

DÓCHAS

The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

29 September 2009

Irish NGOs praise UK commitment to copperfasten aid promise

Irish Government urged to follow example of UK Labour Party and introduce legislation on adhering to the UN aid target

Ireland's Development NGOs today welcomed the UK's leadership in the international fight against hunger, poverty and inequality.

Noting that the UK's Gordon Brown told the UK Labour Party conference that he would introduce legislation obliging the UK government to raise spending on aid to the poorest countries to 0.7% of national income, Irish Development NGOs stated that the Irish government should consider its track record on overseas aid.

"Ireland is one of the few European countries to have slashed their aid budgets. While countries across Europe are struggling with the global recession, only Ireland has cut its aid budget to such an extent that our promise to the world's poorest people is starting to look like a distant prospect" said Hans Zomer of Dóchas, the umbrella group of Irish aid agencies.

"We promised to spend a certain percentage of our national income, comparable to just 70 cents in every 100 euro, on helping less fortunate countries. By cutting the overseas aid budget, the government has done nothing to redress our economy but has seriously endangered our reputation as a country that keeps its word" Dóchas Director Hans Zomer stated.

Ireland has promised to achieve the UN target of spending 0.7% of GNP on overseas aid by 2012. Irish Development NGOs have called on the government to introduce legislation similar to that proposed today by Gordon Brown, copper fastening the aid promise.

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For further information, see www.dochas.ie

Contact:

Hans Zomer, Dóchas Director, tel. 085 728 3258 / 01 405 3801

Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 44 members, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie

Dóchas Member Agencies

1. ActionAid Ireland
2. Action from Ireland
3. Africa Centre
4. Aidlink
5. Amnesty International-Irish Section
6. Bóthar
7. Camara
8. Centre for Global Education
9. ChildFund Ireland
10. Children in Crossfire
11. Christian Aid Ireland
12. Christian Blind Mission Ireland
13. Church Mission Society Ireland
14. Comhlámh
15. Concern Worldwide
16. Friends of Londiani (Ireland)
17. Galway One World Centre
18. Gorta
19. International Service Ireland
20. Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation
21. Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs
22. Irish Council for International Students
23. Irish Family Planning Association
24. Irish Foundation for Cooperative Development
25. Irish Missionary Union
26. Irish Red Cross
27. Kerry Action for Development Education
28. National Youth Council of Ireland
29. Oxfam Ireland
30. Plan Ireland
31. Progressio Ireland
32. Self Help Africa
33. SightSavers International
34. Skillshare International Ireland
35. Suas Educational Development
36. The Hope Foundation

37. Trócaire
38. Vita
39. Voluntary Service International
40. Voluntary Service Overseas
41. Volunteer Missionary Movement
42. War on Want Northern Ireland
43. Wingspread International
44. World Vision Ireland