Opening, Frank Cody complimented the Twilight group & their partners for the opportunity to gather to participate in this great initiative. Referencing the extreme reactionary politics engulfing the world he said it was an opportune time to gather to re-evaluate & reflect on our commitment to humanity.

Twilight Community Group spoke with our partners Margny les Compiegne & Eurobug to facilitate a carefully considered template for our conference and the ancillary activities pertaining to it. Having sourced a venue, capable of meeting our four criteria The Conference, Workshops, Catering & Accommodation we approached recognized experts in their field to deliver keynote addresses. Once satisfied with the proposed agenda we invited representatives from three cities, with whom we already work closely, to attend. We then contacted organizations with highly regarded records in the field of immigration, migrants, and refugees etc to join us in Kilkenny. Joining us would be delegates from Malborg, Tiznit, and Margny Les Compiegne and speakers from Immigration Council of Ireland, Football Association Ireland, Direct Provision, Respond Support and Eurobug Youth. Allied to this the Moroccan Ambassador plus Malcolm Noonan a local Councillor with an international reputation in Social Inclusion would also speak. Other nationalities accepting the opportunity to attend conference, Bangladesh, Jordan, Romania, i

It is also worth noting that the internationally renowned Professor Maureen Mackus, Western Michigan University in USA accepted an invitation to write the foreword in our programme for the conference. An important part of our conference was to discover the attitude of our youth toward Immigrants and their role in society. To this end we went to the local secondary schools and spoke with transition year students, invited them to attend the conference and made them aware of an online survey, we were conducting, concerning topics regarding immigration and pertinent to local assimilation within the communities. The students accepted the offer to attend conference and to participate in the Survey. Once the survey is tabulated we will return to the schools to chart any changes in opinion or attitude. Interactive workshops would be held in tandem with the conference. These would see our keynote speakers partaking in round table discussion on their chosen topics. This gave delegates a further opportunity to focus on area of immigration that they found most relevant or indeed obtuse. Twilight was of the opinion that free from the restriction of conference debate delegates would grasp the opportunity to express opinions and debate. Twilight felt that the conference would be most successful if all delegates had an open forum in which to articulate their points of view.

1 Syed Rahman Twilight welcomed all to the conference and gave an outline of the hopes & aspirations. Born in Bangladesh, but 20 years resident in Ireland, he, as a former President of the Bangladeshi community in Ireland, professed pride in both his countries. He acknowledges the pioneering work of the Twilight group in fostering intercultural harmony & expressed excitement at the prospect of hearing the thoughts of the distinguished speakers.

 2 Mayor Peter Cleere On behalf of Kilkenny city Mayor Peter Cleere said Kilkenny was proud to embellish its already stellar record on immigration by welcoming delegates from 15 countries to participate in four days of activities.

3.Aiste Slajute Eurobug spoke regarding the difficulties of Isolation, Loneliness & Despair of migrants & refugees ,

4 Kelvin Akpaloo (Direct Provision) recounted personal experiences from the Direct Provision regimen.

5 Lahcen Mahraoui. Ambassador Morocco highlighted Morocco’s humanistic philosophy in its approach to migration & Asylum Seekers. He emphasised the need to work with National Human Right Council, Ngo’s to help regularise the integration of migrants.

6 Joe O’ Brien Immigration Council of Ireland gave an overview of the key challenges faced by migrants emphasising lack of work, language difficulties & social inclusion as barriers. He highlighted the ways discrimination can occur.

7.Des Tomlinson Integration & Cultural Officer Football Association Ireland a video presentation showed how sport could have a positive impact on Social Inclusion incorporating youth & adult programmes.

8. Katarzyna Fabianska Malborg, Poland regretted that Malborg hasn’t a high level of migrant involvement. At present policies of central government are a barrier. The district is working to promote good citizenship & understanding.

9 Dany Hellal Margny les Compiegne France spoke of the diverse community of Margny & explained the many Social Inclusion commitments of the region. Margny welcomes migrants to facilitate their easy integration into the community.

10 Breda Gardiner Kilkenny County Councillor spoke of her ‘learning experience’ at the conference. Breda ended by inviting the conference organisers to attend a sitting of Kilkenny County Council & to give the elected members a presentation regarding their absorbing & challenging conference.

11 Kaldood Naber (Respond Support) informed the conference that Ireland had signed an International agreement to house 2000 Syrian refugees; so far 1200 have been accommodated. Kilkenny has housed families. Because of high demand in the city the families are living in the outlying towns of Ferrybank, Piltown, Mooncoin and Urlingford.

12 Therese Delahunty Failte Isteach gave an overview of the many programmes they run to help with Social Inclusion for youth and adults. Language classes, understanding Irish Systems, Form Filling, Arts & Crafts

13 Malcolm Noonan councillor Inclusion & Social Justice gave a wide-ranging talk on migration & the inherent problems encountered. Focusing on the enormity of the situation he sounded a pessimistic note saying because of Global Warming, its devastating effects on lands throughout the world the problem of migration would increase. He urged all present to desist from referring to migrants, immigrants & refugees but to insist on talking about Men, Women & Children s “until we focus on people & see others as human beings, we pave the way to discrimination