

A Hostile Environment - NRPF

**Presentation of Scoping Paper
to consider children and
families in NI affected by NRPF
conditions**

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Overview

- **Introductions**
- **Review**
 - Aims and objectives
 - Methodology, Design & Scope
 - Findings
 - Conclusions and next steps

Introductions

Dr Karen Orr and Dr LEEANNE O'HARA:
Independent research consultants.

Aims & Objectives

The overarching objective of the scoping paper was to provide insight into the conditions faced by families affected by NRPF in Northern Ireland.

In doing so, we aimed to provide:

- A definition of NRPF;
- An overview of relevant child rights standards and obligations;
- An outline of relevant domestic legislation, policy and guidance;
- Insight into known data of affected children and families in NI;
- Insight into existing support routes;
- Detail of any exacerbating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- Provide insight into some relevant next steps and recommendations for policy and practice.

Methodology, design & scope

- Co-design.
- Scoping review of relevant legislation, policy and literature:
 - Expert contributions to research repository;
 - Primary review of relevant literature and policy using agreed search terms and a range of online* sources.
- Mapping exercise:
 - Relevant agencies identified, screened and included, where appropriate.
- Review of the impact of COVID-19 (relating to those affected by NRPF).

Findings

Defining NRPF

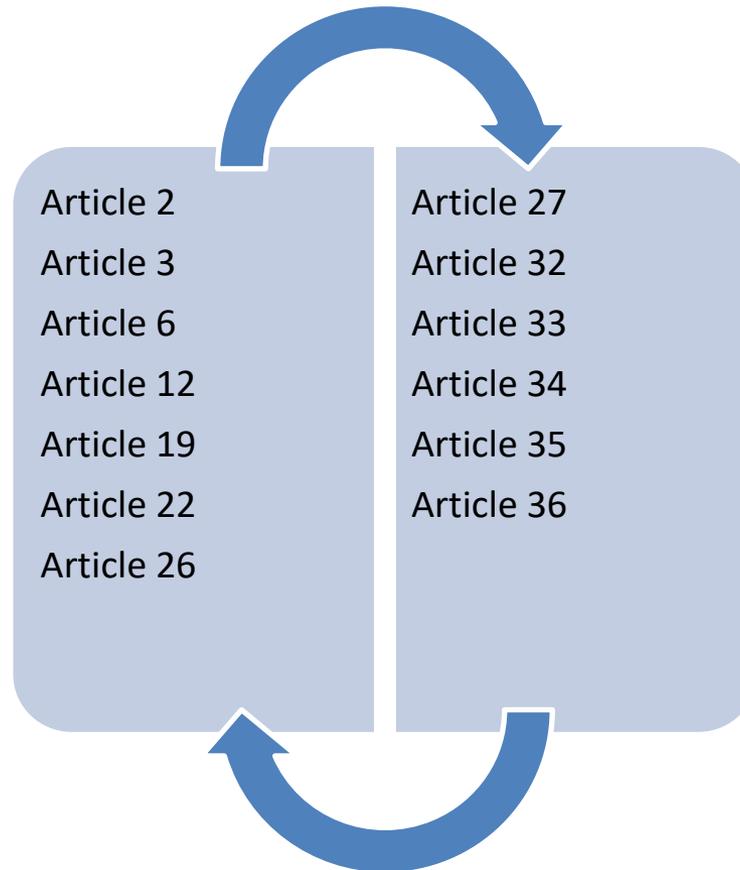
‘Broadly speaking, NRPF is a condition imposed on the majority of migrants with temporary status which prevents them accessing most social security benefits’ (Law Centre, NI, 2021)



- What constitutes public funds?
- Who is affected by no recourse to these public funds?

Findings

Children's rights obligations and standards



Findings

Legislation policy and guidance

Immigration law

NI Social Security system

Children Act (1989)/ The Children (NI) Order 1995

Findings

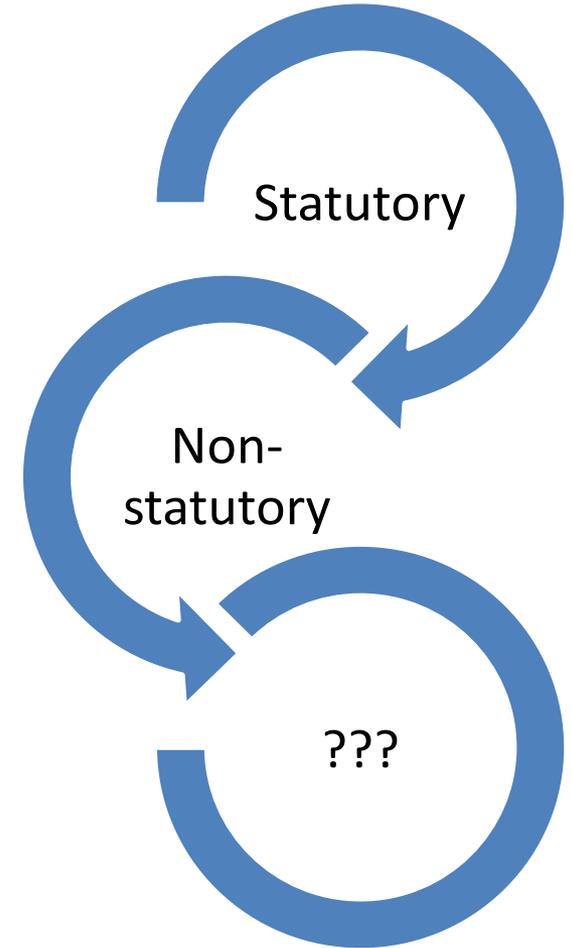
Affected children and families in NI



Findings

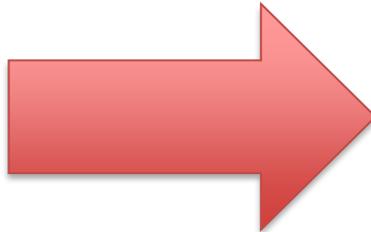
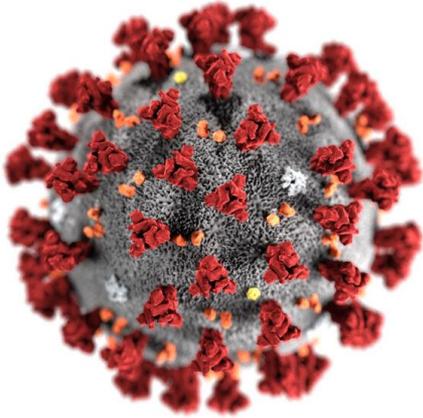
Mapping exercise

- Asylum process in Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Executive and Statutory Support
- Forums
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charities



Findings

Impact of COVID-19 related to those subject to NRPF



Non/Statutory

- Testing and welfare
- Education
- Accommodation
- Healthcare
- Family reunion / debt

Conclusions and next steps

Evidence and information

- Need for data!
 - up to date disaggregated data specific to Northern Ireland;
 - to better understand, not only the extent of the problem, but how these matters are dealt with in practice;
- Primary research exploring a range of topics is necessary; and
- Updated information regarding the current legislation in Northern Ireland including the impact / potential impact of the Immigration Act 2016 and New Immigration plan that is currently out for consultation on families subject to NRPF conditions.

Conclusions and next steps

Legislation and policy

- It is necessary to address legislation and policy which is leading to enforced destitution of children living in families who are subject to NRPF. And, importantly, involve children in the decision-making processes involved; and
- Address procedures and practices surrounding immigration and the relevant policies to ensure that they are child rights compliant.

Clarify support structures

- It is necessary to provide clear and unambiguous mechanisms and pathways between government and statutory agencies to improve the ease with which families negotiate the support processes.

Conclusions and next steps



Questions

We welcome any feedback or questions you may have...

Thank you!