Coalition of CSOs raises concerns over proposed amendments to citizenship rules

A joint statement was issued by Doras, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Irish Refugee Council, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Nasc, AkiDwA and the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre, expressing serious concern about proposals that will significantly restrict access to Irish citizenship. According to reports, the proposed legislation would increase the standard residence requirement from 5 to 8 years and introduce language, civics, income and social conditions, which could exclude people who are already contributing to Irish society.

According to the CSOs, no rationale, research or evidence was presented by the department for the proposed changes, and no issues have been identified within the current system. Claims that the changes are in line with Europe are not true as many European countries maintain a 5-year residence requirement.

As part of the Oireachtas Committee's pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Irish Refugee Council submitted recommendations highlighting serious concerns about proposals that would make citizenship less accessible for refugees and other migrants.

Source(s)

- Irish Refugee Council (7 September, 2026), [Citizenship proposals will destroy a crucial route to integration], https://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/media-centre/press-releases/press-release-citizenship-proposals-will-destroy-a-crucial-route-to-integration/

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