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### MLRC News, including

- a **big thank you to all of you who so generously supported our annual April Fools Comedy Gala** on 13 April
- invitation to the **launch of the MLRC Right to Housing report on 4 May at 11.30am** in Buswells hotel. Please see below for more details

### MLRC Case Work:

- Expedited decision in social welfare case avoids destitution, [read more...](#)
- Assisting families refused emergency accommodation and at risk of rough sleeping, [read more..](#)

### MLRC Policy Work:

- UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - MLRC lobbies in Geneva and in Dublin, to

State Missions highlighting the major gaps in the protection of the right to housing in Ireland ahead of the review of Ireland on 11 May, [read more...](#)

## **MLRC Training**

- Training in social welfare law delivered by Professor Gerry Whyte - 31st May, 2nd, 7th, 9th, 14th and 16th June 2016, at Sophia Housing, 24 Cork Street, Dublin 8 - now taking bookings! Please see below for more details.

## **Launch of the Mercy Law Resource Centre Report on the Right to Housing**

On Wednesday, 4 May at 11.30am, in Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, MLRC will be launching its Report on the Right to Housing in Ireland. We would be delighted to see you there.

### **Launch of the Mercy Law Resource Centre**

#### **Report on the Right to Housing**

**Venue: Georgian Suite, Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2**

**Date: 11.30am, Wednesday 4 May 2016**

**The report will be formally launched by Judge Catherine McGuinness.**

**Mr Paul McSweeney, chair of Tasc Economists' Network** will give an address on the economic context of the right to housing. The presentations will be followed by a Q&A discussion.

**Please RSVP by Tuesday 3 May 2016**

**By email to Shauna Curran: [shauna@mercyllaw.ie](mailto:shauna@mercyllaw.ie) or 01 4537459**

For more on the report, please click here: [Read more...](#)

**Training in social welfare law, delivered by Professor Gerry Whyte - 31st May, 2nd, 7th, 9th 14th and 16th June 2016, at**

## **Sophia House, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8 - now taking bookings!**

MLRC is holding a course in social welfare law, which will be delivered by Professor Gerry Whyte, Associate Professor School of Law, Trinity College Dublin. The training, consisting of six workshops, will provide a detailed overview of social welfare law. The training will be of particular benefit for those dealing with and advising on social welfare law issues.

The course will be delivered through a series of six workshops. The topics that will be covered are:

- Sources of social welfare law
- Claims and appeals
- Social Insurance
- Social Assistance
- Rates of payment
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance
- Unemployment and low pay
- Illness, incapacity and caring
- Family payments
- The elderly and survivors

Participants would be expected to attend all six workshops to receive maximum benefit from the training. The training will be held over three weeks from **10 am to 12 noon**, on: **Tuesday 31st May, Thursday 2nd June, Tuesday 7th June, Thursday 9th June, Tuesday 14th June and Thursday 16th June**

The training will be held at **Sophia Housing, 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8**. The cost per participant is €60 for all six workshops. The spaces for this training are limited so please do book early if you wish to attend. If you are interested in booking a place(s) for this Social Welfare Law training please contact Shauna Curran at Mercy Law Resource Centre on 01 4537459 or by email [shauna@mercylaw.ie](mailto:shauna@mercylaw.ie) by **5pm on Monday 23rd May 2016**.

## **Update on MLRC training in housing law & related social welfare law**

MLRC most recently gave a training session on housing law to staff and members of Respond; to Threshold and to FLAC. For more details on the training session for Threshold [please click here](#). For more details on the training session for FLAC, [please click here](#).

As part of MLRC's work, we provide training in housing law and related social welfare law to organisations working in the field of homelessness. If you are interested in organising a training session by MLRC, please contact Shauna on 01 4537459 or at [shauna@mercylaw.ie](mailto:shauna@mercylaw.ie). We would be very happy to hear from you and discuss the training that would be most useful for you.

**Welcome back to Rebecca Keatinge, MLRC solicitor, and our new appointment of Sinead Kerin as solicitor, joining the MLRC team!**



MLRC is delighted to welcome back Rebecca Keatinge from maternity leave. Congratulations Rebecca on your second daughter!

MLRC is delighted to welcome Sinead Kerin as our new solicitor and colleague. Sinead has been working with MLRC since May 2015 as a

locum solicitor, and has now stepped into the new role of a third full-time solicitor adding to the MLRC team!



Sinead is a solicitor with extensive experience in social welfare and housing law having worked with Focus Ireland in Limerick for several years. Sinead graduated from University College Cork and has a degree in Sociology and Geography and completed her Masters in International Studies from the University of Limerick. Sinead worked as a legal researcher for the Northern Ireland Assembly, the University of Ulster and for a Member of the European Union before qualifying as a solicitor in 2009 having completed her apprenticeship with Augustus Cullen Law in Wicklow. Since qualification Sinead has worked as a legal researcher for the International Development Law Organisation, a Child Law Legal Researcher for McMahon Solicitors and as manager of Focus Ireland Advice & Advocacy Centre in Limerick where she her main work and advocacy was in social welfare and housing law. Sinead is an active volunteer and member of the Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA), the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, (ISPCC) and Amnesty International.

We are delighted to very warmly welcome Sinead to the MLRC team and working Sinead to grown and build on MLRC's work providing free legal help for people at the margins of our society.

**MLRC April Fools Comedy Gala, 13 April 2016 - Thank you!**

## A massive thank you to everyone who supported our April Fools Comedy Gala!

Thank you to everyone who came to the third annual April Fools Comedy Gala on 13th April in the Sugar Club! You raised almost €5,000 for MLRC! Thank you for your huge support which helps ensure that MLRC can continue to provide and develop our services to support and help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

A huge thank you from MLRC to Jarlath Regan whose idea this show is, for producing the show and for MC'ing, so generously and with such great energy and fun, and to the brilliant Colm O'Regan, John Colleary, Allison Spittle and Joe Rooney for their hilarious performances! All of the performers immediately agreed to the invitation to perform for free at the Gala. They made this event possible. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's Comedy Gala in aid of MLRC!







## About MLRC

Mercy Law Resource Centre is an Independent Law Centre and registered charity providing free legal advice, representation and befriending services to people who are homeless or at

risk of homelessness in the areas of social housing and social welfare law. For more information about our work please see our website at [www.mercylaw.ie](http://www.mercylaw.ie).

#### Contact Us

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