

Norface Seminar Series 2006-8
UCD School of Politics and International
Relations – December 8th, 2006

Fidele Mutwarasibo, Immigrant
Council of Ireland

Waves of in-ward migration into Ireland

- Hungarian refugees - 1956
- Chilean refugees - 1973
- Vietnamese refugees – 1970s – 1980s
- Bosnian refugees – 1990s
- Asylum seekers: 1992 (39) – 2002 (11,598)
- Migrant workers: Employment permit, working visa/work authorisation, business permission,
- International students: historic, increased substantially by the Chinese
- Programme refugees: 2000 (10 families); 2006 (40 families)
- New EU citizens – May 2004
- What next – Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

Situation today

- Preliminary results of the 2006 census suggest that today 10% of the population born outside Ireland
- No discussion around undocumented migrants
- Fears of job displacement
- No formal language and induction programmes

Legal framework

- *Aliens Act*, 1935 replaced the Aliens Restriction Act, 1914 and the Aliens Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1919
- *Refugee Act*, 1996 – Implemented on Nov 20th, 2000
- *Immigration Act*, 1999 – Deportations
- *Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act*, 2000
- *Irish Nationality and Citizenship Acts*, 1956-2001
- *Immigration Act*, 2003: Carrier Liability
- *Immigration Act*, 2004: immigration officers' powers
- Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill – forthcoming
- Common Travel Area (with Britain)

Equality Legislation

- *Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act*, 1989
- *Employment Equality Act*, 1998
- *Equal Status Act*, 2000
- To comply with the Race Directive 2000/43/EC, the *Equality Act*, 2004 was enacted
- The Public Order Act, 1994 can be used to combat racist acts on public order grounds

Equality Institutions

- Equality Authority
- Equality Tribunal
- Irish Human Rights Commission
- National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI)
- Garda Racial and Intercultural Office

National Action Plan Against Racism

- The intercultural framework underpinning the National Action Plan is based on the five objectives of
 - Protection,
 - Inclusion,
 - Provision,
 - Recognition and
 - Participation

Integration: Tried and Tested Models

- The ‘**multicultural model**’, based on ‘respect and protection of cultural diversity’ and aimed ‘at explicitly guaranteeing the identity of the immigrant community’.
- The ‘**assimilationism model**’ (also called republican or universalistic), which has ‘equality at its root’, but only for those individuals who fall with ‘the privileged category of “citizens”’
- The ‘**separation or exclusionist model**’, characterised by ‘restrictive and rigid immigration legislation and policies’, referring in this context mainly to the ‘legal conditionality that must be satisfied in order to have access to and reside in the territory.’

New Paradigms

- Interculturalism
- Core values (Who will draw up the list?)
- Social Cohesion

Ireland's Model

- Interculturalism: “an approach that implies the development of policy that promotes interaction, understanding and integration among and between cultures and ethnic groups without glossing over issues such as racism” (NCCRI)

Where is Ireland today in terms of Integration

- **No integration policy: commitment in the Towards 2016 agreement**
- **Language programmes: only for refugees and those with leave to remain**
- **Economic integration: Occupational gap identified among others by ESRI**
- **Civic and Political integration: some success, sustainability????**
- **Housing integration: long way to go**
- **Education: limited success – support teacher but what about third level education**
- **Social and Religious Integration**

Funding (1)

- **Knowracism**
- **NAPAR**
- **Philanthropies**
- **Once off small grants**
- **Business sector**
- **Integration grants: Partnership, NGOs, Small grants**

Funding (2)

- Philosophical debate: Mainstreaming or targeting
- Funding Ethnic minority groups: Corporate and/or pluralistic model(s)

Challenges

- Acknowledgement of the permanent nature of migration (positive???)
- (“Lack of”) Political Leadership,
- (“Negative”) Media
- “Needs and beliefs” of marginalised communities within the majority population
- “Tokenism” VS. Meaningful participation
- Migrants’ willingness to integrate, etc.

Model Definitely to be Avoided

- Three-D Integration
 - Dance
 - Dress
 - Dish