

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar
Department of the Taoiseach
Merrion St.
Dublin 2

26 March 2020



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

Re. Tonight's National Applause for Front Line Workers

Dear Taoiseach,

The Irish Association of Social Workers acknowledges the difficult task our Government faces in coping with the Corona Virus. A magnificent amount of work has been done already as all Departments cater for this illness and the consequences affecting the citizens of Ireland physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and financially.

Health and Social Care Workers are to the fore in providing care to those who are ill, placing themselves and their families at additional risk of contracting Covid-19. So too other categories of essential workers are acknowledged for their role: transport workers, bank employees, civil servants, food retailers, pharmacists, waste collectors, police and defence forces to mention some.

Social Workers across Ireland are also critical and continue to provide supports to the most vulnerable: children and families at risk, children in care, children and adults with mental health challenges, children and adults with other illnesses, children and adults with physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities, elderly and vulnerable persons in the community. They continue to provide direct services including crisis intervention, family support, safeguarding interventions for children and vulnerable adults, maternal and neonatal services, palliative care and bereavement supports, a range of probation welfare services, adoption, fostering, etc .

Social Work is generally unseen, unobserved and unnoticed. There are just 4,500 Social Workers in Ireland. IASW ask that you remember our Social Workers today when you acknowledge the work of those at the front line of services during this crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Áine McGuirk
Chair

CC; Minister for Children & Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone, Minister for Health Simon Harris & Minister for Justice & Equality Charlie Flanagan

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