

Student Groups Disrupt Minister Eamon Ryan Address, Call for Climate and Housing Action

23rd of March 2023 - Student groups have disrupted an event hosted by Trinity College Dublin where Minister Eamon Ryan was giving a talk at 12pm. Extinction Rebellion, Time To Act TCD, Connolly Youth Movement, Students4Change, Trinity People Before Profit have disrupted the event by setting their alarm clocks for 12:20pm and making short speeches one after the other. The students demanded that the eviction ban be extended as thousands of people are struggling with the housing crisis and the cost of living, which affects students as well as all ordinary people. As of 2022, 15,000 students are in rent or fee debt to their institutions, 88% of students worry about finances and 1/3 have considered dropping out. The students in their speeches expressed their dissatisfaction with the neoliberal government coalition and highlighted the Green's complicity in the housing crisis, climate change and the state of Irish education. The students also expressed frustration with the promises of the Green Party that they betrayed, namely relating to Direct Provision.

The student groups note that the questions for the event were pre-filtered and that this contributed to the decision to take this action. Rather than an open-ended and free debate, this event had its questions pre-filtered. Therefore, this was the only way to have our voices heard as otherwise our questions critical of the government would not be read out.

See quotes below from representatives of each organisation.

"The Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and Greens government does not care about ordinary people, students and workers, but is a government of the rich, of the vulture funds and the multinational corporations. They have consistently taken decisions against our communities. The blame for the housing crisis, for one, lies solely and squarely with the government, who have for years pursued a neoliberal policy of leaving the provision of housing in the hands of the private market. As a result, we have thousands of homeless people, including families, and many more living in housing insecurity. As a result of the eviction ban, many more will be made homeless, which is outrageous." says Laszlo Molnarfi, Chairperson of Students4Change and President-elect of the Trinity College Dublin Students' Union, contactable at molnarfl@tcd.ie or +32 470 58 31 74.

"The Green Party's failure to extend the eviction ban is not surprising, but nevertheless disappointing. Their broken promises over direct provision are particularly harmful to those studying in Ireland, as a safe-haven from ongoing conflict and war. They are failing to protect the most vulnerable in our society, minorities and students struggling to stay above water," says Lean, representative of Trinity People Before Profit, pbp@csc.tcd.ie

"The Green Party and Minister Ryan have not taken the climate crisis seriously enough to question the economic and social status quo. Our emissions have risen to the highest in Europe, while Minister Ryan has belittled just transition solutions in transport, one of the fastest growing sources of emissions within Ireland. They have slid on environmental issues, as in their changing their position to support the CETA trade deal. A fairer, greener future can only be possible with social justice, while the Green Party gave alienated the vulnerable

in our communities with their support for a neoliberal government,” says Nathan Hutchinson Edgar, Extinction Rebellion,
Time to Act TCD, timetoactcd@gmail.com 083 887 6408

“The current Free State government made up of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and of course the so-called “Greens” has proven time and time again it does not stand with the working class of Ireland. The Greens under Eamonn Ryan as part of this government have exposed the true preformative nature of their ‘environmentalism’ and have shown that they are willing to bend over backwards on behalf of the capitalist class to opportunistically secure themselves overpaid positions in government. They have failed to dismantle the brutal system of direct provision, they have failed to even begin building a greener Ireland. Minister Ryan is more concerned that people might take ‘unnecessary’ bus journeys than making sure people aren’t kicked out onto the street, with his party’s shameful decision in voting to end the eviction ban, putting working class families on the line. The CYM are committed to standing up for our class in all aspects and will continue to do so when capitalist running dogs attempt to enter our communities,” says CYM Dublin Representative, dublin@cym.ie

