

Press Release – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007

## Crisis emigration from Ireland still exists

While our economic success has brought massive increases in the levels of immigration, an estimated 17,000 people still emigrate from Ireland every year. While many are leaving for improved career prospects abroad, a sizeable number are still leaving Ireland in crisis, bleak prospects abroad and have little practical information of what is ahead of them.

On **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** at 12 noon aboard the **Jeanie Johnston** (IFSC) Crosscare Migrant Project will launch four pre-departure information booklets – ‘Going to the USA’, ‘Going to Canada’, ‘Going to Australia’ and ‘Going to the UK’.

The series of booklets is aimed at assisting Irish people who would otherwise emigrate badly prepared. Crosscare Migrant Project is using the Jeanie Johnson to remind people that while migration trends have changed dramatically, there are still Irish people who are continuing to emigrate in situations of crisis. Guest speaker Fr Peter McVerry will outline why people find themselves in such situations.

‘Going to the UK’, ‘Going to the USA’, ‘Going to Canada’, and ‘Going to Australia’, will provide information to the 17,000 Irish people emigrating every year.

More than 4,000 of these go to the UK and many end up needing the support and advice of Irish organisations in the UK. “The most vulnerable of intending Irish emigrants tend to go to the UK, so our “Going to the UK” book is particularly important” says Paula Lally, an Information Officer with Crosscare Migrant Project. “It is for this high-need group that our drop-in service is designed”.

“On a monthly basis we get reports from Irish housing and welfare organisations in places like London, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham of Irish people presenting to their service in situations of extreme vulnerability and crisis. Some people still end up homeless on the streets due to lack of support and preparation before they go to the UK”, she adds.

Crosscare Migrant Project, formerly known as Emigrant Advice, is an organisation well-acquainted with Ireland’s changing migrant needs. “It’s true that the number of emigrants has declined and we are dealing more and more with the needs of immigrants into Ireland”, says Yvonne Fleming, Co-ordinator of Crosscare Migrant Project. “But it’s important to remember that there are still Irish people who are leaving, and proper preparation is as important as ever - for everyone, whether they are coming here or going abroad”.

Contact Paula Lally, Information Officer, for more information.

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For information on Crosscare please see [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie)

For information on Crosscare Migrant Project please see [www.migrantproject.ie](http://www.migrantproject.ie)

## **NOTES**

### **Crosscare Migrant Project**

Crosscare Migrant Project is one of the 14 programmes of Crosscare, the Dublin Diocese Social Care Agency. Since 1987, Crosscare Migrant Project (previously known as *Emigrant Advice*) has been working with migrants in vulnerable situations. Originally, Crosscare Migrant Project worked with intending emigrants. In recent years, Crosscare Migrant Project clients also include immigrants and returning Irish emigrants.

### **‘Going to.....’ Booklets**

The series of ‘Going to.....’ Booklets will be available from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November in hard copy and electronic format. The booklets will be distributed to libraries, Citizen Information Centres, Youth Information Centres, etc., and will be available in Crosscare Migrant Project’s office on 1 Cathedral Street, Dublin 1. They are free of charge (postage fee may apply).