**COVID-19 NGO GROUP**

**C/O Community Work Ireland,**

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**To:** **Minister for Community Development and Charities, Joe O’Brien,** Dept of Social Protection, Rural and Community Development and the Islands, Trinity Point, 10-11 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2

**Date:** 5/10/’20

**Subject:** Support for Marginalised Communities - COVID-19 NGO Group

Dear Minister,

Prompted by the COVID-19 crisis, a group of NGOs, facilitated by Community Work Ireland, have been meeting online to share information on COVID-19 related issues and challenges and the responses needed to mitigate the consequences for the already marginalised groups and communities that they represent.

The Covid19 NGO Group are calling for ***additional resources to be allocated to community development groups working*** ***with the most disadvantaged communities*** through the re-introduction of a multi-annual programme to support local autonomous community development organisations.

These resources are required immediately, to support and build the resilience of already marginalised communities so that the medium and long-term negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis are mitigated during and after this crisis.

We acknowledge the huge challenges facing all of us at this very difficult time and collectively support the efforts on the part of Government, government departments, and agencies, as well as the courageous health workers at every level in seeking to deal with the multitude of complex and diverse medical, social, environmental and economic concerns that this pandemic is causing.

We look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Doyle, on behalf of the COVID -19 NGO Group

Contact:

Rachel Doyle – Joint Co-ordinator Community Work Ireland, racheldoyle@communityworkireland.ie

087 – 2998619

**This letter is endorsed by the following COVID-19 NGO Group Members:**

* Belong To
* City Wide Drugs Crisis Campaign
* Community Work Ireland
* Dublin City Community Cooperative
* Dublin North North East Recovery College
* European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
* Independent Living Movement Ireland
* Irish Council for Civil Liberties
* Irish Local Development Network
* Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
* Irish Refugee Council
* Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
* National Collective of Community Based Women’s Networks
* National Women’s Council of Ireland
* National Youth Council of Ireland
* One Family
* Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
* Simon Communities of Ireland
* West Clare Family Resource Centre