
**The Future
Shouldn't
Look Like
The Past**



A message from Cllr Conor Reddy.

Ireland is no stranger to emigration. For the entirety of the state, young people have been forced to move abroad for better opportunities. The fault lies squarely with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael's failed policies.

Young people and students face an unprecedented cost of living crisis. The bare essentials of food, home heating and housing have skyrocketed to the point where many are forced abroad and out of education. Nearly half a million young adults are living with their parents.

The numbers emigrating this year were the highest since 2015. Nearly 35,000 Irish citizens left. 10,600 people left to live in Australia, up from 4,700 in 2023. 7 out of 10 young people are considering emigrating. A lost generation.

Many of these were skilled workers in healthcare, education and construction. Exactly the people we need to solve social crises are forced abroad by our governments policies.

People Before Profit would make Ireland a country for young people. We would address the crises facing young people with a radical vision for real equality that puts young people before the interests of the super wealthy in our society and show that another Ireland is possible.

Key Demands:

- Cut Rents and Better Protections for Student Renters
- End Age discrimination, Free & Frequent Public Transport
- Provide a €15 Minimum Wage, Workers Status for PhD's and Remuneration for Students* on Placement
- Fully Fund Higher Education, Expand Courses Taught Through Irish

A Radical Voice on the Streets and in the Dáil.

People Before Profit wants to build people powered movements to deliver real change. We will use the Dail to give voice to movements for change and resistance. Ireland is changing and we need to ensure that all young people, regardless of race, gender, sexual identity or nationality feel they belong here.

Stand Up to the Racists and the Far Right and attacks on the LGBTQI+.

Unlike other parties we have not pandered to the racists. We completely oppose the scapegoating of minorities.

Fight for Real Gender Equality

We will fight for radical improvements in the lives of women, men, trans and nonbinary people. We need to get rid of the three day waiting period for an abortion. Invest in services to support victims of sexual assault and gender based violence. Provide free transgender healthcare.

We also need to fight on the issues of global concern to young people.

Real Solidarity with Palestine Not Just Words.

We say expel the Israeli Ambassador; push for real sanctions and stop the use of Shannon to facilitate genocide. Pass the Occupied Territories Bill immediately.

Radical Action on Climate Change.

Even though the Greens are in government Ireland will miss 2030 emissions targets. We need a radical change of direction. Ban LNG infrastructure and new data centres, introduce free and frequent public transport & minimum energy standards for rented accommodation.

Entertainment and Nightlife.

Ireland has an extraordinarily rich cultural history and yet our investment in Arts, Entertainment and Culture is way behind other EU countries. Huge numbers of our artists, actors, musicians, film workers and crews suffer from low incomes and insecure employment conditions. People Before Profit would bring the funding for cultural services, broadcasting, and publishing services closer to the EU average of 0.9% of GDP.

We would make the Basic Income for Artists permanent and available to all eligible applicants. Further, we would expand the definition of artists to be eligible for funding to include most forms of creative arts.

Ireland's entertainment and nightlife is dying. There are just 70 nightclubs left across the country and over 80% of them have closed since 2000. Current legislation and extortionate insurance costs are causing the closure of Ireland's nightlife entertainment. People Before Profit would commit to a comprehensive overhaul of licensing laws and adjusting opening hours.

We will also commit to enhanced funding for the development of new cultural infrastructure, including community-run venues and studios. We will ensure that cultural and social infrastructure, including night-time venues, will be part of any new developments.

Connected to this is the question of safety. We would mandate training for nightlife staff to recognise potential dangers to nightclub goers. This would better allow staff to effectively deal with cases of spiking, sexual violence and overdoses.

Safe travel is imperative to increasing safety. Our policy of free and frequent public travel would allow nightlife goers to enjoy their entertainment without fear of not being able to get home. Bus goers regularly report a higher feeling of safety over walking.

Decriminalise Drugs.

People Before Profit supports the decriminalisation of all drugs and the legalisation of cannabis. The criminalisation of drug use has been a failed policy. It is a policy that has wasted the time of the Gardaí, the courts, and the criminal justice system as well as negatively impacting the lives of people who are charged with possession of small amounts of drugs.

We want to centre harm reduction and believe the best way to tackle addiction and overdoses is a health based approach.

Housing & Cost of Living.

The most pressing crises facing young people are getting the bare essentials to survive: housing, good employment and enough to get by and live on.

People Before Profit would radically transform the housing sector. We would use the Apple money as seed capital for a state construction company delivering tens of thousands of affordable homes and thousands of good paying jobs for young workers and apprentices.

Young people are a generation of renters. We need to change the rental sector from being in the pockets of vulture funds and landlords to one where renters have real protections:

- Limit rents at 25% of income
- Security of tenure and an end to no fault evictions
- Transform the RTB into National Rent Authority with real powers to protect tenants and enforce a NCT type system to ensure accommodation is of a high standard
- Make landlords upgrade properties to reduce energy use.

Student Accommodation.

A key issue facing students is the lack of purpose built student accommodation. Universities like UCD and others have significant land banks. Rather than focus on providing much needed low cost accommodation, university managements are choosing instead to invest in luxury accommodation targeting wealthy international students and building vanity projects.

People Before Profit would abolish the licensee system for student renters. Students should not be discriminated against for being students.

Young People leaving the home often have little in the way of savings and are some of the worst hit by the cost of living crisis. People Before Profit wants to take action to reduce the cost of living
This means:

- Price controls on essentials and caps energy prices
- Free and frequent public transport
- Ending discriminatory rates of Jobseekers Allowance for those under 25
- Upping the Susi rates to 350 euro a week. The rate the government acknowledges is the basic amount to be able to live on.



Young Workers Rights.

Young people are some of the most exploited workers in Ireland. Successive Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments have allowed legal discrimination against young workers.

People Before Profit have brought forward a bill to eliminate the sub-minimum wage rates for those under 20. Young workers and apprentices need a minimum wage of €15 an hour so they are not forced into poverty. We would also abolish pro rata registration fees for apprentices.

For students, working part time has become a reality as the cost of third level education rises further and further. We need to protect student workers by ending the scourge of precarious employment: workers should be protected from dismissal from day one in the job.

One of the greatest scandals of our time is the unpaid work students do on placement: especially students nurses who are forced to endure our understaffed and underresourced hospitals without remuneration.

Student nurses, doctors and professions like radiographers provide vital services to our healthcare systems and are essential to its future. Other nations like Scotland already provide a bursary of £10,000 to student nurses.

People Before Profit would end the two tier salary scale for teachers and educators. Schools face enormous difficulties recruiting teachers in cities with poverty wages and lack of access to affordable housing.

Postgraduate workers also need to see their stipends raised. Many undertake unpaid PhD's with others having meagre stipends. People Before Profit would increase Postgraduate workers' stipends to €28'000 and classify them as workers to ensure rights to parental leave, sick leave and other employee rights.

Young workers need representation. They disproportionately staff insecure and precarious sectors like hospitality and food service. People Before Profit would legislate for mandatory union recognition and reform of the 1990 Industrial Relations Act to allow workers to advance wage claims effectively.

Education.

Education is a right, not a commodity. People Before Profit wants to see a higher education sector fully funded and free at the point of delivery. Much is made of Ireland's highly educated population, and rightly so. But we are falling behind. Economic barriers are pushing more and more students out of further education, having to resort to precarious work to get by. 8.5% of undergraduates and 9.5% of postgraduates in a recent survey said they are seriously considering withdrawing from their degree programme for financial reasons.

The Higher Education sector is dramatically underfunded. Between 2009 and 2016, state funding to higher education was cut by 38%. Just last year, Funding the Future identified a €307 million annual shortfall in core funding needed in higher education. This has meant universities are now heavily reliant on international fees and alternative incomes like rent.

People Before Profit would restore the deficit in state funding, make higher education truly free by abolishing fees and introducing real support for students.

The current SUSI system lacks appropriate provisions for estranged and independent students, a cohort who face complex barriers when seeking financial support from SUSI. People Before Profit would implement the full SUSI review released over two years ago. Many provisions are still not implemented.

We are seeing a revival of the Irish Language. People Before Profit wants to see this supported with state intervention into further education to allow students to study through Irish. We would commit to overseeing the development of a long-term plan to have 20% of third-level courses taught through Irish by 2030, as proposed in the USI manifesto.