



amnesty
international
irish section

ACTION TWENTY

Mental health: Let's make it happen

WHAT? → Concern at the huge levels of mental distress experienced by asylum seekers and refugees in Ireland. Asylum seekers are **five times** more likely to be diagnosed with mental illness in general practice than Irish citizens.

→ Ask the TDs and ministers:

- What steps have been taken to implement Recommendation 4.8 in A Vision for Change? (**see note on mental health and asylum seekers**)
- Specifically, what steps have been taken – and/or will be taken and when - by the HSE to engage with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform around resolving the negative effects of the direct provision system on asylum seekers' mental health, a stated "key priority" under the NIHS, so that people can live with dignity and humanity? (**see note on mental health and asylum seekers**)
- Will the HSE Implementation Plan published in January 2008 be re-published to reflect outputs and timelines for delivering on all recommendations in A Vision for Change, and commitments given by the HSE under the NIHS?

WHO?

→ **Call or write to all TDs in your constituency.** (script for phone calls and letters enclosed) TDs have a duty to represent the views of all their constituents and to defend and promote local interests. Remember to call all the TDs in your constituency.

→ As well as your local TD please send the letter to:

Ms Mary Harney, T.D.
Minister for Health and Children
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2

Mr John Moloney T.D.
Minister of State with responsibility
for Equality, Disability and Mental
Health Department of Health and
Children
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2

Mr Dermot Ahern T.D.
Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform
94 St. Stephens Green
Dublin 2

Mr. Seamus McNulty
Assistant National Director
Service Management, West with
National Responsibility for
Mental Health and Disabilities,
HSE West
Merlin Park, Galway

WHEN? → Send letters to your local TD/Ministers on **Monday 23 June 2008**
Make phone calls on **Wednesday 25 June 2008**