USING FOOD TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS
What is Our Table?

• Our Table is a community-driven, non-profit project aiming to highlight the need to end Direct Provision in Ireland. Our goal is to facilitate change through conversation over food.

• We support people who are asylum seekers or refugees to cook food from their own culture, while gaining employable skills in catering, health and safety and restaurant management.

• Our vision is to have a thriving café in the heart of Dublin which celebrates cuisine from around the world.

• We want to offer training to people exiting the Direct Provision system in Ireland.

• We want to build awareness of the fact that asylum seekers and refugees living in ‘Direct Provision' cannot gain employment or cook for themselves and that Direct Provision needs to end.
The Story So Far

• Established in 2015 to highlight lack of cooking facilities in Direct Provision for Asylum Seekers, and the fact that Asylum Seekers don't have the right to work.

• Held over 15 Pop Up Café’s in 2015 and 2016.

• Opened a Café in the Project Arts Centre in 2016.

• Served food for 300-400 people per day and gained national media coverage and celebrity endorsement.

• Employed 10 people who are asylum seekers or refugees, and trained them in catering and restaurant management.

• We held cooking classes and were also part of Dublin Street Feast in 2017.
Direct provision: creating a cultural disconnect
Quality of life in direct provision is made worse for many residents by lack of access to cooking facilities and appropriate food
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Una MullallyFollow @UnaMullally
A pop-up cafe in Dublin, which has been raising awareness of living conditions in direct provision centres, is appealing for help in finding new premises. The ‘Our Table’ project was set up to highlight how asylum seekers are denied the right to prepare their own food in direct provision housing. The cafe is due to close next week.
What’s next?
Our Big Idea

• A thriving restaurant in the heart of Dublin celebrating cuisine from around the world, prepared with care from good quality ingredients.

• A place that is warm and friendly to visit, carrying within it a strong ethical message.

• A nurturing space where asylum seekers, refugees and people from all backgrounds can gain skills, are paid a living wage and can pick up knowledge about how Irish society functions.

• A restaurant which builds awareness of food in a multicultural Ireland and highlights that the current system of Direct Provision is an obstacle to food culture, and that asylum seekers should have the right to work and contribute to society.