

February 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marwa Zamir and I am from Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan. I wish to apply for the summer internship at ByrneWallace LLP. I am currently studying law and Criminology at Maynooth University, and I am passionate about using my voice to help others and to advocate for social justice.

My ambition to become a lawyer developed as a young teenager growing up in Direct Provision. Since the age of 15, I have volunteered actively in my local community instilling in me a great sense of motivation and hard work in pursuit of my career goals. I would love the opportunity to work in a large, esteemed firm such as ByrneWallace to gain legal experience in a professional environment and to obtain a unique insight into the work of a solicitor and the legal system in Ireland. My ultimate aim as a lawyer is to contribute as much as I can to help others.

I am an ambitious person who is always seeking new opportunities to learn and support others.

I was nominated for a Mayo Garda Youth Award in 2019 for my community work with Foróige

This volunteer role involves me helping with online cooking and yoga classes and encouraging and supporting the young people to engage in the workshops.

I have a keen interest in educating others about Direct Provision and supporting refugees. I became an Advisory Board Member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in February 2022. The Board was established as a support team for refugees in Ireland. I am the youngest member and I always include young people in our Board discussions. We are presently working on a survey due to be published next year which will address issues such as housing, education and family reunification visas.

Currently I am a youth leader within the Irish Refugee Council. I support the youth workers to plan and facilitate workshops that support young people living in Direct Provision. A project is called 'Hear Us', a resource for young people to learn about Direct Provision in Ireland. Recently I was a guest panelist for a Q & A discussion with the director of the film Aisha that is directed by Frank Berry. My role involved speaking on behalf of people who have lived experience of Direct Provision and sharing my opinions and insights for how we can create a more welcoming system of international protection. My recent work with the Irish refugee Council was publishing a resource booklet called 'Tight Spaces' which raises awareness of Direct Provision. My role included research, interviewing and writing content for I was also part of the media team and took part in interviews and the press and co-hosted the Booklet launch.

I contributed a part of my personal story to 'Correspondent: Anthology to call for an end to Direct Provision' which was published in 2019. My story is called 'In Kabul I Was Busy Playing'. Due to the success of this book, was invited to meet President Micheal D.Higgins. Additionally, I was invited to read my story at Sanctuary scholarship event in Maynooth University for Law students.

I have worked in Amazon, Carraig Donn as an FC Associate and Sales Associate and currently work as a Freelancer translator. As a result I have developed my communication and customer service skills to a high level.

I have recently completed Certificate in Global Migrant Literature and Culture course from Maynooth University. I also participated in a law summer school programme by the Law society of Ireland in August 2020. I am a hard working individual and a quick learner, and would relish the opportunity to work with such experienced lawyers in your practice across diverse areas of law.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kind regards  
Marwa Zamir