

## Independent Ireland General Election Manifesto 2024:

### Common Sense Solutions for a Better Ireland

#### Law

- **Tough on Crime, Safer Cities and Safer Rural Communities**
  - We will introduce tougher sentencing for violent crime, sexual crime and crimes against children.
- **Tough On Crime, Protect Free Speech**
  - Oppose any hate-speech legislation;
  - Implement stricter sentencing guidelines for serious violent and sexual crimes, and introduction of legislation that prohibits suspended sentences for such crimes;
  - Prohibit sex offenders from legally changing their name to avoid detection in the future;
  - Review Sex Offender Registry to ensure it is fit for purpose;
  - Obligate Gardai to notify children services and school administrators of registered child sex offenders in their area;
  - Support immediate deportation of IPAS applicants who are convicted of violent or sexual offences;
  - Support automatic refusal of applications for IPAS from applicants who have prior criminal convictions.
- **Immigration**
  - Obligate IPAS centres to follow the same planning regulations as every other entity in the country and allow individuals, communities, and businesses to file objections with the relevant planning authority;
  - Require airlines to provide scans of passports presented pre-flight to identify people who destroy or lose their identity documents;
  - Acquire the use of secure airport detention facilities for undocumented arrivals and people awaiting deportation;
  - Support immediate deportation of IPAS applicants convicted of violent or sexual offences;
  - Support automatic refusal of IPAS applicants who have prior serious criminal convictions;
  - Deport incarcerated foreign nationals immediately after their prison sentence ends
  - Expedite IPAS applications to be completed within a defined time frame.
  - Hold Special court sittings to address and deal with these cases and hire 300 new case officers. We will pay these new salaries with money we save by not providing room and board to 30,000+ new arrivals each year:
  - Expedite the appeal process and complete it within 30/60/180 calendar days.
  - Curtail automatic medical cards to IPAS applicants, ensuring the same criteria is applied to IPAS applicants as is to existing residents;
  - Impose VAT to the contracts of hotels accommodating IPAS applicants to stop incentivising damage to tourism;
  - End private accommodation reimbursement altogether for future arrivals and eliminate the migrant housing industrial complex;

- Communities that wish to accommodate IPAS centres should be empowered to do so on a not-for-profit basis and should be supported and funded by the state for the buying and doing up of unused properties;
- Implement a requirement that permanent residence permit applicants must take a six-month course on Irish history and culture and pass an exam, provided in English and Irish only;

### **Social Welfare/Protection**

- Refurbish derelict state-owned properties and properties under state stewardship to provide sustainable accommodation to homeless families and children in their local communities
- Abolish means testing for carers.

### **Education**

- **Increased Funding for Education**
  - Maintain small class sizes by hiring more teachers. This means increasing funding.
  - Reduce bureaucracy coming from the Ministry of Education.
  - Increase funding for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs).
  - Increase capitation grant for all schools.
  - Expand delivery of transportation services to primary and secondary school students to improve safety and reduce emissions caused by private vehicles driven by parents unable to receive transportation services for their children.
  - Redirect funding for school meals and book rental into the baseline funding of schools. This will enable schools to make strategic use of funding.
  - Create and fund greater links between Gardaí and local schools to address early intervention and diversion away from youth crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Ensuring an Education System That is Fit for Purpose**
  - Oppose any politicisation of education.
  - Ensuring that Irish culture, tradition, and language remain cornerstones of our education system.
  - Ensure all sexual education is age-appropriate.
  - Reform school transport and the “close school” rule, which deprives many children of access to transport and restricting their educational opportunities.
  - Add road safety to secondary school curriculum.
  - Include nutrition education in school curriculum and increase physical education.
  - Place a greater emphasis on physical education as a physical, mental, and emotional health measure. Ensuring the diverse needs of pupils are met in terms of physical education is vital to cultivating a healthy populace.
  - Provide emotional health education to all pupils.

### **Online Safety**

- Promote education on safe and responsible social media use.

### **Early Years/Childcare**

- Deliver reduced childcare costs and early learning supports for providers.

- Increase funding for early childcare to reduce childcare costs.

### **Health**

- Restore funding for the school dentist to prevent long-term dental problems.

### **Other**

- Deliver Youth Workers equitably throughout the country, to adequately serve all areas.