

## **NWCI E-Newsletter**

**Comhairle Naisiunta na mBan in Eirinn Nuachtlitir Leichtreonach**

**February 2006**

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## **NWCI POLICY NEWS**

### **NWCI hopeful for success in Childminders Relief Campaign!**

The new €10,000 tax allowance for childminders that Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen T.D. announced in the Budget will exempt childminders who avail of the scheme from paying tax or social insurance on up to €10,000 of their earnings. While overall NWCI welcomed the measure, it was of deep concern to many NWCI members that the scheme is to be exempt from social insurance. This of course will have serious consequences for those who avail of the scheme in being eligible for maternity benefit and a full contributory state pension in the future.

In December 2005, the NWCI sent a letter to Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen T.D and Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Seamus Brennan T.D to highlight our concerns and ask that the situation be addressed. We received no response from either Minister. In January 2006, a letter was sent to all T.D's and Senators informing them of the situation, our policy position and asking them to lobby the Minister for Finance on the issue. NWCI members were also asked to contact their local representatives about the issue.

The response from T.D's was very positive, and the majority verbalised their support of our position. All assured us that they would contact Minister Cowen on the issue.

Following this the matter has been passed to the Department of Social and Family Affairs who are drafting the detail for linking the scheme to social insurance and this draft will go to Cabinet to be approved in the coming weeks. We are hopeful that the cabinet will adopt the draft document so that it can be included in the Social Welfare Bill and subsequently the Finance Bill.

Thank you to everyone who supported us and who raised the issue locally or in your organisation.

**For further information contact Claire Dunne, [claired@nwci.ie](mailto:claired@nwci.ie)**

**Social Welfare, Human Rights and the Law Seminar**

In October 2005, the NWCI successfully applied for funding to the Combat Poverty Agency to hold a seminar that will examine the inequalities in the social welfare system from a human rights perspective. The seminar will highlight problems that the social welfare breadwinner model presents for women. It will look at rights based approaches to changing the system along with legal ways of challenging the current system to make it fairer for women.

An advisory group has been organised to plan and design the seminar to ensure that it will engage participants and result in moving the social welfare reform campaign forward so that our goals for change will be achieved. Representatives from the Women's Human Rights Alliance, the Human Rights Commission, Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC), Trinity College Dublin, the Equality Authority and the social welfare reform Focus Group members are on the advisory group.

The seminar will take place in the last weeks of April (date to be confirmed). Those involved in the social welfare reform campaign, NWCI members and policy makers will be invited to take part in this event. We will inform members of the date as soon as it is confirmed.

**For further information contact Claire Dunne, [claired@nwci.ie](mailto:claired@nwci.ie)**

### **Rural Development Strategy 2007–2013**

The NWCI put in a submission to the National Rural Development Strategy Plan 2007–2013 in January 2006. A copy of the NWCI's submission is available on [www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)

The NWCI feels that it is very important that the rural development strategy be embedded in the principles of equality and social justice, that it should build social inclusion and address poverty and disadvantage. The rural development strategy will direct a large amount of funds into rural areas in the coming years. It is imperative that women are included in and specifically targeted in measures that come from the strategy so that women can benefit from and be involved in the development of rural Ireland.

A seminar on the strategy will take place in March where the NWCI will be represented to ensure that the issues raised in the submission are included in the strategy.

**For further information contact Claire Dunne, [claired@nwci.ie](mailto:claired@nwci.ie)**

### **Your Campaign, Your Voice!**

A strategy and planning meeting for the NWCI's social welfare reform campaign is set to take place in the coming weeks. This focus group meeting will involve author of the report 'A Woman's Model for Social Welfare Reform', Mary Murphy, affiliates, representatives from the

social welfare reform Focus Groups and NWCI staff. The aim of the meeting is to brainstorm ideas for the campaign from now to the general election in 2007 that will give us a successful outcome in terms of the changes that we want incorporated into the social welfare system.

We are interested in knowing about your campaign ideas that would help get us a positive result. Please contact Claire on [claired@nwci.ie](mailto:claired@nwci.ie) with any ideas that you may have!

### **Lobbying Politicians**

The NWCI has compiled a database of T.D's, Senators and MEPs contact details and positions. If you need to know your local representatives from any party or wish to email or write to politicians we can provide you with any information that you may need. This database has been put together for our work but also your work so please make use of it!

Contact: [claired@nwci.ie](mailto:claired@nwci.ie)

### **Effective Lobbying Handbook**

The NWCI are currently working on an effective lobbying handbook for women's groups across the country. The handbook contains a step-by-step guide to lobbying in Ireland and includes tips on a wide range of lobbying techniques: from how to write lobbying letters to developing a media strategy. The decision to produce this lobbying handbook arose from the large response and positive feedback we received at our regional 'effective lobbying' training days at the end of 2005. These training days, which were funded by the combat poverty agency and attended by local politicians, allowed us to plan the content of the handbook in accordance with the needs of women's groups. The NWCI hopes that this handbook will enable women's groups to use their resources effectively in lobbying for change.

The NWCI aims to have a copy to all its members by April 2006. For further information please contact Darra Power-Mooney [darrapm@nwci.ie](mailto:darrapm@nwci.ie)

## **The NWCI & the Media**

## **Peter Stringfellow opens Dublin club**

The granting of a licence to Stringfellows nightclub and its subsequent opening on February the 1<sup>st</sup> has hardly gone unnoticed. The press has been covering every move of the saga that has concluded with the launch of Stringfellows in Parnell Street in Dublin 1.

The NWCI has been following the events of the last number of months, since hearing that there was the intention and the application to open the club in Dublin.

Joanna McMinn, Director, attended the court hearing in Dublin, in which Mr Peter Stringfellow was granted a licence on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2006. Joanna had gone to the hearing in support of Ruhama, our member organisation who have spoken out tirelessly against the club's licence application and also in support of the North Inner City Residents group who have been campaigning against the opening for many months now. Unfortunately the licence was granted.

We issued a press release that evening expressing our dismay at the granting of the licence and also expressed our concern that the current licensing conditions appear inadequate. Mr Stringfellow had been granted a general drinks licence which allowed him permission to open the club. There are no present laws governing the licensing of sex establishments in Ireland. The NWCI believes that the government should have greater powers in relation to licensing and that clubs such as Stringfellows should be viewed as sex establishments and subject to the same controls.

The NWCI strongly expressed its view that lap-dancing is part of the spectrum of commercial sexual exploitation, which contributes to a culture where women are viewed as objects available for the sexual gratification of men.

The NWCI believes that commercial sexual exploitation, which includes lap-dancing, pornography and prostitution, is inextricably linked with both the prevalence and acceptability of sexual violence in our society. Joanna commented how 'the opening of Stringfellows would encourage the normalisation of men's sexual objectification of women.'

The NWCI views lap-dancing clubs to be in direct contradiction with attempts to promote equality between men and women and could well contribute to hindering further progress in this area.

We plan to monitor the situation as it progresses. We have also called on the Gardai to monitor the impact of Stringfellows on the local community and to monitor the activities of other lap-dancing clubs operating in Dublin city centre and around the country.

For further information contact: Ciara O'Shea, Communications Officer, 087 993 7663

### **The Definition of the Family – The Tenth Progress Report from the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution**

The NWCI reacted to the publication of the report, which was launched on January 24<sup>th</sup>. In the Report, the Committee did not favour the broadening of the definition of the Family. The NWCI expressed disappointment in a statement issued to the media that evening.

The NWCI was one of several organisations who, last year, made submissions to the All-Party Oireachtas Committee.

The NWCI expressed particular concern that there were no proposed changes to the wording on the definition of 'the family'. At present, the Irish Constitution, through the provisions of Article 41, recognises the family as 'the natural, primary and fundamental unit of society in so far as it is based upon marriage'.

The NWCI advocate however the use of the definition of family as outlined by the United Nations : 'Any combination of two or more persons who are bound together by ties of mutual consent, birth and/or adoption or placement and who, together, assume responsibility for, inter alia, the care and maintenance of group members, the addition of new members through procreation or adoption, the socialisation of children and the social control of members'.

In our Submission to the Committee last year, we also made reference to Article 16.3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which states that; 'The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State'. The UN accepts that the concept of family is not restricted to that of the traditional family based upon marriage.

The NWCI holds the view that the Constitution should have due regard to the rights and concerns of all families and should reflect the reality of family diversity in Ireland.

The Council welcomed the proposal to take out the reference to women in the home and substitute a gender-neutral wording, which can apply equally to men. We expressed concern that there was no acknowledgment or recognition to women who care for family members – young and old – in the home.

The Council also felt that the real issues of same-sex relationships, expressed by our member organisations, such as security for children, were not addressed in the proposal.

For further information, contact : Ciara O'Shea, Communications Officer, 087 993 7663

## **NWCI HEALTH NEWS**

### **NWCI Deputy Chairperson Marie Hainsworth appointed to the Board of the Women's Health Council (WHC)**

The Tánaiste & Minister for Health has appointed Marie Hainsworth to the Board of the Women's Health Council. NWCI have had a representative on the Board of WHC since it was set up in 1997. For information on the work of WHC see [www.whc.ie](http://www.whc.ie)

### **Women Still Waiting For National Cervical Cancer Screening Programme**

Ireland has one of the highest rates of invasive cervical cancer in Western Europe and approximately 76 women die of cervical cancer each year in Ireland, the majority of which could be prevented through an effective screening programme.

NWCI have been raising the issue and highlighted the need for a full rollout of the Irish Cervical Screening Programme (ICSP) in submissions over many years. The ICSP commenced as a pilot phase in the mid West over 5 years ago and despite its success has not yet been rolled out Nationally.

At this stage NWCI believe that the Minister must demonstrate commitment by allocating resources to prioritise the full availability of a screening programme .

In 2005 NWCI joined the coalition led by the Irish Cancer Society to campaign for full availability of cervical screening to be made available to all women over 25 in Ireland. NWCI supports and promotes the current ICS campaign and petition.

### **Irish Cancer Society's On Line Petition and Campaign <http://www.cancer.ie>**

In January the ICS commenced an online petition calling for a free nationwide cervical screening programme. The petition of 55,000 signatures was presented to Minister Harney on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> You can still sign online: <http://www.cancer.ie>

For information, call the National Cancer Helpline 1800 200 700

### **INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH**

Each month we will bring you news of information and resources, which may be of use in your work.

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

**A Vision for Change, the report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy** was launched by the Department of Health & Children in January.

The first comprehensive review of mental health policy since 1984, this report sets out a framework for action to develop the mental health services over the next ten years. Download: [http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/vision\\_for\\_change.pdf?direct=1](http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/vision_for_change.pdf?direct=1)

### **Concern about lack of attention to Gender in Mental Health Report**

The Women's Health Council welcomed the inclusion of the recommendations made in their position paper 'Women's Mental Health: promoting a gendered approach to policy and service provision', but expressed concern about the lack of attention in the report to gender differences and experiences in relation to mental health.

The WHC position paper can be downloaded at: <http://www.whc.ie/publications/WMH%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

The Mental Health Commission (Ireland) has published a discussion paper:

'A Vision for a Recovery Model in Irish Mental health Services.'

They invite responses to be made by e-mail to [marina.duffy@mhcirl.ie](mailto:marina.duffy@mhcirl.ie) before Friday February 24th. See <http://www.mhcirl.ie/docs/Vision.pdf>

**Inez McCormack launched 'Creating Connections – Perspectives on Health Inequalities on the Island of Ireland'** at the Public Health Alliance (PHA) AGM in January. The report of Creating Connections conference, keynotes include Mary Robinson, Jane Wilde, Missy Collins and Positive Action as well other experts in the area of public health and health inequalities.

Download the report at

[http://www.xsd.ie/comsites/Community/creating\\_connectionsreport.pdf](http://www.xsd.ie/comsites/Community/creating_connectionsreport.pdf)

**The Women's Health Council** has developed a position paper '**Care giving**' (2005), which acknowledges that care giving is primarily undertaken by women and notes the negative impact on women's health as a result. Recommendations are made with a view to ensuring that care giving becomes valued in Irish society and does not contribute to gender inequality. To download: [http://www.whc.ie/publications/position\\_caregiving.pdf](http://www.whc.ie/publications/position_caregiving.pdf)

(The NWCI report Valuing Care Work (June 2003) can be downloaded from the website <http://www.nwci.ie/documents/vcw.doc>.)

**WEBSITE: Canadian Women's Health Network** <http://www.cwhn.ca>

This website is one of Canada's top bilingual sites for women's health information and provides easy access to information and resources, features, breaking news, and useful links.

**Brigit's Notes e-bulletin** is published monthly by the Canadian Women's Health Network as a free service to individuals and organizations interested in women's health. To subscribe: <http://www.cwhn.ca/brigit/index.en.html>

## **A DISCUSSION PIECE ON PORNOGRAPHY**

### **Women's political equality**

The National Women's Council of Ireland in promoting women's political equality, lobbies the Irish government to deliver Ireland's various human rights commitments and obligations as they relate to

women, for example, the Beijing Platform for Action, which promised to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

The NWCi has a clear position on pornography as a violation of human rights, a form of sexual exploitation, in particular of women and children. Pornography degrades women, promotes a climate of sexual hostility and encourages the notion that a woman's worth depends on her sexual appeal to men.

The work of the NWCi in this area includes overseeing the Irish Observatory on Violence against Women, which is part of a EU wide network of observatories working to eliminate violence against women in all its forms, which is an obstacle to the empowerment of women and to the full achievement of their human rights. The Observatory, made up of a coalition of NGOs in Ireland, monitors government policies on violence against women and assesses them against international human rights standards.

In 2004 the Irish Observatory produced a national report on prostitution and trafficking. Deeply aware of how pornography, prostitution and trafficking are inextricably linked in the sexual violation of women and children within the global sex industry, the Irish Observatory will produce a National Report in 2006 on Pornography.

### **Why is pornography an issue?**

Pornography is everywhere, 'in your face', promoted and available in hotel rooms, proliferating on the shelves of newsagents; in videos, and of course on the Internet. Adult pornography is legal (child pornography is illegal); it is an unregulated industry; and it is increasingly being targeted at young people.

Because sexuality has been so repressed in Irish society, with censorship etc. there has been very little mature public discussion about it. The massive growth of the pornography industry, and availability of porn videos, magazines and web sites, has meant that porn is now everywhere in Ireland. An indiscriminating cultural attitude has developed, that anything to do with sex is liberating for the Irish psyche. Any criticism of this availability of porn is from this perspective is seen as prudish, and anti-sex. We have moved from a repressive to a pornographic sexual culture.

### **Definition of Pornography**

Pornography is sexually explicit material, which places women in a position of subservience to men. Its theme is domination and control, men dominating women, and women pleasing men. It is worth offering a definition of erotica that is also provides sexually specific material, but its theme is more amorousness, with a focus on a mutual pleasure. Sexually explicit material is not the problem, it is the

context in which it is placed and the meaning that is made of it. Pornography operates to differentiate women from men by representing men in positions of power and control over women – these positions are ones that are often abusive and or violent.

Sexual objectification, common to pornography, portrays women (and children), as depersonalised sexual beings rather than multi-faceted human beings deserving equal rights with men. Pornography therefore plays a key role in reinforcing unequal power relationships between men and women. It is sexism made sexy.

### **Content of Pornography**

Glossy pornography is widely available in newsagents, video shops, hotel TV, and is normalised. There is a wide continuum from video entertainment with a 'story line' which leads to sex; to videos where there is no conversation but men having sex with naked women, which ends in ejaculation on their bodies, often on their face; to sadomasochistic videos with men doing things to women's bodies that are explicitly violent and degrading, which women are depicting as wanting and wanting more. The overarching theme of pornography from the glossy to the sadomasochistic is men dominating women, and women pleasing men.

### **Objectification**

When a person is objectified, it means that they are presented as less than fully human; once this happens they can be treated without human respect, can be used and discarded; their human dignity is of no value or importance.

### **Freedom of Speech**

There are many people who defend the publication of pornography by recourse the right to freedom of speech. Alongside freedom of speech however, is the unacceptability of incitement to hatred. Publication of racist materials that incite hatred, meet with public outrage so the same should be true of pornographic material that incites hatred of women through depicting violence and degradation of women.

### **Pornography as liberation**

It is argued that women make a lot of money from pornography, compared with other areas of female employment. It is also argued by men that women choose to work in pornography because they see it as sexually liberating. However, choice is a double-edged sword. When a woman sells herself for money, she puts at risk control over her own body, and forfeits her sexual integrity. The purpose of pornography is to make female bodies available to men to use and discard. Perhaps the idea that women are making that choice makes men feel better about buying pornography? People also sell their body organs for money; is this a matter of free choice?

## **Pornography and Sexual Relationships**

Pornography peddles falsehoods about men, women and human relationships; and its use is damaging to relationships, because it dehumanises the other person, the relationship, and any intimacy. There is abundant evidence to demonstrate that pornography use contributes significantly to violent behaviour towards women.

There is nothing in the curriculum of schools to educate young people about sexuality; sex education (if it is provided at all) focuses exclusively on sexual reproduction; it does not address sexual relationships and intimacy.

The SAVI Report documented teenage tolerance of pornography: 79% had seen pornography.

A survey of male college students showed that the more frequent the use of pornography, the more likely they are to report that they have sexually assaulted a woman, by using alcohol and/or physical force to coerce a woman to have sex with them; and to believe that it is ok to do that. There is a culture of beliefs about consent – women mean yes even if they say no etc.

## **Research on harm of Pornography**

There is ample evidence that demonstrates the connections between pornography and violent/abusive behaviour.

1. From the victims of sexual assault: research shows that victims were shown pornography and asked to do things against their will
2. From research with sex offenders: there is no proof that pornography is the cause of sex abuse, but pornography may feed and reinforce an existing pre-disposition, e.g. lack of empathy, distorted beliefs about women and children (e.g. that they consent). There is a consistent finding that sex offenders are more likely to have been exposed to porn as a child. Research has only been carried out with people who have been convicted, or who have been advised to participate in programmes (to avoid prosecution)
3. SAVI Report demonstrated the shocking prevalence of sexual offence in Irish society, and the rise in sexual assault (there are many factors involved in this, but porn is one). **For further information contact Joanna Mc Minn [joannamc@nwci.ie](mailto:joannamc@nwci.ie)**

## **International Women's Day 2006**

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated world-wide on March 8<sup>th</sup>. IWD is the story of ordinary women as makers of history and is

rooted in the centuries struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.

The idea of an International Women's Day first arose at the turn of the century, which in the industrialised world was a period of expansion and turbulence, booming population and radical ideologies.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1857, women working in clothing and textile factories (called 'garment workers) in New York City staged a protest. They were fighting against inhumane working conditions and low wages. The group was attacked and dispersed by the police. But two years later, again in March, these women formed their first labour union to try to protect themselves and gain some basic rights in the workplace.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay, voting rights and an end to child labour. They adopted the slogan 'Bread and Roses', with Bread symbolising economic security and roses a better quality of life.

### **The NWCI's celebration of International Women's Day 2006**

The theme for IWD 2006 will be 'Celebrating Women's Leadership'.

This year, the National Women's Council (NWCI) will celebrate 'Women's Leadership' on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to mark International Women's Day. We will be inviting a diverse panel of speakers to attend the event to share their experiences of leadership with our members who will be in attendance.

A more detailed agenda in the form of a Date for Your Diary will be circulated to members in advance of the event.

**What is your group doing to celebrate International Women's Day 2006? Let us know. Please e-mail details of your event to [michelles@nwci.ie](mailto:michelles@nwci.ie) and details of your event will be posted on the nwci website.**

## **MEMBERS NEWS**

### **Eating Disorders Awareness Week: 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February**

As part of the awareness week, **Bodywhys** is launching a National Awareness Campaign, Two Regional Support Groups, an Email Support Service and a Directory of Service Providers. For information on

Bodywhys, visit [www.bodywhys.ie](http://www.bodywhys.ie)

Contact Helen MacWhite, Tel: 01-2834963 e-mail

[communications@bodywhys.ie](mailto:communications@bodywhys.ie)

**A Date for Your Diary! Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 10 am – 4 pm** Alexander Hotel, Dublin

**Europa Donna Ireland, The Irish Breast Cancer Campaign  
First National Conference: Best Results for Women Working  
Together for Best Breast Cancer Services Nationwide**

Europa Donna Ireland (EDI) is the Irish branch of a 38 country European organisation which campaigns for improved breast cancer awareness, screening, and treatment and increased funding for research. EDI is a volunteer-based advocacy group most of whose membership has had personal experience of breast cancer.

The conference will be opened by Mary Harney, Minister for Health & Children, is aimed at sharing Irish and European developments in breast cancer treatment and research. Contact: Tel 01 496 0198 e-mail [edi@iol.ie](mailto:edi@iol.ie) PO Box 6602, Dublin 8.

**Breast Awareness - Your Health in Your Hands**

To organise a talk about breast awareness for your community or workplace, call the Action Breast Cancer Freefone Helpline on 1800 30 90 40.

Our expert team is here to help you and your colleagues or community learn about breast awareness, early detection and reducing your risk of breast cancer.

To discuss breast awareness or any aspect of breast cancer with a specialist nurse, call the Action Breast Cancer Helpline on Freefone 1800 30 90 40.

For more information see [www.cancer.ie/action](http://www.cancer.ie/action)

**Women Parenting Alone trying to make life changes are being deterred by restrictive and changed Supplementary Welfare criteria.**

Has anyone else working with women parenting alone who are receiving a training allowance experienced the same problem as young mothers on the Moving On Programme in St Catherines Carlow. The programme has been running for 9 years and up to this no supplementary benefits were affected. Now the 60 € disregard has been applied and the index linked increase to their training allowances is being paid by FAS IN ONE HAND AND CLAWED BACK BY A REDUCTION IN BY THE HEALTH BOARD IN RENT SUPPLEMENT.

These young mothers are fearful of any change to supplementary welfare and when you consider in the latest European figures released by the CSO identifies them and their children at the highest risk of ongoing poverty and experiencing the highest rate of deprivation you can see why.

1/3 of their training allowance is being taken back – this is when they are availing of an opportunity to gain better life options for themselves and their children.

Anyone with similar situations please contact your TD and join the campaign – please let us know in Carlow too

[maureenmurphy@stcatherinescarlow.ie](mailto:maureenmurphy@stcatherinescarlow.ie)

### **The new contact details for the ICCL are as follows:**

DMG Business Centre, 9–13, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.

They have had their iccl numbers diverted there, so you can still ring them and will be transferred to them or you can call their new number@ 7994504.

Their email addresses remain the same.

### **A Gala concert in aid of Ruhama**

Featuring the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Basel youth Orchestra of Switzerland

Will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2006 at 7.30 pm

In All Hallows Chapel

Grace Park Road, Drumcondra , Dublin 9

**Tickets** (inclusive of wine and cheese reception )

Cost €15 each

Student s and Snr. Citizens €10 [www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie) chy:10733.

Tickets Sales : 01 8360292

Join the **Ruhama** team for the 2006 Flora Women's Mini Marathon on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Phone: 01–8360292. E-mail enquires:

[admin@ruhama.ie](mailto:admin@ruhama.ie). <http://www.ruhama.ie>

**One Family** is running a series of training courses over the coming months including:

Name of Event/Workshop/Course/Resource/Publication: Positive Parenting Training for Trainers

Date: Dublin February 6<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup>, Limerick February 20<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>th</sup>, Galway March 6<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup>, Cork March 27<sup>th</sup> –29<sup>th</sup> , Dublin April 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>

Time: Monday – Wednesday (Three day programme) 10am – 4pm each day.

Venue: Please contact [training@onefamily.ie](mailto:training@onefamily.ie) for more information for venues

Short Information Paragraph on Event/Workshop/Course/Resource/Publication:

Positive Parenting Training for Trainers is based on our manual Positive Parenting in One-Parent Families: building strong relationships and managing difficult behaviour. The course prepares workers to design and deliver parenting courses to groups with an emphasis towards solo parents.

**After taking part in this training you will:**

- Be able to design and deliver a ten-week Positive Parenting programme for solo parents;
- Understand the theory behind the Positive Parenting manual
- Be familiar with a range approaches for managing difficult behaviour in children
- Be able to support parents in implementing said approaches
- Know the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Be able to support parents in developing strategies when they are: separating or divorcing, co-parenting, parenting in a multicultural society and
- Be able to support one-parent families to talk about their family situation

The programme costs Euro 300, which includes a copy of the Positive Parenting manual. for More Information contact: Edel Quinn

Address: Cherish House, One Family, 2 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 02.


Tel: 01 6629212

Fax: 01 6629096

Email: [training@onefamily.ie](mailto:training@onefamily.ie)

Web site: [www.onefamily.ie](http://www.onefamily.ie)

**Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
Training Workshops in Issues of Sexual Violence**

-  A four day training course **Sexual Abuse: the Counselling Process** which will be held at the Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006. This course is for those in a counselling role, and

focuses on the therapeutic process with adolescent and adult clients.

- ☒ A one day course '**Preventing and Dealing with Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**' for Managers, Human Resources Personnel, Equality Officers, Members of Boards of Management. This course would be helpful also to those in a counselling role, but please note the focus is on issues for the manager rather than on counselling issues. This course will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2006.
- ☒ A one day training workshop **Issues in the Aftermath of Rape** which will be held at the Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006 from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. This course is for staff or volunteers who want to increase their understanding of the impact of rape and their ability to respond appropriately in its aftermath, both short term and long term.
- ☒ A one day introductory workshop on **Working with Issues of Child Sexual Abuse** which will be held at the Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006 from 9.30 to 4.30 pm. This workshop is for staff and volunteers who want to increase their understanding of the dynamics and impact of child sexual abuse, and to enhance their skills in dealing with this issue.
- ☒ A twelve day **Post Graduate Certificate Course: Issues in Sexual Violence: the Counselling Process** for those working or beginning to work as counsellors and psychotherapists and wanting to enhance their understanding and skills in working with issues of sexual violence. This course will run for twelve days from September to December 2006.

**Dates:** September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

The course will explore issues arising in working as a counsellor with adolescent and adult clients who have experienced child sexual abuse, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CEDAW**

(Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Thursday, 23rd March, 2006

Westwood Hotel, Galway.

Keynote speaker:

Shanthi Dairiam

Member of the UN CEDAW Committee and founder of IWRAW-AP

(International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific, an NGO that collaborates with national women's groups, governments, inter-governmental bodies and academic institutions, to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the UN CEDAW Convention. )

The Conference is being organised by the **Women's Human Rights Alliance**

in co-operation with the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUIG and the Irish

Council for Civil Liberties. For further information please e-mail: [womenshumanrights@eircom.net](mailto:womenshumanrights@eircom.net).

The Annual Spring Conference of the **Greater Kenmare Area Women's Network** will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2006, in the Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare. Registration is at 10.30 and the Conference will close at 4pm. National and international speakers will discuss Lifestyle and Health.

There will be a questions and answers sessions to close in addition to questions following each speakers address.

Tickets from Vera Shaw, the Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Ticket priced at no more than €15 and this includes coffee and lunch.

**'It's A Man's World': Creating EQUAL Opportunity's For Female Entrepreneurs**

For every Irish woman who runs her own business there are nine businesses run by men.

Why?

This is a question that has been asked throughout Europe, where there continues to be significantly fewer women than men in enterprise. Even though the imbalance in Ireland is particularly acute, the issues behind this imbalance have proved remarkably similar across the EU: lack of confidence, difficulty accessing information, difficulty accessing start-up and development funding, lack of access to both formal and informal business networks, and, not least, the challenge and strain of trying to balance a home life along with work commitments.

## **EQUAL**

Since 1995, a fundamental objective of the Longford Women's Link has been to enable women to access education/ training and income-earning activities. One of the issues identified related to this low level of entrepreneurial activity among women, especially amongst women from rural backgrounds, ethnic minorities, lone parents and women with caring responsibilities, and women with disabilities.

The EQUAL Community Initiative is part of a broad, integrated European Union strategy to combat discrimination and social exclusion in the labour market. EQUAL is based upon partnerships by public administration agencies, non-governmental organisations, social partners, and the business sector, and has been a key platform of Ireland's National Employment Action Plan 2002.

The Longford EQUAL Development Partnership consists of key enterprise support organisations within Co Longford, including Longford Women's Link, Longford County Enterprise Board, Longford VEC, Longford Community Resources Ltd (Area Partnership company), and the Longford County Development Board. The Partnership came together in 2002 for the first round of EQUAL funding in order to increase the number of women-owned businesses within the county. In 2005, the Partnership was joined by the Centre of Entrepreneurship at Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The inter-agency approach emphasised by the EQUAL Community Initiative continues to provide a strategically-integrated range of skills, resources and piloting opportunities that no one individual organisation could otherwise deliver. This highly-effective approach continues to provide an essential package of supports, including:

- Enterprise training: based on confidence-building, development of skills and knowledge around setting up

and managing a business, and establishing a balance between life and work commitments

- Mentoring: confidential one-to-one discussions around all issues relating to setting up, sustaining and developing a business
- Network for businesswomen: monthly meetings where women can let other women know about their business, gain information, share experiences, and develop new customers and markets
- Highlighting what women can achieve when supported, especially through 'showcasing' events

Another key activity for the Longford EQUAL Partnership will be a review of enterprise data-collection within Ireland. Lack of accurate or comprehensive data has already been highlighted in many studies on small business, together with the adverse impact this has on developing supports for the sector at policy level. The Longford Partnership intends to pilot and promote systematic monitoring of female entrepreneurship so that informed policy changes can be achieved.

The project is open to all women in business in Co Longford, and there are no fees involved. Anyone interested in the EQUAL activities should contact the project at Longford Women's Link on 043-41511.

### **Justice Mella Carroll –RIP**

The NWCI was saddened to learn of the death of the former High Court Judge Justice Mella Carroll on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2006. Mella Carroll was the first woman appointed to the High Court and was one of the longest serving High Court Judges (25 years). Throughout her career Ms. Carroll was very committed to women's equality. This commitment led her to serve as Chairwoman of the second Commission on the Status of Women. She also chaired the Commission on Nursing and served as a judge of the administrative tribunal of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

The NWCI was represented at the funeral by a member from both the Board of Directors and the staff. A donation was made to St. Francis Hospice, by the NWCI in line with the wishes of Mella Carroll's family.