



In this issue read about...

Casework update

- Success for MLRC clients: Local authority allocates three bedroom accommodation for long term homeless parents working to re-unite with children in care, [read more...](#)

Policy update

- Families and homelessness – In November, MLRC held a focus group with Dublin 8 and Bluebell CIS to discuss the crisis of families becoming homeless and the possible legal challenges to situations where families are being told by local authorities that there is no emergency accommodation available for them. In the absence of an express right to housing, the State's obligations to provide such emergency accommodation, under current law, is very limited. Local authorities are not obliged to provide housing in individual cases. The possible legal challenges to a failure to provide accommodation centre around the child's right to shelter and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights on the right to privacy and family life.
- MLRC, as part of the ESC Rights Initiative, calls on the Government to protect the right to housing in the Irish Constitution, [read more...](#)

MLRC news

Those working closely with MLRC will be very familiar with solicitor Sabrina Comerford, who has recently left us to move into a new area of work. Sabrina started working in MLRC in October 2012 and in her time with MLRC, helped hundreds of clients, with her hard work, persistence, energy and good humour. We wish Sabrina all the very best in her new role and thank her for being such a dedicated solicitor and also a wonderful colleague and friend.

MLRC is now recruiting a solicitor to join the MLRC team.

This is a unique opportunity to practice in public interest and human rights law to help those at the margins of our society within a vibrant, dynamic independent law centre, with an ethos which recognises the dignity of each person, seeking to ensure that all people are treated with respect and compassion and are enabled to achieve their full potential as human beings, committed to the principles of human rights, social justice and equality. The Solicitor position will be offered as a full time, permanent position with immediate start. The salary offered with this position is commensurate with experience.

For full details of the role and how to apply, please [click here](#)

To download a fillable pdf application form, please [click here](#) [Note - once opened this form then needs to be downloaded to start to fill in, once finished please save and email with c.v. to maeve@mercylaw.ie]

The closing date for receipt of applications has been extended to 5pm on Thursday 18th December 2014.

MLRC Training

As part of MLRC's work, we provide training in housing law to organisations working in the field of homelessness. If you are interested in organising a training session by MLRC, please contact Shauna on 01 4537459 or at shauna@mercylaw.ie. We would be very happy to hear from you and discuss the training that would be most useful for you.

Housing law and related social welfare law updates

- In the wake of the tragic death of Jonathan Corrie, MLRC welcomes the pledge of Minister Alan Kelly, on 4th December, of beds for all those who are homeless in Dublin by Christmas, [read more....](#)

Thank you -

We would like to take this opportunity to thank so many Barristers and Solicitors for the enormous pro bono work that they have done for MLRC. Their support allows the small team at Mercy Law Resource Centre to achieve much more than it could ever do on its own.

Thank you to the many professionals that have given us pro bono support, including our auditors, Brady McQuillan DFK, volunteer architects, engineers & doctors; and our befriending Volunteers, who accompany our clients and provide them with emotional and practical support as they go through the difficult process of trying to assert their rights in a legal system can be alienating, difficult and frustrating to negotiate.

Thank you to our funders and donors, without whose financial support the Centre would not exist.

Our thanks to our voluntary Board of Directors - Liam Twohig, Ciara McGrath, Patrick Stagg, Helena O'Donoghue, Gerry Whyte, Deirdre Quigley, Jo Kennedy, Anne Doyle, Niall Farrell - for their continued dedication to, and guidance of, the Centre.

Thank you to the staff of our Outreach Clinic Partners - Crosscare, Focus Ireland, Dublin Simon, De Paul, Liberties CIC and Saoirse Women's Refuge.

This support makes possible MLRC's work for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Thank you.

About MLRC

Mercy Law Resource Centre is an Independent Law Centre and registered charity providing free legal advice, representation and befriending services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the areas of social housing and social welfare law. For more information about our work please see our website at www.mercylaw.ie.

Contact Us

Copyright © 2014 Mercy Law Resource Centre, All rights reserved.

[Forward to a friend](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)