



Youth Work Ireland

Our Youth, Our Nation, Our Future.

Press Release

Youth Work Ireland

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“Noonan Misses the Point on Emigration, Figures Illustrate A Majority of those Who Leave have Little Choice” Says Youth Work Organisation

Youth Work Ireland today said that Michael Noonan was fundamentally missing the point about emigration of young people from Ireland in his comments today. The Youth Organisation which represents 22 local voluntary youth services said that even a cursory examination of the figures showed that emigration dwindled to a trickle when there was low unemployment and has swelled massively with the increase in joblessness. The youth group said it was unfortunate that Government ministers were so blasé about a serious issue and that Government should be revisiting it’s jobs strategy to ensure there were sufficient education and training places to deal with the number of young jobless. Youth Work Ireland pointed out that in 2007 Ireland had a net immigration of over 67,000 and in the last CSO estimates over 34,000 net left the country, a difference of over 100,000 people, many of whom are young. To say this is not a problem is to deny reality according to the group.

“With economic growth returning in other major economies Ireland is now experiencing a substantial rise in emigration particularly amongst young people. There must be a dedicated jobs strategy for young people if we are to avoid the effects of the massive emigration of the 1980s which so decimated communities. Young People are desperately seeking employment, education and training but the options are simply not there. Thousands were unable to access CAO or PLC courses this year. Young people can be the innovation that drives a new economic recovery in smart industries but policies must facilitate greater capacity in the education and training system so that in the future certain areas can grow and succeed providing qualified young people with a chance in this country.” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

“The spectre of emigration is a major social tragedy and seems to be accepted as almost an Irish solution to an Irish problem, this must be challenged. Increased emigration amongst young people is a major economic issue as this group has been very well educated, now a different country will reap the benefit of this investment and Ireland will lack the people and the skills to built a smart economy. We need to see young people as a resource for example in starting new smart tech companies in new economic areas. These measures can generally be achieved quite cheaply if social welfare savings are applied in keeping these young people off the dole queues” Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

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