty however a significant number of households are at risk of being left behind.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland welcomes the overall drop in poverty levels however stresses that there is significant work to be done to ensure that the households most in need are not left behind.

The CSO's Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2018 shows that:

- In 2018, 14.0% of the population, or over 690,000 people, were living below the poverty line (at risk-of poverty) of €13,723 per annum. This down from 15.7 % in 2017.
- 15.1% experienced deprivation in 2018 because they could not afford at least two of eleven basic essentials. This is down from 18.8% in 2017.
- Those who are in consistent poverty fell to 5.6%, or 271,992 people in 2018, down from 6.7% in 2017.
- Consistent poverty levels for children in 2018 was 7.7%. The Government target is to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2020.
- Consistent poverty for some in society remains much higher than for the general population. For example, those who were unemployed are at 27.6% (an increase from 24.1 in 2017), those not at work due to illness or disability at 21.3% and single parent families at 19.2%.
- It must be noted that only the change in the deprivation rate is considered to be statistically significant.

A comparison of selected at-risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty statistics for 2008, 2016 and 2017 can be seen in the table below.

Paul Ginnell, Director, EAPN Ireland, stated that *"Whilst we welcome the overall decrease in poverty rates since 2017, we believe the government has a duty to recognise the high numbers of people on social welfare or low-income jobs who struggle to meet the cost of living and cannot afford the Minimum Essential Standard of Living. Households with unemployment, lone parents, people with disabilities, and 1 adult households over 65, are once again showing high levels of poverty well above the reported average. We also note that people living within the private rented sector are reporting poverty rates well above the levels experienced by home owners"*.

Mr Ginnell added *"We are heading into the start of a new decade as well as an upcoming general election, yet we are still waiting for the publication of an integrated plan to address poverty and inequality, despite being promised as part of the Programme for Government. The Government must prioritise, with a much greater sense of urgency, an action plan for social inclusion, especially*

considering that the national target to reduce consistent poverty to 2% by 2020 is highly unlikely to be met. Mr Grinnell concluded: "Poverty is an ongoing crisis in Ireland and the Government must actively recognise this in order to ensure that everyone has access to adequate income, affordable quality services and decent jobs."

Ends.

Please find further information on the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2018 at:
https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2018/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=SILC

Notes:

Note: official ways of measuring poverty

- **At Risk of Poverty** or relative income poverty, is having an income that is less than what is regarded as the norm in society. This is the share of persons with an equivalised disposable (after tax) income below a given percentage (usually 60%) of the national median income. The rate is calculated by ranking persons by equivalised income from smallest to largest and then extracting the median or middle value. Anyone with an equivalised income of less than 60% of the median is considered at risk of poverty. In 2017 this at-risk of poverty line was €12,521 per annum.
- **Material Deprivation:** Those in material or enforced deprivation in Ireland are those who cannot afford at least two of the eleven goods or services considered essential for a basic standard of living. The current 11 indicators are:
 1. Two pairs of strong shoes
 2. A warm waterproof overcoat
 3. Buy new not second-hand clothes
 4. Eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
 5. Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week
 6. Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money
 7. Keep the home adequately warm
 8. Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year
 9. Replace any worn out furniture
 10. Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month
 11. Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment
- **Consistent Poverty** is the measurement preferred by the Irish Government and developed independently by the Irish Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). This measure identifies the proportion of people who are both at-risk of poverty (less than 60% of median income) and who are materially deprived because they cannot afford two of the eleven agreed items.

Some statistics from SILC 2018

A table of selected at-risk, deprivation and consistent poverty statistics for 2008, 2017 and 2018

		At Risk of Poverty			Living in Deprivation			Consistent Poverty		
		2008	2017	2018	2008	2017	2018	2008	2017	2018
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
		State	14.4	15.7	14.0	13.8	18.8	15.1	4.2	6.7
Gender	Males	14.0	15.0	13.0	13.3	18.2	14.7	4.0	6.3	5.1
	Females	14.9	16.4	14.9	14.3	19.5	15.6	4.5	7.2	6.2
Age	0-17 years	18.0	18.4	15.9	18.1	23.0	19.7	6.3	8.8	7.7
	18-64 years	13.5	16.2	13.7	12.8	19.1	14.8	3.9	7.0	5.6
	65 years +		8.6	11.4		9.7	8.2	1.7	1.7	1.7
Economic Status	At work	6.7	5.4	5.1	6.6	11.9	9.5	1.1	1.4	1.6
	Unemployed	23.0	42.0	47.3	37.0	41.0	41.6	9.7	24.1	27.6
	Home Duties	21.7	25.5	23.2	17.5	23.6	21.0	6.9	10.4	8.4
	Not at work due to illness or disability	25.5	35.4	47.7	36.4	45.9	36.7	13.2	24.0	21.3
Household Composition	1 adult aged 65+	11.0	10.0	19.7	11.7	14.9	13.8	0.9	2.4	3.5
	1 adult aged <65	25.7	34.2	34.0	20.6	32.1	23.9	9.8	20.0	13.6
	1 adult with children aged under 18	36.4	39.9	33.5	35.9	44.5	42.7	17.8	20.7	19.2
Number of persons at work in the household	0	32.7	40.3	38.6	30.5	34.2	28.9	13.2	21.3	17.8
	3+		2.1	0.5	5.9	10.5	8.6	0.9	0.0	0.0
Tenure status	Rented at below the market rate or rent free	29.6	31.2	29.3	40.1	37.6	29.0	16.4	16.6	14.2
Urban/rural location	Urban	11.9	15.1	13.6	14.3	20.2	16.0	4.2	7.4	5.5
	Rural	18.7	17.2	14.7	13.0	15.9	13.4	8.3	5.3	5.8
Region	Northern and Western	-	21.8	20.1	-	17.3	17.2	-	6.4	7.8
	Southern	-	16.8	15.0	-	18.7	15.2	-	7.1	6.5
	Eastern and Midlands	-	12.8	11.1	-	19.5	14.4	-	6.6	4.2