

EmigrantAdvice



Background

Emigrant Advice is a programme of CROSSCARE, the Dublin Diocesan Social Care Agency. Since 1987, Emigrant Advice has been working with migrants in vulnerable situations. Originally, Emigrant Advice worked with intending emigrants. In recent years, clients of Emigrant Advice include intending emigrants, emigrants, immigrants, returnees and intending returnees. Importantly, the common factor for all of Emigrant Advice's clients is that they are migrants who are in vulnerable situations.

Mission Statement

'To provide quality information, follow-up and, where necessary, advocacy to enable people involved in a migration decision or experience, especially the most vulnerable, to make informed decisions. To effect positive change in migration policy through our engagement with clients and in collaboration with others'



What we do – in general

Emigrant Advice empowers vulnerable emigrants, returnees and migrant workers in relation to their rights and entitlements by

- providing them with up-to-date information via our drop-in clinic, phone/email/letter queries, website, publications and referral service.
- advocating on their behalf to relevant organisations and bodies.
- inputting into migration related policy development.

Emigrant Advice advocates on behalf of its clients in relation to:

- emigration procedures, visas and entitlements.
- immigration procedures, visas and entitlements.
- the rights and entitlements of Irish emigrants abroad.
- work permits, working visas and authorisations of immigrant workers in Ireland.
- social welfare entitlements of emigrants, returnees and immigrants.
- employment rights and issues of employment exploitation of immigrants.

What we did – 2003

In 2003 Emigrant Advice gave information to 1,510 clients and 250 agencies.

Emigration queries:

In 2003, 418 emigrants sought pre-departure information from Emigrant Advice. 50% of these queries were on emigration to the US, the majority of which related to support in their application for the DV05 Lottery Visa programme. 14% inquired about emigration to Britain, 10% to Australia, 8% to Canada, 7% to the European Economic Area (EEA) and 11% to other countries, including Japan, Korea, and Thailand.

Of the queries made by intending emigrants, 40% of queries related to specific problem cases; for example, specific situations where Irish emigrants had allowed their visas to lapse and so had become illegal. Other inquiries related to the receipt of state benefits and entitlements, accommodation, employment, requests for Emigrant Advice publications and requests for referral to Irish agencies abroad.

Queries about returning to Ireland:

In 2003, 58 returned emigrants contacted Emigrant Advice. 66% of those who contacted Emigrant Advice were returning from the UK, while the remainder were returning from the US, Australia/New Zealand and the EEA. The majority of queries related to benefits, entitlements, pensions, accommodation, housing and healthcare. The remainder were queries on free travel and holiday programmes for those for whom it is not viable to return full-time.

Immigration queries:

In 2003, 558 foreign nationals from 67 countries contacted Emigrant Advice. The majority of our clients in this category were from South Africa, Nigeria and the Ukraine.

Of the 558, the majority (24%) were work permit employees and a small but significant number of callers were out of status (7%). The remainder included tourists, students, refugees, asylum seekers, Irish-born child residency applicants, other leave to remain applicants and the spouses of EEA nationals.

The migrants that contacted Emigrant Advice had diverse queries. According to the breakdown used by the agency, queries relating to work permit procedures, work exploitation and naturalisation were the most common categories. Other areas of concern for Emigrant Advice's clients were social and economic rights, education and family reunification.

Support to Agencies:

A large part of the work of Emigrant Advice is giving information to national and international organisations regarding migration. In 2003, Emigrant Advice dealt with 250 contacts from various organisations and public bodies. 46% of queries related to emigration, 19% related to returning to Ireland and 35% related to immigration.

In 2003, in addition to our direct client/agency support work, Emigrant Advice:

- published and circulated a range of information booklets and pamphlets for use by emigrants and returnees, including:
 - 'Thinking of Going to the USA?'
 - 'Thinking of Going to the UK?'
 - 'Thinking of Going to Australia?'
 - 'The Do's and Don'ts of Emigration'
 - 'Returning to Ireland'
 - City Guides (London, Munich, Hamburg, New York)
- developed a multi-lingual pre-departure Work Permit Employee information document (available in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian to be circulated in relevant countries with the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs).
- re-built its website with greater detail and user-friendly features.
- networked with relevant organisations in the voluntary and statutory sectors (Emigrant Advice Network, Irish Episcopal Commission on Emigrants, among others) to further emigration related policy issues (and in particular to lobby for the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Policy regarding Emigrants). Emigrant Advice networks with Integrating Ireland and other relevant organisations in relation to immigration issues.

What we will do – 2004 to 2006

In 2003 Emigrant Advice reviewed its services and developed a strategic plan for the period of 2004-2006. In this plan Emigrant Advice commits to:

- working with the most vulnerable emigrants at risk of crisis migration, Irish people wishing to return to Ireland, people who have immigrated to Ireland and are on work permits or visas.
- developing an effective referral mechanism for people who contact EA and do not fall within the remit of the agency. For instance, one point of referral will be our re-built website for computer-literate intending emigrants.
- running our drop in, phone and email services with the above client groups five days a week. This service includes follow-up and advocacy support.
- piloting outreach initiatives for vulnerable emigrants and immigrants.
- production of publications targeted at the client groups above. Content and format of new publications will be determined by means of consultation with emigration and immigration organisations in Ireland and abroad.
- publicising itself with relevant organisations in Ireland and abroad to clarify its role in the sector and ensure it receives and makes appropriate referrals.
- working with its partners in government, in the voluntary sector and in the expatriate Irish community to advocate for policy change and development in emigration, immigration and in relation to the plight of the vulnerable Irish abroad.
- on-going re-assessment of the role and potential of Emigrant Advice in relation to changing migration policy, practice and trends. Emigrant Advice is developing a concept document outlining its place in service provision for future vulnerable Irish emigrants.





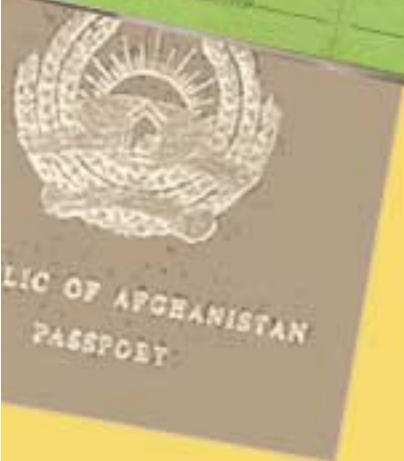
IRELAND 02146

**WORKING HOLIDAY
AUTHORISATION**

In accordance with the Aliens Orders 1946 to 1999 and EEC Regulations of 1977 and on behalf of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Teil SPARK

LEAVE TO ENTER FOR SIX MONTHS
EMPLOYMENT AND RESOURSE TO
PUBLIC FUNDS PROHIBITED

ORGANIZATION OFFICER



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