



**ICOS MEDIA RELEASE - 29/5/14**

## **ICOS statement on today's demonstration by students hit by college closures and suspensions**

ICOS notes that today will see a second student organised demonstration (commencing 3pm at the GPO) and whilst this is an entirely student-led initiative we are issuing the following comments:

Sheila Power, Director of the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS), says: "Students impacted by college closures are up to six weeks out of class at this time. The majority still lack any clear pathway forward for their studies. Some of this cohort, through no fault of their own, are out of immigration status, with resultant cases of hardship increasing. Although positive developments have begun to emerge from the government task force, there remains a lack of visible progress for students and it is quite understandable that they will seek to make their voices heard."

"ICOS continues to encourage those in a position to effect solutions to find ways to engage directly with students and is happy to facilitate opportunities for this to take place," concludes Power.

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) is an independent organisation, founded in 1970, advocating for the rights of all international students in Ireland, whether studying in higher education, further education, in a language school or other setting.

Contrary to some reporting, neither Kavanagh College, Eden College, Irish Business School (IBS), Millennium College nor Allied Irish College were closed by the Irish authorities. In each case, the owners announced the closure of the operation and – students believe – simply walked away from their responsibilities.

In addition to the four Dublin colleges to have closed in recent weeks, students at Business & Computer Training Institute (BCT), currently suspended from the issue of new study visas for non-EU students – have been especially concerned that their own limbo situation be resolved without further delay and have been seeking media attention for their plight – see [http://www2.icosirl.ie/filestore/BCT\\_student\\_letter.pdf](http://www2.icosirl.ie/filestore/BCT_student_letter.pdf). These students are concerned that without a swift resolution of the current suspension, begun on 14<sup>th</sup> April, they will become the next group of students to be put out onto the street.

**Journalists requiring background information or clarification on the college closures situation are welcome to contact Dave Moore, ICOS Communications Officer - 087 0668559 or [dmoore@icosirl.ie](mailto:dmoore@icosirl.ie)**