

Workshop Title: 'The Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare'.

This workshop will explore child protection and welfare social work with families from non-EU migrant backgrounds in Ireland. It is based on current PhD research conducted with Nasc Irish Immigrant Support Centre, an NGO supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Cork, Ireland and The School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Ireland. This exploratory study seeks to address best practice responses in child protection with families from non-EU backgrounds, understandings of culturally competent practice and how discrimination is counteracted within Child Protection and Welfare services.

The workshop will highlight the key themes arising from the qualitative phase of this mixed-methods study, comprising interviews with social workers, young people and carers. The following key questions will be explored: What challenges and opportunities are there for social workers, young people and carers in child protection social work? How are cultural competency and anti-discriminatory practice understood as responses to non-EU migrant families? What impact does the immigration system have upon child protection social work with non-EU families?

This interactive workshop seeks to gain a critical perspective on the findings to date from an international audience of practitioners and academics, giving greater insight to the ongoing research. It aims to compare existing policies and practices in Ireland to systems used internationally. Lastly, it seeks to extend the debate beyond the workshop, exploring the marginalisation of migrants within the EU and the questions this poses for social work.