

National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism

NCCRI NEWS – NOVEMBER 2003

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) was established in 1998 as an independent expert body focusing on racism and interculturalism. The NCCRI is a partnership body which brings together government and non-government organisations to develop strategic approaches to combating racism and promoting an intercultural Irish society.

Residency Applications of Migrant Parents of Citizen Children

The Coalition Against Deportation of Irish Children (CADIC) is opposing the move by the Minister of Justice to deport migrant families of Irish citizen children. These deportations come in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling of January 2003 and the subsequent abolition, by the Minister of Justice, on 19 February 2003 of the procedure entitling the families of Irish citizen children to lawfully apply for residency in Ireland. CADIC and the Irish Human Rights Commission are now calling on the Minister to regularise the residency rights of the migrant parents of Irish citizen children who had lawfully applied for residency prior to 19 February 2003 and not to subject them to retrospective policies.

The NCCRI has commissioned a piece of research into international experiences relating to the permission to remain in the state for migrant parents of citizen children, due to be published shortly. In light of the preliminary findings of this research the NCCRI would recommend that the Irish government consider an amnesty for all non-EU parents of Irish born children who applied for residency before the Minister abolished the right on the 19 February 2003 on the basis that they had a legitimate expectation that they would be able to reside here with their child. For families who made an application after the 19 February they must be given an opportunity to avail of legal assistance in preparing a submission to the Minister against the deportation order issued against them as part of a fair and humane determination procedure. It is important that the Department of Justice issue clear guidelines as to what should be included in such an application in clear and accessible language.