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Office of the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs
Oifig an Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh

Mr. John O Donoghue,
Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform,
72 – 76 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

16th November 2000

Dear John,

Re: Interim Advisory Board of the Reception and Integration Agency

Further to the Government's decision of 1st November last that the "*Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Social, Community and Family Affairs would each forward to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform one nomination in respect of an NGO for appointment to the Interim Advisory Board*" of the Reception and Integration Agency, I wish to nominate Ms. Mary Murphy, of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the Board.

Her details are:

Ms. Mary Murphy,
National Social Policy Officer,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
8 Cabra Road,
Dublin 7

Telephone: 838 4164
Fax: 838 7355

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Ahern, T.D.,
Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs



Minister,

The Government decided on 1st November last the "Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Social, Community and Family Affairs" would each forward to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform one nomination in respect of an NGO for appointment to the Interim Advisory Board" of the Reception and Integration Agency. The functions proposed for the Agency are:

- (i) *planning and co-ordinating the provision of services to both asylum seekers and refugees;*
- (ii) *co-ordinating and implementing integration policy for refugees and asylum applicants who are granted leave to remain in the State;*
- (iii) *responding to crisis situations as was done when temporary protection was offered to people displaced by the war in Kosova.*

The new Agency will assume the responsibilities of the Directorate for Asylum Seeker Services and the Refugee Agency. The Interim Advisory Board will be made up of thirteen people, as follows:

- (i) one representative each from the Departments of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Foreign Affairs, Health and Children, Environment and Local Government, Finance and Social, Community and Family Affairs;
- (ii) the Director of the Agency;
- (iii) three people nominated by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, one person nominated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and another by yourself;
- (iv) an independent chair, nominated by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform following consultation with the Taoiseach, Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I approached Ms. Mary Murphy, National Social Policy Officer of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to offer her your nomination, as you requested. Following consultation within the Society, Ms. Murphy has accepted the nomination.

I now attach a draft letter to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform for your approval in that regard.


Brian O Raghallaigh

16th November 2000