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Press Release

for immediate release

Community Sector Employers call for support for SIPTU rally against funding cuts

The CSEF (Community Sector Employers Forum) has called on community sector organisations to support the action against cuts in services and jobs in the community sector which is being organised by SIPTU's community sector branch (supported by IMPACT) at noon on Wednesday 3rd June in Liberty Hall, followed by a march on the Department of Finance.

The CSEF is a membership organisation which represents the interests of community sector employers. Community organisations are run by voluntary management committees who employ staff to deliver programmes. There are over 50,000 people employed throughout the country in the community sector.

'It is our employees who deliver the services and supports to individuals and groups in communities throughout the country currently hardest hit by the recession. While the government is cutting our funding, there is no cut in the demands for our services, in fact that demand is growing. The jobs already lost and the serious job losses we fear are coming down the line will have a huge impact on those who rely on our services. This is the message we want to communicate to the government on June 3rd' said Mick Creedon, CSEF chairperson

Although the community sector employs over 50,000, it is not recognised as an employment sector. Social partnership agreements on pay and employment issues are geared towards the public and private employment sectors with no mention of the community sector. CSEF has been campaigning to secure this recognition, be included in national employment agreements and have access to all job protection schemes.

'The lack of recognition for the community sector as an employer has serious repercussions. The needs of our sector are not taken into account when employment policies and agreements are being made. We want to make sure that any initiatives being developed to deal with the jobs crisis will include the community sector, which has such a vital contribution to make' said Noreen Byrne, CSEF vice chairperson

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