

<https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie/#/pledging/room>

Webpage content captured 2022-03-14



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## YOUR VACANT PROPERTY OR SPARE ROOM COULD CHANGE A LIFE.



### PLEDGE TODAY

REGISTER MY PLEDGE

By clicking Register you agree to the [Terms and Conditions](#)

## More About Pledging

The Red Cross was founded on the idea that help should always be available to people in their time of need.

We are seeking spare rooms and vacant property pledges so that we can help people newly arrived in Ireland integrate in our communities.

Pledging accommodation will play a significant and valuable role in helping people rebuild their lives and settle in Irish communities.

When matching pledges, we always consider the best interests of hosts and their communities, and the best interests of the people we are serving. If we find a successful match, the Irish Red Cross Migration Team will be on hand to support all parties at every step. Pledges can be offered on a charitable basis or Pledgers can request to receive Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

PLEDGE A SPARE ROOM

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## HOW TO PLEDGE A ROOM IN YOUR HOME?

The shared accommodation pledge requires the pledge of a spare room in your home. Whether you have a house with a single spare room, several spare rooms or an apartment with one free room, we are interested in hearing from you. Pledges can be offered on a charitable basis or you can request to receive Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

By registering your profile on the Register of Pledges, you are providing the Irish Red Cross with consent to share your information with our partners - Co-operative Housing Ireland - who will assess your property and discuss the details with you. The more information you can give us about your property and the surrounding amenities, the better we can choose people who will be suited to it, whilst ensuring they have access to requisite services and amenities in the locality.

## SPARE ROOM SELECTION CRITERIA



Shared properties are those with at least one single spare room



Pledges can be offered on a charitable basis



Pledgers can request to receive Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) for rent-a-room schemes



For pledges of property, we request a minimum of 12 months commitment



Shared properties must include direct access to cooking facilities, shared or private bathrooms, and private bedrooms of a reasonable size



All properties must be close to public transport and within a short commute to villages, towns and/or cities

Tenancy agreements are entered into and this agreement covers a specific amount of time. Generally, we ask for between 12 to 18 months. In some cases, the housing agreement can be extended beyond 18 months. Once the tenancy agreement is in place the guest/tenant is settled in the accommodation, they will be placed on the local authority housing list. We offer support for the 12-18 month tenancy and assist with the next move, often to private rented accommodation.

## SPARE ROOM PROCESS

1

One of our trained professionals will call you to discuss some details over the phone. They will ask some standard questions to ensure the Irish Red Cross has the requisite information to progress with the placement.

2

We arrange a time for an Irish Red Cross and Co-operative Housing Ireland representative to meet you at your property for a brief assessment. We normally look for a private room that is of a reasonable size.

3

Assuming that the assessment is favorable, your offer is passed on to our caseworkers. They then try to match the property to a suitable person arriving in Ireland under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, managed by the Irish Government's Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in Process, based on suitability, particular needs and personality.

4

If/when a match is made, we will contact you and give basic information about the potential match. With your permission, we will arrange a preliminary meeting which will include you, the guest/tenant, his/her caseworker, and possibly an interpreter. During this meeting, you will discuss house rules and the expectations of both parties. A plan will be put in place to prepare the property for tenancy and any legal arrangements are discussed and supported by Co-operative Housing Ireland. We also look at the available supports through the Irish Red Cross Volunteer network and other active Non-Governmental Organizations in the area.

5

We will be in touch with you a few days later to see what your thoughts are about the match. If all parties are happy to proceed, we will arrange a move date.

6

During, and immediately following the move the Red Cross caseworker will be quite hands-on for the first few days (setting up social welfare entitlements, GP and dentist visits, education enrolment and potential employment in the local areas). The caseworker will be in weekly contact after this, and will examine any other necessary support needed. If more assistance is needed, we will provide it. Our administrative staff and caseworkers will be in contact with you to keep an eye on how the situation is working out. It is our duty to do our best for the guest/tenant, the host and the host community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how you can pledge an offer of goods in more detail, call the Irish Red Cross Migration Team on 01-642 4600 or email [migrationcrisis@redcross.ie](mailto:migrationcrisis@redcross.ie)

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## HOW TO PLEDGE YOUR VACANT ACCOMMODATION?

We have had great success with matching families with vacant properties (including holidays homes, or a second or unoccupied property). Pledges can be offered on a charitable basis or you can request to receive Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

The vacant accommodation pledge requires physical assessment of the building, an assessment of social aspects of the property's location, as well as an understanding of the hosts needs. Our aim is to gain an understanding of the area can offer to the prospective guest/tenant's integration needs.

The more information you can give us about your property and the surrounding amenities, the better we can choose people who will be suited to it, whilst ensuring they have access to requisite services and amenities in the locality. By registering your profile on the Register of Pledges, you are providing the Irish Red Cross with consent to share your information with our partners - Co-operative Housing Ireland - who will assess your property and discuss the details with you.

## VACANT PROPERTY SELECTION CRITERIA



Vacant properties can be apartments, houses and converted accommodation in which no one else is living



Vacant properties should have at least one bedroom



Vacant properties can be offered by the following: private landlords, people with second homes, businesses and letting agents, charities, community groups



Pledges can be offered on a charitable basis



Pledgers can request to receive Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)



For all property pledges we request a minimum of 12 month commitment



All properties must be close to public transport and within a short commute to villages, towns and/or cities



Properties must be accessible to banks, post office, shops, English language courses, schools, crèches and employment opportunities



All properties must be in a reasonable condition, and for those seeking to receive Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), properties must meet HAP standard

Tenancy agreements are entered into and this agreement covers a specific amount of time. Generally, we ask for between 12 to 18 months. In some cases, the housing agreement can be extended beyond 18 months. Once the tenancy agreement is in place the guest/tenant is settled in the accommodation, they will be placed on the local authority housing list. We offer support for the 12-18 month tenancy and assist with the next move, often to private rented accommodation.

## VACANT PROPERTY PROCESS

- 1 One of our trained professionals will call you to discuss some details over the phone. They will ask some standard questions to ensure the Irish Red Cross has the requisite information to progress with the placement.
- 2 We arrange a time for an Irish Red Cross and Co-operative Housing Ireland representative to meet you at your property for a brief assessment. This is a formality to ensure certain housing standards and criteria are in place and to ascertain if some minor work is required to support the placement. Advice will be provided by Co-operative Housing Ireland on technical aspects of the process.
- 3 Assuming the assessment is approved, the property will be added to the Irish Red Cross available housing list. The Irish Red Cross assists both families and individuals person in Ireland under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, managed by the Irish Government's Department of Children, Equality, Disability. An in-depth matching process is undertaken by our professional caseworkers and housing teams. The property is matched to a guest/tenant based on suitability, location, needs and best fit to support them to settle into the community. We also look at the available supports through the Irish Red Cross volunteer network and other active Non-Governmental organisations in the area.
- 4 If/when a match is made, we will contact you and give basic information about the potential match. With your permission, we will arrange a preliminary meeting which will include your guest/tenant, his/her caseworker, and possibly an interpreter. During this meeting, you will discuss house rules and the expectations of both parties. A plan will be put in place to prepare the property for tenancy and any legal arrangements are discussed and supported by Co-operative Housing Ireland. We also look at the available supports through the Irish Red Cross Volunteer network and other active Non-Governmental Organizations in the area.
- 5 We will be in touch with you a few days later to see what your thoughts are about the match. If all parties are happy to proceed, we will arrange a move date.
- 6 During, and immediately following the move the Red Cross caseworker will be quite hands-on for the first few days (setting up social welfare entitlements, GP and dentist visits, education enrolment and potential employment in the local areas). The caseworker will be in weekly contact after this, and will examine any other necessary support needed. If more assistance is needed, we will provide it. Our administrative staff and caseworkers will be in contact with you to keep an eye on how the situation is working out. It is our duty to do our best for the guest/tenant, the host and the host community.

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People need to be made to feel welcome if they are to settle happily in Ireland. By sharing your professional expertise, services or even friendship, new arrivals in Ireland will immediately begin to feel more at home. Your knowledge could help in the form of home tuition, language classes, sharing of financial expertise, giving basic IT training or using your expertise in a trade to tend to problems that may arise with plumbing or electrics in a home, for example. Or perhaps you are interested in helping in your local community, working under direction; you can let us know what works best for you.

Your services will enable people to re-engage with education and/or training and employment, develop life skills and generally settle in, while also getting to know more people. If you are interested in getting involved, please add your name to the Register of Pledges to join us in providing a warm welcome and integrated supports to people arriving in Ireland.

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Due to the difficult nature of the journey, people arriving in Ireland for international protection may bring very few possessions with them and don't have appropriate clothing for the Irish climate. Items sitting in your wardrobe or taking up space in a spare room could prove very beneficial to people trying to settle in.

The Irish Red Cross will gratefully accept pledges of quality items of clothing, goods and furniture. We request that you hold on to the item until we identify someone with an immediate need for that item. This minimises storage overheads for the Irish Red Cross and allows us to concentrate on effectively identifying the needs of our service users and distributing goods to them. If you are interested in donating goods or gifting us items, please add your name to the Register of Pledges to join us in providing integrated support to people newly arriving in Ireland.

