



CONTACT US:



Safe Home Ireland
St Brendan's Village
Mulranny, Westport
Co. Mayo, Ireland



Office:

098 36036 (from Ireland)
+353 98 36036 (from abroad)



Mobile:

+ 353 86 059 4538
(Text/WhatsApp)



Website:

www.safehomeireland.com



Email:

info@safehomeireland.com



Safe Home office hours:

Monday to Thursday:
9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday:
9.00am to 4.00pm

**Thinking of returning or moving to Ireland?
Get in touch!**

Safe Home Programme CLG
trading as Safe Home Ireland
Charity No: 20049119
Company Reg No: 351678

Welcome from our CEO

Thank you to everyone who attended the launch in [EPIC Irish Emigration Museum](#), of our upcoming **Fundraising Challenge** to walk [The National Famine Way](#). Our walk will leave EPIC on Saturday 11th May and arrive in [Strokestown Park & National Famine Way Museum](#) Co. Roscommon on Sunday 19th May. Registration is only €30 and you can walk an hour, a day or even the full challenge (167km)!

Safe Home is core funded via the [Emigrant Support Programme](#) via The Department of Foreign Affairs, to whom we are most thankful, and who have supported our work since our inception. However, like all charities, there is a funding gap that we need to meet each year.

We are asking you, our readers, to support us – you can either walk with us, sponsor a walker or make a donation online via our fundraising page, see [HERE](#). By just sharing the event, you can help us to increase interest and potential donations.

Of course there is also the option to do a sponsored walk in your own area, at your own pace, by seeking sponsorship from your contacts and friends, you can also support our cause in that way. Choose the walk that suits you best, you can walk a half day, a full day or even the full 167km!

To finish things off, on Sunday 19th May, in Strokestown, we will be holding a Homecoming event, with our Ambassador, [Seán Keane](#). For more information and registration details see Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3VPL5fo> OR contact our office.

The Long Road Home... Ag Siúl le Chéile

Our Fundraising Walk will begin at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin's Docklands and finish at The National Famine Museum in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.
Saturday 11th May to Sunday 19th May 2024

The National Famine Way is a 165km trail that traces the footsteps of the 1.4m famine emigrants who left Strokestown in 1847. It commemorates the heart-breaking walk of forced emigration from Ireland.

Registration €30

Safe Home Ireland is a registered charity that assists Irish people abroad to 'Come Home' and also offers support and advisory advice they have returned. Your support is vital for us to continue providing essential services to those at need, both here and at the future.

Contact Us:
Safe Home Ireland, St. Brendan's Village, Mulranny, Co. Mayo, F28 A366
Tel: +353 98 36036
Email: karen@safehomeireland.com
Website: www.safehomeireland.com



Negotiating Housing Options for Safe Home Ireland Housing Applicants

Unfortunately, we have to report that the housing crisis in Ireland shows no real sign of improvement. This is particularly the case in larger towns and cities, where demand far exceeds supply, both for social housing and long-term affordable private rented accommodation.

However, some good news! Safe Home Ireland continues to work away in the background to explore suitable housing options for our clients. We have drawn-up a motion for Local Authorities, seeking their support to allocate age-friendly housing to qualifying Irish emigrants.

To this end, we are delighted to announce that [Sligo County Council](#) recently approved this motion (proposed by [Cllr Dara Mulvey](#)) to **allocate one Age-Friendly property per year** (in each of the Council's electoral areas) to a qualifying returning Irish emigrant.

The proposed applicant must have their housing needs assessed by the Local Authority and be approved for inclusion on the social housing waiting list.

We have already begun the process of 'rolling out' the motion to other Local Authorities and hope to be able to report favourably on progress with that over the coming months.

Watch this space!

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant – Ireland

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is a payment you can get if you are turning a vacant house or building into your permanent home or a rental property. A grant of up to €50,000 is available. To qualify, applicants must;

- have proof of ownership or evidence of active negotiations to buy the property (that is, confirmation of engagement from the estate agent or owner of the property) where you are seeking approval in principle for a grant
- live in the property as your principal private residence or make it available for rent
- have proof that the property has been vacant for at least 2 years and that it was built up to and including 2007

If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available (Derelict Property 'top up' Grant). To get this top-up grant, you must confirm that the property is derelict. This means that the property is structurally unsound and dangerous. The total grant available for a derelict property is therefore €70,000. Applicants must submit an independent report prepared by a qualified professional, along with the application confirming that the property is derelict.

Applications can be accepted from people living abroad. However, as well as meeting the requirements for the property in question, applicants must also be able to prove they are tax compliant in their country of residence.

For more information, please see [HERE](#) or contact the [Vacant Homes Officer](#) in the Council area that is relevant to where your property is located.



Lesson Learning and Information Sharing – Returned Emigrant’s Network

We will be facilitating another Returned Emigrant Network (REN) meeting in Portlaoise Parish Centre, **Co. Laois** on Saturday 4th May (2-3.30pm). The group are now keen to meet monthly to share common experiences as well as provide information and guidance to those still abroad, to help them overcome some of the hurdles they may experience on return.

We will be holding our first REN meeting in **Galway** on **Thursday 13th June** – we will provide further information in our May Newsletter. [Please contact our office](#) if you would like more information/to get involved.



HAVE YOU RECENTLY RETURNED HOME TO IRELAND?
IF SO ... WHY NOT JOIN SAFE HOME IRELAND
RETURNED EMIGRANTS NETWORK

- ✓ By sharing your experiences, you can make the road easier for others setting out on their return journey
- ✓ Recently returned, finding it hard to settle or facing challenges?
- ✓ Find out more about Safe Home Ireland and how we can assist



Saturday 4th May 2024 - 2pm to 3.30pm
Portlaoise Parish Centre, Stradbally Rd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 FH67

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
KAREN AT SAFE HOME IRELAND

Tel: 098 36036 / 087 977 5080
Email: karen@safehomeireland.com

Safe Home Ireland is a charity that works with the Irish diaspora. It provides provides a range of services to Irish abroad thinking of returning home to Ireland. It also offers outreach support to those who have recently returned.

 **The Community Foundation for Ireland**

 **SAFE HOME IRELAND**
DIASPORA SUPPORT SERVICE

 **Government of Ireland**
Emigrant Support Programme

Registered Office: St. Brendan's Village Mullranny, Co. Mayo, F28 A386
Web: www.safehomeireland.com | CIF: 20049192

Sage Advocacy- Support for Survivors of Institutional Abuse

Sage Advocacy, an Irish based National Advocacy service for older people, vulnerable adults, and healthcare patients is currently extending its services to meet the information, support and advocacy needs of survivors of institutional abuse. The measures will enhance the suite of supports to be provided by the "General Supports Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Abuse Bill 2023". This bill provides for supports such as an enhanced medical card, educational supports and a once off healthcare payment to survivors who are resident abroad.

The primary focus for Sage Advocacy is ensuring that survivors are supported to access all supports and services to which they are legally entitled and to assist them in engaging with issues of a complex nature, whether they relate to care, finance or decision-making(capacity) issues. **For more information, please see [HERE](#)**

Sage Advocacy works with people across all settings; private homes, nursing homes, hospitals, hostels and hospices and with the many issues that can arise when people are in transition from one setting to another. **For more information on the full range of services provided, or to contact Sage Advocacy Ireland, please see [HERE](#)**

Finally, we were delighted to attend the Irish launch of The "**50 Years of the Irish in Britain Exhibition**" in [EPIC Irish Emigration Museum](#), by [The Irish in Britain](#), on Thursday 18th April.

This landmark Exhibition explore the personal stories, the struggles and the triumphs that have shaped the Irish in Britain over the past 50 years. The exhibition features contributions from well know actors, musicians, poets, broadcasters, sports figures as well as several community activists who shaped the Irish in Britain. We are delighted our very own, Ann Lawler, a recent returnee and Friend of Safe Home Ireland is featured too! This is a 'must see exhibition and runs until 14th July – Entry to the exhibition is included in general admission ticked to EPIC. Please see [HERE](#) to book your ticket. If you are unable to attend EPIC, you can view the Exhibition online [HERE](#).

Until next month, take care from the Board, Staff, Friends & Ambassador of Safe Home Ireland

