



**Community Platform Press Release: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – For immediate release**

## **The Government must use Budget 2020 to deliver on its commitments to a more equal and sustainable future for all**

In advance of Budget 2020, a network of 30 national organisations in the community and voluntary sector is reminding the Government that the Budget must move Ireland towards achieving its national and international commitments to ending poverty, reducing inequality and creating a more sustainable future for everyone. These commitments are made under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Pillar of Social Rights and a range of national strategies including housing, childcare, health and poverty and inequality.

The Community Platform is a network of 30 national organisations working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality. They have published Four Tests for Budget 2020 and will apply these in assessing the Government's progress in achieving its commitments. The four tests are:

Test 1: Will Budget 2020 redistribute income towards the poorest 20%?

Test 2: Will Budget 2020 strengthen access to quality employment?

Test 3: Will Budget 2020 restore and strengthen public services that are of particular importance to people on low income?

Test 4: Will the impact of Budget 2020 be assessed to ensure that all provisions reduce poverty and inequality?

The Platform has drawn on its members proposals for Budget 2020 to outline detailed measures the Government should implement if it is to achieve these four tests.

Paul Ginnell, spokesperson for the Community Platform, said that "Ireland has made commitments, such as to reducing those living in consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2020, and these must be the drivers for decisions on Budget day. We will assess the impact of the Budget to ensure it is moving Ireland towards achieving these commitments and the Government must to be held to account if it does not".

Mr Ginnell concluded "We understand the need to urgently address the causes of climate change, but this must be done with a climate justice approach and Budget 2020 must support the most vulnerable to make the transition while protecting them from the negative effects of measures taken to address it".

**Ends.**

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### **Further Information**

Download the full Four Tests for Budget 2020 at [www.communityplatform.ie](http://www.communityplatform.ie)

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### **The Community Platform**

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The Community Platform is an alliance of 30 national networks and organisations in the community and voluntary sector working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

- Age Action Ireland
- All Together in Dignity (ATD) Ireland
- Community Action Network
- Community Work Ireland
- Cairde
- Debt and Development Coalition
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland
- Family Resource Centre National Forum
- Focus Ireland
- Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Independent Living Movement Ireland
- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
- Irish Penal Reform Trust
- Irish Refugee Council
- Irish Rural Link
- Irish Traveller Movement
- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
- National Adult Literacy Agency
- National Collective of Community-based Women's Networks
- National Traveller Women's Forum
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- Pavee Point
- Rape Crisis Network Ireland
- Safe Ireland
- Sign Language Interpreting Service
- Simon Communities of Ireland
- Threshold
- Treoir
- Vincentian Partnership for Justice
- Women's Aid