



# making a real difference

National Women's Council Of Ireland

Annual Report **2006**

National Women's Council Of Ireland

# Annual Report 2006

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## Chairperson's Foreward

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) states  
*".....the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace requires the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields."*

To bring about the maximum participation of women in Irish society many things need to change. First and foremost, the low representation of women in decision-making structures, where women are only 13% of elected TDs and 10% of the Seanad and are seriously under-represented on the boards of management of companies both private and state controlled. By increasing the representation of women, visibly, the views of women in relation to strategic business decisions will be debated at the level of the enterprise and so influence the outcomes which affect them directly.

Secondly, the extremely important role that women play in caring for the younger and older generations in our society needs to be acknowledged and valued. The years spent in unpaid care work should be recognised as being as valid a contribution to society as paid employment. Structures need to be put in place to support women in fulfilling their chosen roles as carers / workers. Disincentives such as reduced pension entitlements and lack of real opportunities on return to paid employment need to be addressed immediately if the very real threat of being pensioned into poverty is to be eliminated.

Women can experience 'double' discrimination, being aged, being disabled, a member of an ethnic minority, lesbian women, or migrant women or any combination of the above. Women's economic independence within a family unit often dictates their access to resources and control over decisions that affect their lives even in the most intimate of circumstances.

Even in our 'modern' society many women suffer the trauma of violence at the hands of their partners within their own homes. Each year, the number of women murdered by their current or former partner continues to shock us. It is a known fact that a woman is more likely to be at risk of increased violence when she tries to leave the relationship. For many women this is the stark fact that keeps them trapped within an abusive relationship. The state has consistently failed these women by not providing support and refuge for them. Despite increasing demand for refuge services, such facilities are under severe pressure across the country due to a lack of government funding and support from local authorities.

In Ireland today our Health Service faces many challenges in delivering a quality service to all citizens regardless of their location on the island. The NWCI has launched a policy document this year which sets out our vision of a publicly funded healthcare system that addresses the needs of all women in a focussed, coherent and co-ordinated fashion. The specific needs of women have been neglected in government health policy to date. Access to a quality primary health service is a basic human right and the particular needs of women should be delivered to the client in a tailored, user-focussed way, irrespective of geographical location.

The Strategic Review of the NWCI which we carried out in 2005 in consultation with affiliates has resulted in the formation of our Strategic Plan for period 2006 – 2010. Setting out several Aims and Objectives, we have identified the actions which are needed to address those areas where inequality is experienced across the diversity of women living in Ireland today.

In 2006 we have seen the conclusion of the National Partnership Agreement 'Towards 2016'. A 10-year strategy to integrate Economic and Social Progress based on a Lifecycle Approach, it leaves the issue of Gender (or women's issues) entirely to the forthcoming National Women's Strategy. In anticipation of a National Women's Strategy that will fundamentally address the issues obstructing equality of opportunity between women and men in Ireland; the NWCI has agreed to implement the provisions of 'Towards 2016' taking its place at the Social Partnership forum once again to ensure that issues affecting women are visible and on the agenda at all times.

We know what the issues are and we know the barriers preventing women participating on an equal footing with men in our society. We know how to address them, through dialogue with Government, through Social Partnership, and enabling you – our members. What we need is the strength of women's voices and the political will to call for and implement the many programmes and plans that have been designed to address these inequalities so that we will achieve..... *"the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields."* In our own lifetime.

**Thérèse Murphy**  
Chairperson



## Director's Introduction

### *The Year in Review*

In 2006 the NWCI launched its new Strategic Plan 2006-2010 at the Annual General Meeting in June. The Strategic Plan effectively consolidates our work, with a continuing focus on economic, affective, political, and social/cultural equality for women, and in addition strengthening the human rights based approach to the issues we are addressing. With the end of a number of sources of funding, our resources were severely stretched with the loss of valued workers. Nevertheless, during the year the NWCI made a real difference to the promotion of women's equality in Ireland.

### **Our achievements during the year**

In late 2006, the NWCI wrote to the Government requesting participation in the negotiations for the new Social Partnership Agreement; and a members meeting in November 2006 came to a consensus that the NWCI should proceed with an application for participation in the new Agreement, and in the implementation of the National Women's Strategy.

The NWCI organised a seminar to examine the Irish social welfare system from a women's rights perspective and to assess the potential of the law to create changes in the system to make it more equitable for women. This seminar led to a decision to collect evidence and prepare a legal case on the impact of the marriage bar on pension rights for women, and on spouses of the self-employed (including farmers) who are

excluded from making social insurance contributions. We were successful in attracting funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Foundation to embark on this Campaign in 2007. The issue of women's pension rights has been highlighted throughout the year, and the NWCI lobbying to put this issue on the political agenda is ongoing.

The NWCI lobbied successfully on childminders eligibility for social insurance contributions, which were included in the Social Welfare Bill approved by Cabinet.

The NWCI published its Report *Women's Health in Ireland: Meeting International Standards* in September 2006. The Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney, TD formally launched the report, which sets a

framework of international human rights conventions together with the principles of the World Health Organisation. The purpose of the Report is to provide a model for women's health policy and services that could be developed in Ireland.

With funding from Zonta International, the NWCI launched its 4th ZEST Programme in 2006. There was sufficient funding for 3 projects to undertake a year-long project. St. Michael's Estate Family Resource Centre, Inchicore is providing needs-based education for migrant African women from the local community; WAVES Support Service for Women, Sligo is providing education courses as part of their programme for women survivors of Domestic Violence and The Irish Deaf Women's Group is running innovative education courses for deaf women throughout Ireland.

The NWCI, with the Gay and Lesbian Education Network (GLEN), established the KAL Advocacy Platform, set up to support Katherine Zappone and Ann Louise Gilligan in their legal action asking the courts to recognise that their marriage should be legally recognised in Ireland.

In September 2006, the NWCI published 'A Guide to Effective Lobbying for Women's Groups in Ireland' to assist women's groups develop an achievable strategy for change, by building the capacity of women's groups to engage with the policy making process.

In October the NWCI hosted an evening seminar on the theme of 'Women in Afghanistan' with the key speaker Mary Akrami, the Director of the Afghan Women's Skills Development Centre (AWSDC) and an advocate on women's

rights and equality in Afghanistan.

The NWCI submitted a successful project proposal to the Equality for Women Measure, administered by Pobal under its programme goal to develop education, training and/or wider support programmes to enhance women's participation in decision-making structures. The project entitled 'Roadmap for Change will begin in 2007.

The achievements over 2006 could not have been made without a highly skilled and committed staff team, as well as an effective and dedicated Executive Board. I wish to express my deep appreciation of their support to me as Director, and of their outstanding service to the NWCI during 2006.

**Joanna McMinn**  
Director

We are  
wh  
equal

## About the NWCI

Founded in 1973, The National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI), Comhairle Náisiunta na mBan in Eirinn, is the national representative organisation for women and women's groups in Ireland promoting equality, human rights and empowerment for all women. We are working to create an Ireland where all women and men have equal power to shape society and their own lives.

The NWCI is committed to lobbying the Government and political parties, as well as working with its Affiliates to increase their capacity to effect emancipatory social change for women.

The NWCI currently has 167 Affiliated Members, who are made up of women's groups, women's sections or committees of larger national organisations such as trade unions, teacher unions, political parties and organisations where women comprise a majority of members. The NWCI currently represents over 300,000 women in Ireland.

### Structures

The NWCI is a membership organisation, whose members give their mandate for our work at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year. Each Affiliated organisation has one vote at the AGM, where motions, sanctioned by members, are debated and voted on.

The Executive Board of the NWCI is a voluntary management committee, elected by the Membership at the AGM. Each voluntary member of the Board is elected to two years on the Board. The Membership also elects the Chairperson of the Board. The role of the Board is to ensure good governance and to oversee the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The NWCI holds quarterly Members meetings for its members, providing opportunities for members to network, exchange information with each other, as well as receive information from the NWCI and participate in the development of NWCI policies.

# working to create an Ireland where all women and men have power to shape society and their own lives.

## Staff

The NWCI employs a professional staff of 11 people. The senior management team, led by the Director, is responsible for leading the implementation of the Strategic Plan and ensuring coherence of staff teams at a strategic level.

There are regular task group meetings and monthly support and supervision structures to ensure forward planning and accountability of each staff member in meeting organisational objectives.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Director                               | Joanna McMinn        |
| Head of Finance and Operations         | Bridget O' Sullivan  |
| Head of Policy                         | Orla O' Connor       |
| Head of Outreach and Support           | Rachel Doyle         |
| Policy and Outreach Facilitator        | Claire Dunne         |
| Policy and Outreach Facilitator        | Annie Dillon         |
| Communications and Development Officer | Ciara O' Shea        |
| Information Officer                    | Michelle Scanlan     |
| Membership and IT Administrator        | Imelda Brown         |
| PA and Administrator                   | Enca González Cambil |
| Receptionist                           | Gertrude Hoey        |

During 2006, we said goodbye to the following staff members:  
Claire Dunne, Gertrude Hoey and Annie Dillon.

## Internships

In 2006 the NWCI continued to offer internships to students seeking work experience with the organisation. The following students interned with us during the year and made a very valuable contribution to the work of the NWCI.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Heather Foley     | Boston University, USA                          |
| Molly McGovern    | Boston University, USA                          |
| Stephanie Emerich | Boston University, USA                          |
| Leah Yeung        | DCU - Washington Ireland Programme              |
| Mayassa el Khazen | UCD Development Studies                         |
| Eva Wascher       | Dublin Institute of Technology, Erasmus Program |



# Role of the NWC

The National Women's Council of Ireland, Comhairle Náisiúnta na mBan in Eirinn, is the national representative organisation for women and women's groups in Ireland.

The role of the National Women's Council of Ireland is to work with its members to determine core priorities and undertake a broad range of activities at local, national and international levels. This work includes:

*Representing  
Commissioning  
Developing  
Building  
Undertaking  
Networking  
Media  
Information*

*Representing women's issues* on a broad range of statutory and non-statutory bodies.

*Commissioning research* on key policy areas such as social welfare reform, childcare and women's health to inform and shape ongoing lobbying and campaigning activity.

*Developing policy submissions* to Government and other agencies on matters critical to the achievement of women's equality.

*Building the capacity* of women's organisations to organise, lobby and campaign for equality and social change.

*Undertaking outreach and development projects* and providing tools and resources to support women and in particular women from marginalised communities to work for change and the advancement of all women.

*Networking*, working collaboratively and building solidarity with the broad community sector in Ireland to support and influence a wider social inclusion agenda.

*Media work*, issuing regular press releases and participating in television and radio debates to ensure the visibility of issues pertinent to women and to promote public dialogue on the position of women in Irish society.

*Information dissemination*, to our members and to the general public, on initiatives, programmes, policy and legislative developments of concern to women.

equality, human rights  
and empowerment for all  
women.

## Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010

### Introduction

The 2006-2010 Strategic Plan was ratified by the Executive Board and presented to the Members at the 2006 Annual General Meeting in June 2006.

**OUR VISION** is of an Ireland where all women and men have equal power to shape society and their own lives.

**OUR MISSION** as the representative organisation of women in Ireland is to promote equality, human rights and empowerment for all women.

#### **We are committed to:**

- Placing women's equality at the centre of key political agendas
- Approaching our work from a global feminist perspective
- Acknowledging and respecting the diversity of women's experiences
- Supporting the development of an intercultural and anti-racist society, inclusive of all social groups
- Building solidarity with Traveller and other minority ethnic women
- Valuing and nurturing our relationships with members and others
- Making strategic use of our resources
- Being a learning organisation that reflects and evaluates on its work and processes
- Being innovative, creative and responsive

# Strategic Plan

## Substantive Equality and Human Rights

### The Key Outcomes we are working towards over the next four years are:

- Significant and measurable progress towards affordable, accessible and high quality care services and increased sharing of care work between women and men
- Significant and measurable progress towards a universal model of publicly funded, accessible and affordable childcare
- A Women's Health Action Plan that sets targets to optimise levels of health across women's life cycle and also that is part of a fully accessible health service
- Substantive reform of the social welfare system to ensure women's direct access to payments, recognition of parenting and care work in the system and improved access to State pensions
- Recognition by employers of flexible working arrangements, and joint work with relevant organisations to ensure the availability of flexible work options
- A strong focus on women's equality in the Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013
- Significant progress towards increasing the percentage of women in decision-making to 40% in key sites
- Active and focussed participation by the NWCI and other Social Partners in joint interventions to promote women's equality
- An increase in the capacity of locally based women's groups
- An increased participation of women's groups representing all nine Equality grounds in the work of the NWCI
- An increase in representation of women from immigrant communities living in Ireland
- Delivery of Ireland's various human rights commitments and obligations as they relate to women and girls
- A more diversified funding base for the organisation and the women's sector

### Over the next four years, the National Women's Council of Ireland will:

- offer and support leadership in advocating substantive equality and human rights for women – so that women will have recognition (affective equality), representation (political equality), resources (economic equality), and respect (social/cultural equality)
- work for outcomes in women's equality, supporting its members, and lobbying for change regionally as well as in a national and international context
- promote a positive understanding of a feminist analysis and vision of change
- be an inclusive, participative democratic organisation, with a progressive and accountable model of governance, and a positive working environment
- diversify its funding in order to deliver its priorities and achieve organisational sustainability

# 2006 - 2010

## Our Priorities are:

### 1. Substantive Equality & Human Rights for women

**GOAL 1** | To create and agree internal decision-making structures; actively developing leadership within the member base and within the NWC

**Activities will include:**

ongoing development of: membership criteria, developing and maintaining more participatory ways of working

**GOAL 2** | Women's right to political representation and decision-making at all levels will be realised; and international human rights for women will be implemented.

**Activities will include:**

work on: Access to decision-making, women's human rights including violence against women

**GOAL 3** | Women's right to economic independence will be achieved

**Activities will include:**

work on: Social welfare reform, gender pay gap, migrant women workers, low pay, anti-poverty work

**GOAL 4** | All women will enjoy the right to respect and autonomy, irrespective of diversity and difference

**Activities will include:**

work on: Health, anti-racism, disability, sexual orientation and age related issues

# Strategic Plan

## Our Priorities are:

### 2. Outcomes in women's equality, supporting members, and lobbying for change regionally as well as in a national and international context

**GOAL 1** | To build capacity of the membership base of the NWCI to achieve a sustainable women's sector in Ireland

**Activities will include:**

Provision of resources, including research and policy positions, workshops etc.

**GOAL 2** | To work with members on a regional basis to identify different needs and to develop regional policy positions to present to State agencies and to local and regional governance structures

**Activities will include:**

Focus groups and seminars, individual group visits, collaborative projects, as well as supporting local and regional campaigns on specific issues.

**GOAL 3** | To work collaboratively with local and regional governance structures to advise on and support, the achievement of gender equality.

**Activities will include:**

Briefing submissions and meetings, representing the experiences and needs of women in different regions.

# 2006 - 2010

## 3. A positive understanding of a feminist analysis and vision of change

**GOAL 1** | To inform and influence public debate, proactively promoting a constructive feminist analysis and perspectives

**Activities will include:**

Submissions, papers, flagship events, including AGM, International Women's Day; publication of book on feminism

**GOAL 2** | To strengthen the focus of our work; addressing the backlash

**Activities will include:**

Collection of statistics and evidence based arguments, supporting the work of our members and other organisations

## 4. To be a progressive organisation

**GOAL 1** | To be a great workplace which balances the needs of the organisation while recognising needs of individual employees, and demonstrates credibility, respect, fairness, pride and solidarity

**Activities will include:**

Ongoing development of: Employment policy, team work and task groups, support and supervision and staff development

# Strategic Plan

## Our Priorities are:

### 5. To be an inclusive and participative democratic organisation

#### GOAL 1

To create and agree internal decision-making structures; actively developing leadership within the member base and within the NWCI

#### Activities will include:

Ongoing development of: membership criteria, developing and maintaining more participatory ways of working

#### GOAL 2

To actively promote and implement a progressive model of governance

#### Activities will include:

Ongoing development of: work of the Executive Board and production of a model of good governance

# 2006 - 2010

## 6. To achieve Sustainability

**GOAL 1** | To achieve a diverse funding base and purchase our own premises, in order to create a sustainable environment which allows organisational growth and development

**Activities will include:**  
Fundraising Strategy

**GOAL 2** | To promote the women's sector as an important part of civil society and lobby for more resources for the sector

**Activities will include:**  
Lobbying Government



# Affective Equality

## Our Strategic Goal:

**CARE WORK WILL BE RECOGNISED AND SUPPORTED WITHIN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND WILL BE MORE EQUALLY SHARED BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.**

### Childcare

The new €10,000 tax allowance for childminders introduced in Budget 2006 exempted childminders who avail of the scheme, from paying tax or social insurance on up to €10,000 on their earnings. While overall the NWCI welcomed the measure, it was of deep concern to NWCI members that the scheme was to be exempt from social insurance.

During the first quarter of 2006 the NWCI with our members, particularly Childminding Ireland, lobbied extensively to have this scheme changed. This of course would have had serious consequences for those who avail of the scheme in being eligible for maternity benefit and a future contributory pension.

In December 2005, the NWCI sent a letter to Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD and Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD 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 TDs and Senators informing them of the situation and our policy position and asking them to lobby the Minister for Finance on the issue. The response from TDs was very positive. Subsequently, the Department of Social and Family Affairs who drafted the detail of the scheme included childminders' eligibility for social insurance contributions in the Social Welfare Bill which was then approved by Cabinet.



# Economic Equality

## Our Strategic Goal:

**WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE WILL BE ACHIEVED.**

### Social Welfare Reform

**'Can the Law create Social Welfare Reform? Women's Economic Independence as a Right' Seminar**

On May 3rd, 2006, the NWCI organised a seminar to examine the Irish social welfare system from a women's rights perspective and assess what potential exists in the law to create changes in the system to make it more equitable for women. The seminar highlighted the problems that the 'breadwinner' social welfare model presents for women and identified how a rights based approach could be adopted to challenge the current system and make it fairer for women. The seminar was funded by the Combat Poverty Agency (CPA).

The Speakers at the seminar were:

Noirin Clancy, Co-ordinator of the Women's Human Rights Alliance (Chair);  
Patrick O'Leary, Press Officer, Equality Authority;  
Noeline Blackwell, Director of the Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC);  
Mary Murphy, Author of the report '*A Woman's Model for Social Welfare Reform*'  
Orla O'Connor, Head of Policy, NWCI;

An advisory group for the seminar was also established to plan, design and evaluate the seminar and to advise the NWCI on possible follow-on actions. Representatives from the Women's Human Rights Alliance (WHRA), the Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC), Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC), Trinity College Dublin, the social welfare reform focus group members and the Equality Authority are on the advisory group.

Prior to the seminar two focus group meetings were also held in April; one in Killarney and one in Donegal, to discuss what groups wished to gain from the seminar and to maximise women's participation at the event.

Following the seminar, the NWCI decided to investigate the potential of taking legal cases on the impact of the marriage bar on pension rights for women; and on spouses of the self-employed (including farmers) who are excluded from making social insurance contributions. The NWCI made initial contacts with the Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and FLAC to determine whether a case can be made and if it could be taken through either of the organisations. Simultaneously the NWCI sought funding to resource this work.



*NWCI Director Joanna McMinn joins participants at the Social Welfare Reform Seminar, May 2006*

## Budget 2007

The NWCI launched the Pre-Budget Submission in September 2006. The submission focused on the issues of:

- Economic independence in the social welfare system, including direct payments for women, credits in the homemakers scheme, parental allowances.
- Income adequacy including; increases in the rates of adult, child benefit and One Parent Family payments.
- Access to employment including; re-entry credits for homemakers and increases in job facilitators.
- Childcare including; increasing Maternity Benefit, introducing paid parental and paternity leave, universal pre-school for two years before entering primary school and subsidies to reduce costs of childcare for parents.
- Women's participation in decision-making including; increasing funding for community based women's organisations and allocating funding to resource the National Women's Strategy.
- Health and Well-Being of Women, including, resources for an updated women's health policy, expansion of medical card coverage, introduction of cost of disability payment.
- Violence Against Women, including, increases in funding for specialist services and resources for the Strategic Plan of the Steering Committee on Violence against Women.

Given the surplus in finance for Budget 2007, it was a missed opportunity for the Government to make a real impact on the inequalities which women experience every day in Ireland. In our response to the Budget the NWCI was very critical of the lack of any action to reduce the costs of childcare to parents, which particularly impacts on women. The most welcome aspect of the Budget was the announcement to pay current qualified adults on pension payments directly so they would no longer be dependents on their husbands for their income.

# Following the seminar, the NWCI decided to investigate the potential of taking legal cases on the impact of the marriage bar on pension rights for women;

## **Government Discussion Paper:** *'Proposals for Supporting Lone Parents'*

The Department of Social and Family Affairs published a 'Government Discussion Paper: Proposals for Supporting Lone Parents'. As the Paper had clear implications for the NWCI's social welfare reform campaign and the individualisation of the social welfare system, the NWCI prepared a submission to the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Information was circulated to members and we engaged in consultation with members particularly with the national lone parent organisations: OPEN and One Family. This Government's Discussion Paper was also specifically discussed at the two focus group meetings in Killarney and Donegal.

The Department of Social and Family Affairs held a consultation day in May and the NWCI participated and made an initial response to the proposals. An NWCI submission was made in June 2006 and the NWCI Chairperson, Director, Head of Policy and Outreach Policy worker met with Minister Seamus Brennan TD, in June to discuss the proposals and the NWCI recommendations.

## **Submissions**

Submission to the Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA) on the 'Government Discussion Paper: Proposals for Supporting Lone Parents'.

Submission to the National Rural Development Strategy Plan 2007-2013 in January 2006

Pre-Budget 2007 Submission

# Political Equality

## **Our Strategic Goal:**

**AN EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF POWER AND INFLUENCE: WOMEN'S RIGHT TO POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND DECISION-MAKING AT ALL LEVELS WILL BE REALISED; WOMEN AND MEN WILL HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ACTIVE CITIZENS; AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.**

## **POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND DECISION-MAKING**

Over the past 5 years the NWCI has highlighted women's chronic under representation in decision-making through publications, exhibitions, International Women's Day events, media interviews as well as a manifesto for the 2004 local elections.

In late 2006, the NWCI wrote to the Government requesting participation in the negotiations for the new Social Partnership Agreement; and was informed that we might apply for participation in the implementation of the new Agreement, once it was agreed in 2007.

A members meeting in November 2006 came to a consensus that the NWCI should proceed with an application for participation in the new Agreement.



*Salome Mbugua, Zoe Trevaskis and Catherine Murphy listen to fellow speaker Maura Walsh on International Women's Day.*

## International Women's Day

Our 2006, the NWCI'S International Women's Day event took place on March 8th in the National Library in Kildare Street, to 'Celebrate Women's Leadership'. Caroline Casey, founder of the Aisling Foundation and recently appointed Young Global Leader chaired a panel of diverse speakers including Salome Mbugua from AkiDwA, Zoe Trevaskis from Dail na n'Og, Maura Walsh from the Duhallow Women's Forum and Catherine Murphy, Independent TD.

All of these women spoke of their experience in taking on a leadership role in different ways and in different contexts. Pauline Moreau, Head of the DJELR Equality Division, gave a brief overview of the National Women's Strategy. The event concluded with a poetry reading by Mary Dorcey, and a performance from the Vivaldi String Quartet.

## The National Women's Strategy

As part of its 'Sustaining Progress' Social Partnership Agreement, which came to an end in December 2005, the Government made a commitment to the production of a National Women's Strategy. This commitment was a culmination of the process following the Irish Government's commitment in 1995 to implement the UN Beijing Platform for Action on the advancement of women.

The Irish Government submitted its 'Report to the UN on the National Plan for Women' to the United Nations in 2002. This report describes Ireland's existing commitments to advancing the status of women in Irish society. The Government also published a report entitled 'Aspirations of Women collected in the course of the Consultation Process on the National Plan for Women 2002 - Towards a National Women's Strategy', which records the views of women gathered during the course of a consultation process on the draft National Plan for Women.

In 2005, an Interdepartmental Committee, consisting of representatives of 10 Government Departments, was established to draft the National Women's Strategy. The NWCI was invited by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (DJELR) to participate on a Social Partners Group, which would feed into the development of the National Women's Strategy.

The specific terms of reference of the National Women's Strategy Consultation Group were:

1. to receive and comment on drafts of the National Women's Strategy as prepared by the Interdepartmental Committee
2. to advise in relation to the content of the National Women's Strategy and;
3. to contribute to the development of a communications plan for the publication and launch of the Strategy.

The NWCI circulated drafts to its members and experts on specific areas; collated responses; researched EU gender equality commitments, and submitted comments to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, for the Interdepartmental Committee to consider. By the end of 2006 the National Women's Strategy had not been finalised.

## A Women's Manifesto

Work had begun on a Women's Manifesto for the 2007 General Election Strategy. A staff task group was established and this group has set out the tasks and timescale of developing the Manifesto and liaising with policy advisers and politicians. The Director presented the strategy and draft manifesto to the November members' meeting in Tullamore.

Members' responses affirmed the NWCI priorities, and contributed to the development of the issues.

## Future Projects

At the end of the year, the NWCI successfully applied for funding to the Equality for Women Measure, administered by Pobal (formerly Area Development Management Ltd.), under its programme goal to develop education, training and/or wider support programmes to enhance women's participation in decision-making structures.

This project will begin in 2007.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

### Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The NWCI Chair Thérèse Murphy and Claire Dunne, Policy and Outreach Facilitator attended the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women which took place in New York from **27 February -10 March 2006**.

The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The 50th session considered two themes; the enhanced participation of women in development and equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

The Commission produced agreed conclusions on these priority themes, which can be viewed on [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw). Among other decisions, the Commission called on governments 'to establish concrete goals, targets and benchmarks for achieving equal participation of women in decision-making bodies at all levels and in all areas especially areas of macroeconomic policy, trade, labour, budgets, defence and foreign affairs, the media and the judiciary, including positive actions and temporary measures, as appropriate'. The Irish Government signed up to these commitments.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### National Steering Committee on VAW

The Director represented the NWCI during the year at meetings of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Violence Against Women (VAW) and chaired the Perpetrators Sub Group of the committee.

### Women's Human Rights Alliance (WHRA)

The NWCI participated in a Women's Human Rights Alliance meeting with Shanti Dairiam, who is a member of the CEDAW Committee, on 20 March 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how to prepare an effective Shadow Report. We were advised that producing a lengthy document, drawing on the widest range of NGOs for reference, and also a short document that summarises the key priority areas, has proved the most effective way of informing committee members.

The WHRA and the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) also organised a roundtable discussion with Shanti Dairiam on CEDAW and the Irish Abortion debate and how to promote change through CEDAW.



The Director attended meetings of the Women's Ad hoc policy group in Belfast on 10th April, to discuss follow up on CEDAW, Trafficking and Gender Equality Strategies, north and south. The northern members of the group are preparing a Shadow Report in preparation for the UK Government appearing before the CEDAW Committee in 2007.

Because of a lack of sustainable funding, the Directors of the Women's Human Rights Alliance took the decision to close the company and make the Co-ordinator Noirin Clancy redundant from the end of July 2006. The Alliance will continue to exist as an alliance of organisations advocating women's human rights, and maintaining the good networking contacts that have been created. It will also seek resources to produce a shadow report when the Irish Government submits its next report to the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. While the decision was made by WHRA Directors to close as a company, the NWCI will continue to support the work of the alliance and has written this into the NWCI Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010.

## National Domestic Violence Intervention Agency (NDVIA)

The NWCI wrote to the Minister of State Frank Fahey TD and to Michael McDowell TD, Minister for Justice in support of our affiliate member; the National Domestic Intervention Agency whose funding as a pilot project was due to end on 31 December 2006. The NDVIA aimed to reduce recidivism, increase victim safety and perpetrator accountability and develop a model of intervention work that maximises victim safety, perpetrator accountability, and the accountability of the system to victims. The NDVIA approach is a multi-agency approach and, in conjunction with key agencies, aims to establish the future conditions in which integrated intervention programmes can be initiated throughout Ireland.

## Observatory on VAW

Close links with organisations working directly on this issue have been maintained through the Irish National Observatory on Violence Against Women, which is overseen by the NWCI as part of a European Women's Lobby Observatory on VAW. Monica O'Connor, former Irish expert on VAW for the NWCI, completed the Observatory's 2nd National Report on Violence Against Women, with a focus on Pornography and this was disseminated during 2006 by email and on the NWCI website.

This report contains a brief look at Irish women's action against pornography, a summary of legislation and enforcement by the State in relation to adult and child pornography and some national and international data on the proliferation of the sex industry.

The report also challenges the arguments put forward by the defenders of pornography and makes recommendations for action by the State and civil society.



*Maurice Manning, IHRC President, who chaired the NWCi 'Buying Sex is not a Sport' campaign launch at the National Library of Ireland.*

## Trafficking

**The NWCi Trafficking 'Buying Sex is not a Sport!' Campaign** was launched on 9 March to raise public awareness of the links between trafficking and prostitution at the 2006 FIFA World Cup games in Germany this summer. An online petition was launched the same day on our website, and has been gathering signatures steadily ever since.

The Speaker Panel at the launch consisted of:

- Maurice Manning, President, Irish Human Rights Commission
- Grainne Healy, Chair, Observatory on Violence Against Women, European Women's Lobby
- Kevin Lalor, Chairperson, Ruhama

The 'Buying Sex is not a Sport' campaign came to an end in June, to coincide with the close of the World Cup Games in Germany. In total we collected close to 4,500 petition signatures, both in hard copy and by email/through the website. We intend to contact each individual who signed up to the petition and gave an email contact address, to thank them for their support and describe what will happen next.

Although the 'Buying Sex' Campaign has come to a close, we are continuing with an Anti-Trafficking Campaign, which will include a call for anti-trafficking legislation to be introduced in Ireland. The focus of our future campaigning activities will be on the demand side of trafficking, and will advocate for the introduction of legislation on the Swedish model which makes it an offence to buy or attempt to buy sexual services.

The ICTU Biennial Women's Conference in Belfast on 10-11 March adopted an emergency motion supporting our campaign, calling on both the Irish and British Governments to put the issue on the EU Council of Ministers' meeting at the end of April 06. The Director also spoke at a conference in Cork on Trafficking organised by the Cork Women's Political Association.

The NWCI wrote to Minister Frank Fahey, who chairs the National Steering Committee on VAW, to request information about Government action on this issue, as Ireland is the only EU country not to have signed up to the EU Framework Decision on combating trafficking, taking account of the UN Protocol to prevent trafficking of women. The Minister responded with information about legislation currently being prepared that will create a specific offence of trafficking human beings, into, through or out of Ireland for the purpose of their sexual and labour exploitation.

## Freedom From Pornography Campaign

The Director attended meetings of the Freedom from Pornography Campaign and participated in training organised by the Campaign. The Freedom From Pornography Campaign is a coalition of individuals and organisations who are concerned about the growth and availability of pornography. The campaign aims to eliminate pornography and to promote a society in which all people will enjoy sexuality based on respect, safety, equality and mutuality.

## Support for the 'Ruhama Charter'

The NWCI lent its support to our affiliate member Ruhama, in the launch of an initiative called 'The Ruhama Charter' in August 2006. Details of the Charter were sent to several hundred corporate companies in Ireland requesting them not to support lap dancing clubs with corporate funds. Ruhama wanted to raise awareness about what lap dancing is actually about amongst corporate Ireland. The NWCI were in attendance at the launch, released a press statement of support following the launch and provided information on the initiative to our members.

## Women's Equality in Europe

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) published a Briefing Handbook on 'The Links between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking', a useful information resource for research, education and media, as part of the project jointly coordinated by EWL and Coalition Against Trafficking of Women. The Handbook was written by two Irish women, Monica O'Connor, former NWCI expert on violence against women, and Grainne Healy, Chair of the Observatory on Violence Against Women.

The European Women's Lobby held its 2006 General Assembly (GA) in Prague on the 19th – 22nd October. Therese Murphy, Marie Hainsworth and Joanna McMinn were the three national delegates who attended the GA. There was an opening Seminar on 'Care Issues in Europe from a Gender Perspective' with a range of speakers and a presentation of the EWL Manifesto on Care Issues.

# 2007 will be the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

The Manifesto: "Who Cares? Care Services for all Women and Men in Europe" was adopted at the seminar. The Manifesto points to the lack of affordable, accessible and high quality care services in the EU that is a major obstacle to women's full participation in all aspects of economic, social, cultural and political life. The Manifesto aims to raise awareness on issues related to care that need to be addressed in order to achieve gender equality in European societies, including: 1) gender stereotypes, 2) the economics of care, 3) care and the labour market; 4) migrant domestic care workers; 5) European Union policies.

A large number of NWCI Childcare reports (An Accessible Childcare Model, 2006) were distributed at the GA for other delegates. The two NWCI motions – (i) on equal treatment for same sex couples, and (ii) on supporting the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women – were both passed unanimously.

After the General Assembly the new Board met and Therese Murphy was elected to the Executive of the Board.

The Chair, Therese Murphy, spoke as a representative of the EWL at a Conference in Bratislava on Work Life Balance with the emphasis on care services.

2007 will be the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. The Equality Authority is coordinating activities in Ireland, and will be focusing on multiple gendered identities across the nine grounds; for example, the Equality Authority is liaising with the National Disability Authority on women and disability. A burning issue that the NWCI has agreed in discussions with the Equality Authority is caring and the sharing of care work. We plan to lift the profile of, and progress, this issue during the year.



# Social and Cultural Equality

## Our Strategic Goal:

**ALL WOMEN WILL ENJOY THE RIGHT TO RESPECT AND AUTONOMY, IRRESPECTIVE OF DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCE**

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, TD formally launched the NWCI Report **Women's Health in Ireland: Meeting International Standards?** in the Mansion House on 26th September. The report sets a framework of international human rights conventions together with the principles of the World Health Organisation, from which a model for women's health policy and services could be developed in Ireland. At the launch, the Minister welcomed the report and invited the NWCI to engage in 'meaningful dialogue' on its recommendations. Subsequently, a strategy was developed to progress NWCI work on women's health including contact with the Department of Health & Children and the Women's Health Council. Copies of the report continue to be disseminated on request, to NWCI members, public representatives and at conferences and events.

The NWCI supported a campaign by the Irish Cancer Society (ICS) for full National rollout of the Irish Cervical Screening Programme (ICSP) and participated in a coalition formed to lobby the Department of Health & Children on this issue. The NWCI has continuously highlighted the issue in pre-budget and other submissions and in the press.





*Left to right: Prof. Cecily Kelleher, Chair, Women's Health Council, Thérèse Murphy, Chair, NWCI, Joanna McMinn, Director, NWCI and Minister for Health, Mary Harney, TD.*

## NWCI Representation on Women's Health issues

Executive Board member, Marie Hainsworth represents the NWCI on the Board of the Women's Health Council (WHC) and WHC Sub-Committees.

The NWCI was also represented at:

- The Europa Donna conference 'Best Results for Women Working Together for Best Breast Cancer Services Nationwide'
- The Department of Health Annual Consultative Forum
- A seminar on Violence Against Women organised by AKIDWA
- Combat Poverty Agency Seminar on Poverty & Health Inequalities
- The CPA/IFPA seminar 'Improving Sexual Health Services in Disadvantaged Areas: A Rights Based Approach'
- Irish Association of Suicidology Conference on Women's Health & Suicide
- 'Capacity and the Convention' a seminar held by The National Disability Authority on the development of a UN Convention of Rights of Disabled people, specifically Article 12 which deals with Equal Recognition before the law, one of the 'difficult issues remaining' in the drafting of the convention
- The Launch of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency first Major Study of Sexual Health and Relationships in Ireland
- The Global Development Conference, Strengthening Financial, Trade and Health Systems. Speakers included former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson.

## **EDUCATION**

### **ZEST 4 Programme**

ZONTA International provided the NWCI with funding for a final round of its ZEST Programme in 2006. There was sufficient funding for 3 projects; the three successful projects were: St. Michael's Estate Family Resource Centre, Inchicore, to provide needs based education for migrant African women from the local community; WAVES Support Service for Women, Sligo, to provide education courses as part of their programme for women survivors of Domestic Violence and The Irish Deaf Women's Group to run innovative education courses for deaf women throughout Ireland.

The NWCI provided information and support to projects as required and a site visit was carried out to each project. A projects meeting is arranged for late January 2007, to facilitate networking amongst project workers and promoters, exchange models of practice and discuss policy issues arising.

### **Back To Education Initiative (BTEI)**

NWCI was represented at the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) Community Strand meeting at Further Education Development Unit, Department of Education and Science and the NALA/AONTAS consultation on development of Research Association in Adult and Community Education (RAACE)

## **GENDER AND RACISM**

The NWCI continued to be represented on the board of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) and on the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Ireland.

The NCCRI is an independent expert body that seeks to provide advice and to develop initiatives to combat racism and to work towards a more inclusive, intercultural society in Ireland.

ENAR is a network of European NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states. ENAR promotes the cause of anti-racism of all kinds and equal treatment for ethnic minorities and non-EU nationals residing in the EU. ENAR Ireland has representation from a wide range of organisations working on issues of migration, Travellers, asylum, gender and integration.

In September, the Government produced the Immigration and Residence in Ireland Bill. The NWCI, having made a submission on the proposed Bill in 2005, issued a press statement in relation to its content expressing concern at the content of the bill, its failure to take into account the concerns of migrant women and its failure to afford meaningful protection to those whose rights have or are in danger of being violated.



*Ann-Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone.  
Credit: John Nugent*

## **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

### **KAL Advocacy Platform**

The Director worked with Gay and Lesbian Education Network (GLEN) to establish the KAL Advocacy Platform, set up to support Katherine Zappone and Ann Louise Gilligan in their legal action asking the courts to recognise that their marriage be legally recognised in Ireland. This case will create a positive climate for a new legal framework that provides the potential for legal recognition of all co-habiting couples and the many different types of family in Ireland today.

The purpose of the Platform is "to create a space open to organisations and individuals who wish to support the broader societal issues raised by the KAL case, (including family diversity, partnership rights and gay marriage); and to promote broad based social solidarity around these issues".

### **Domestic Partnership**

The NWCI made a submission on Domestic Partnership to the Working Group set up by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

The Submission is available on the NWCI web site: [www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)



# An Empowering Process

## MEMBERS' MEETINGS 2006

All members meetings are designed to explore issues and themes related to the Strategic Plan. Our aim is to promote networking and dialogue among members; and to gather the views of participants through structured workshops, using adult education and community development methodologies.

Feedback from members meetings contributes to the policy development process of the NWCI. There were four members meetings throughout 2006:

### February 2006 - Galway

Theme:  
Pornography and the 'Sex Industry'

The aim of this members meeting was to provide NWCI members with an opportunity to explore and discuss the issue of pornography and the NWCI's position and work in this area. The outcome of discussions on the day fed into the second Irish National Report to the European Observatory on Violence Against Women.

### May 2006 - Dublin

Theme:  
NWCI Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The aim of this members meeting was to provide NWCI members with an opportunity to discuss the final draft of the new NWCI Strategic Plan.

### September 2006 - Dublin

Theme:  
Social Partnership

The aim of this members meeting was to brief and consult with members on the new social partnership agreement 'Towards 2016'

### December 2006 - Dublin

Theme:  
Discussion women's priorities for the next election and the NWCI Women's Manifesto for Election 2007

The aim of this members meeting was to discuss and agree on priorities for women for the next general election, with the purpose of putting together the NWCI Election Manifesto for Election 2007.





*NWCI members take part in discussions at the May 2006 Members Meeting.*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2006**

The 2006 AGM took place on June 16th at the Ripley Court Hotel in Dublin. The event was well attended and in addition to the normal AGM business of the day, there was a keynote speech, executive board elections, the presentation of the Strategic Plan 2006-2010 and the presentation of Members' motions in the afternoon.

Ivana Bacik, Reid Professor of Criminal Law at Trinity College was the keynote speaker on the day. She spoke on the subject of how women's organisations (like NWCI and its members) can use CEDAW to increase women's equality in the world. Ms Bacik urged those in attendance to push for the adoption of the "blueprint for human rights" presented by CEDAW to be realised in Ireland.

The Executive Board elections resulted in the following changes:

### **Re-elected for a second term of office:**

Therese Murphy (re-elected as Chairperson)  
Marie Hainsworth (stepped down from her role as Deputy Chairperson)  
Noirín Clancy (elected as Deputy Chairperson)

Isobel Butler, Aileen Heverin, Kathleen O' Sullivan, Clare Treacy and Stephanie Whyte.

### **Elected for a first term of office:**

Berta Armitage, Maura Butler, Tara Droog and Breda Raggett.

### **Outgoing Board Members**

Rhona McSweeney completed her third term of office and Ellen Dillon and Maureen McGovern completed their first term.

Joanna McMinn, NWCI Director gave a power point presentation of the NWCI's new Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 which had been approved by the Board at the preceding Board Meeting. After lunch the Motions for the day were presented by the members for discussion and debate.

For 2006 there were nine motions put to the floor (two of which were Emergency Motions). All of the nine motions put forward were carried and are summarised as follows:

- a) **Health Service**  
This motion condemns, and calls for the immediate reversal of any and all strategies, which move to introduce privatised healthcare. The motion calls upon the NWCI to issue a press statement against the privatisation of our health service and to issue ongoing statements highlighting how it is women and the socially excluded that are most negatively effected by privatisation of health.
- b) **Government's Proposals for Lone Parents**  
The motion calls on the NWCI to lobby the government to ensure that in the event of conditionality being included in the Department of Social and Family Affairs final proposals there are legal safe guards to protect the rights of claimants, mothers' right to parent is protected, people are not forced into unreasonable working conditions or to work in poverty, statutory agencies are obliged to provide quality appropriate services, staff making discretionary services have effective training, and finally that a right to appeal is guaranteed and a system is in place to monitor regional standards and trends.
- c) **Family Reunification**  
The motion calls on NWCI to support the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) in their campaign to lobby the government for changes in legislation, procedures, and practice on family reunification so that the basic right to family life in Ireland is protected.
- d) **The Girl Child**  
The motion calls on the NWCI to lobby the Irish Government to ensure that all member states in attendance at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting next March implement measures to guarantee girls the full enjoyment of their human rights, particularly in relation to education.
- e) **Human Trafficking**  
The motion calls on the NWCI to lobby the Government for the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking of women and girls into Ireland.
- f) **Rapporteur on Laws that Discriminate Against Women**  
The motion urges the NWCI to lobby the Irish Government to support, at EU level, the resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women for the appointment of a Rapporteur on Laws that Discriminate against Women.

# For 2006 there were nine motions put to the floor

g) **Human Rights Entitlements for all Civil Partnerships**

The motion asks that the NWCI lobby the Government to ensure that any form of Civil Partnership legislation will include the full range of human rights for same sex couples.

h) **EMERGENCY MOTION:**

**Enhanced Labour Standards for Migrant Women Employed in the Private Home**

The motion calls upon the NWCI to support the campaign on the part of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland to put in place enhanced terms and conditions for domestic workers employed in the private home as well as sanctions for those in breach of these rights.

i) **EMERGENCY MOTION:**

**Statutory Rape Legislation**

The motion calls upon the NWCI to lobby the All Party Committee to ensure inclusion of external agencies that have expertise in addressing sexual violence against children. They are also called upon to ensure that any recommendations arising from the committee prioritise the interests and rights of children.

# Outreach and Support

## A Guide to Effective Lobbying for Women's Groups in Ireland

This NWCI publication is a policy and lobbying handbook which was launched on 13th September in the National Library of Ireland.

The aim of the handbook is to assist women's groups to develop an achievable strategy for change. It acts as a guide to effective lobbying of decision-makers and is designed to build the capacity of women's groups to engage with the policy making process. The handbook is divided into accessible steps to develop a campaign strategy and includes tips, resources, practical examples and useful contact details.

There has been a great response to the publication and copies were disseminated widely to women's groups throughout the country. In addition to the handbook, the NWCI has developed a policy training module which we delivered to a number of groups in 2007. *A guide to Effective Lobbying*

*for women's groups in Ireland* was funded by the Combat Poverty Agency.

## Equality for Women Measure

The NWCI submitted a successful project proposal to the Equality for Women Measure, administered by Pobal under its programme goal to develop education, training and/or wider support programmes to enhance women's participation in decision-making structures.

The project entitled 'Roadmap for Change – women mobilising in rural areas' aims to strengthen and enhance the capacity of women in rural areas to engage in decision-making fora at local level and to influence the decisions taken in a range of policy arenas, as they affect women.

The project will be implemented in 2007 and with a focus on counties Leitrim, Clare and Mayo.

## Women in Afghanistan Seminar

On October 24th the NWCI hosted an evening seminar with Mary Akrami on the theme of Women in Afghanistan. Mary Akrami is the Director of the Afghan Women's Skills Development Centre (AWSDC). She is actively involved in advocacy on women's rights and equality in Afghanistan.

This public seminar was widely attended and provided participants with an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the issues affecting women in Afghanistan and appropriate supports from Irish women which may assist in their struggle for equality.

## Hanna's House

Throughout 2006 the NWCI participated on the steering group of Hanna's House, supporting the development and implementation of its strategic plan, which was launched on 31 May in the restored Workhouse in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

The Hanna's House project promotes a shared vision of an interdependent and just society, mobilising the energy of women to work towards feminist ideals of justice, equality and non-violence. Hanna's House is inspired by Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, an Irish suffragist who was to serve two jail sentences for her militancy in pursuing women's campaign for the vote. For almost a century, in their different ways, Sheehy Skeffington family members have made an important contribution to the campaign for women's greater representation in public life and to challenging social exclusion and inequality in Ireland and elsewhere.

While the goal of Hanna's House is to establish a residential centre for feminist activists and women's groups across the island, in the shorter term the steering group will organise seminars on feminist approaches to peace building and related topics.



# Communications and Media

## MEDIA COVERAGE 2006

The National Women's Council maintained its position as a leading commentator on all issues relating to women throughout 2006. The Council once again developed a strong and diverse media presence during the year, enabling us to increase our visibility, promote our work and raise awareness around issues of priority for the NWCI.

Through our strong media presence, both in print, on radio and television, we managed to keep issues of priority in the public arena and therefore on the political agenda. Media relationships were developed and maintained throughout 2006.

## THE MAIN MEDIA EVENTS OF 2006

**2006 was another significant year for media coverage, with the Council maintaining a strong print, radio and television profile:**

### **Stringfellow's Night Club**

Coverage for 2006 began in early January with the Council's reaction to the granting of a dance licence to Stringfellow's nightclub to open premises in Parnell Street in Dublin.

In a press release issued, the Council expressed dismay at the outcome and also questioned current licensing conditions.

The NWCI expressed the belief 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.

The NWCI said that public licenses for lap dancing clubs should have stricter conditions than those required for nightclubs. The NWCI publicly supported the Residents of the Parnell Street area in their concerns regarding the opening and operation of Stringfellows. The Residents continued to protest nightly outside the venue, with the eventual closure of the club in Summer 2006, just five months after it opened.

### **International Womens' Day 2006**

International Women's Day took place on March 8th and this year's theme was 'Celebrating Women's Leadership'. The event received coverage before and after the event, with a profile of the youngest speaker; Ms Zoe Trevaskis from Dail na n'Óg appearing in The Irish Times, prior to the event.

### **The inclusion of childminders within the Social Welfare System**

A press release was issued by the Council to welcome the measure to include childminders within the Social Insurance system (PRSI), which was announced in February as part of the Childminders Relief Measure. This measure will allow childminders to earn up to €10,000 and be exempt from paying tax. The press release was well received in the print media.

### **Launch of the 'Buying Sex Is Not A Sport' World Cup Campaign**

On March 9th, the NWCI launched a nationwide public awareness campaign to highlight the issue of trafficking in women for

# The Council once again developed a strong and diverse media presence during the year, enabling us to increase our visibility, promote our work and raise awareness around issues of priority for the NWCI.

prostitution, for major international sporting events, with a particular emphasis on June 2006's FIFA World Cup, which took place in Germany. It was estimated that thousands of women and girls would be trafficked into Germany for the purposes of prostitution around the time of the World Cup.

The Council highlighted that 'the public are understandably unaware of the reality of global trafficking and do not realise that women, some as young as 15 years of age, are actually sold into the global sex industry'. The Campaign and its launch received widespread coverage on radio, television and national press, local press and magazine coverage, preceding and following the launch and also throughout the month of June.

#### **Supreme Court ruling on Statutory Rape Laws**

In May, the NWCI reacted with outrage at the release of a man who was jailed in 2004 for having sex with a 12-year old girl. The High Court's decision to free the man came in the aftermath of the judgement earlier on

in May, by the Supreme Court, that the State's laws on statutory rape were unconstitutional. Many media requests were made to the Council, seeking a reaction to the decision. The NWCI called on the Government to immediately fast-track legislation to fill the legal gap created by the Supreme Court's decision.

#### **Social Welfare / Human Rights Seminar**

In May, the NWCI held a seminar identifying legal and human rights mechanisms to bring about change to the social welfare system for women's equality.

The NWCI has continued to highlight how the social welfare system at present continues to deny women their full economic independence and reinforces the notion of woman as adult dependents, rather than individuals entitled to benefits in their own right. The Seminar and the issues it raised received a variety of media coverage in the national and regional press, along with significant local radio interest, around the country.



### Pre Budget Submission

The NWCI's Pre-Budget Submission 2007 was launched in September. The launch and the submission itself were promoted as a 'final opportunity for Government to keep its promises to women in Budget 2007'. The NWCI strongly stated that the Government needed to take specific actions in Budget 2007 to remove discrimination against women and claimed that it was simply immoral that despite so much prosperity, 45% of older women, many after lives spent parenting and caring, live in poverty. The Pre-Budget Submission received huge media coverage both regionally and nationally, with a particular interest from print media.

The Irish Independent ran a specific feature on the issues that the NWCI Pre-Budget Submission raised, in particular pensions. Orla O'Connor wrote an opinion piece for the same paper.

The Pat Kenny Programme on Monday 25th of September, covered the issue of the inaccessibility to pensions for older women. NWCI members Noreen Meagher and Eily Kennedy were interviewed prior to the programme about their own experiences of economic dependency and denial of their rights in the social welfare system.

## PRESS COVERAGE

A SELECTION OF PRESS COVERAGE FROM 2006

### Childcare

"The price of Childcare"  
"Childcare bonus coming on stream"  
"Embracing hectic motherhood"  
"Benefits for Irish mothers among EU lowest study"  
"Maternity leave improvements welcomed, but fathers left out"  
"Benefits for Irish mothers among EU lowest study"

13 May 2006 – *The Farmer's Journal*  
6th August 2006 – *The Sunday Business Post*  
13th October 2006 – *Irish Examiner*  
11th May 2006 – *Irish Examiner*  
8th December 2006 – *Irish Examiner*  
11th May 2006 – *Irish Examiner*

### Prostitution / VAW

"World cup fans urged not to use prostitutes"  
"Blowing the whistle on sports prostitution"  
"Petition on sex trade launched"  
"Campaign against selling sex"  
"World Cup sex slaves"  
"Man to man: tackling violence against women"  
"Appeal for more helpline funding and volunteers"

10th March 2006 – *Irish Independent*  
24th March 2006 – *Irish Examiner*  
10th March 2006 – *Irish News*  
9th March 2006 – *The Irish Star*  
10th March 2006 – *The Irish Mirror*  
31st March 2006 – *Irish Times*  
3rd November 2006 – *Irish Examiner*

### International Women's Day

"Second among equals"  
"What women want"

2nd March 2006 – *Irish Examiner*  
7th March 2006 – *Irish Times*

### Health

"Irish women have been silent for too long"  
"Mental Health Treatment more likely for women"  
"Women's deaths from cancer second highest in Europe"

11th October 2006 – *Connaught Telegraph*  
10th October 2006 – *Irish Medical News*  
29th August 2006 – *Clare Champion*

### Launch of the 'Women's Health In Ireland' Report

September also saw the launch of the NWCI's Health Report: 'Irish Women's Health: Meeting International Standards?' Minister for Health, Mary Harney, TD launched the publication on September 26th. The NWCI called for a new Health Strategy for women that meets International standards and for a national women's health action plan, which will ensure that all women in Ireland are enabled to reach and maintain optimal levels of health across their lifecycle. The launch of the publication received much media attention – in particular radio and television coverage, with print coverage at a national and regional level following the launch.

### Budget Day 2007

The NWCI issued a press release following the Budget announcements, in December, entitled: 'Big Money, No Vision'. The Council reacted with dismay to the measures announced in Budget 2007 that affected women with high childcare costs and women in the social welfare system. The NWCI stated that: 'the Budget does nothing to advance women's equality, nor alleviate the economic burden of childcare for young families, despite the Minister's claims to the contrary.' The reaction from the NWCI received print and radio media interest and subsequent coverage.

## Women and Work

"Women workers lose out due to pay gap and childcare costs"  
"Career women get a Mum deal"  
"Pay ruling will undo 50 years of women's struggle"  
"Women can be paid less: EU"  
"Pay ruling risks widening gender gap"  
"Pay gap between sexes is €20,000"  
"Women work 22 weeks extra to match men's wages"  
"Sexism in Society" Seminar

5th May 2006 - *The Daily Mail*  
5th October 2006 - *The Irish Sun*  
4th October 2006 - *Irish Independent*  
4th October 2006 - *Herald AM*  
5th October 2006 - *Irish Examiner*  
7th November 2006 - *Metro*  
7th May 2006 - *Sunday Tribune*  
13th May 2006 - *Donegal's People's Press*

## Social Welfare & Pensions

"Welfare reform aims to help older women"  
"Older women should not have to live out their days in poverty"  
"Women's pension crux to be discussed"  
"Poverty Line"  
"Women are living longer than men but less are contributing to pensions"  
"Plan to become golden girl"

30th October 2006 - *Irish Times*  
14th October 2006 - *Westmeath Examiner*  
27th October 2006 - *Kilkenny People*  
18th August 2006 - *Limerick Leader*  
6th May 2006 - *Public Sector Times*  
24th September 2006 - *Sunday Times*

## Women in Decision-Making

"Gate-crashing the boys club"  
"Action urged to ensure women go into politics"  
"Women's raw deal"  
"State Boards still lag behind on women members despite promises to improve"

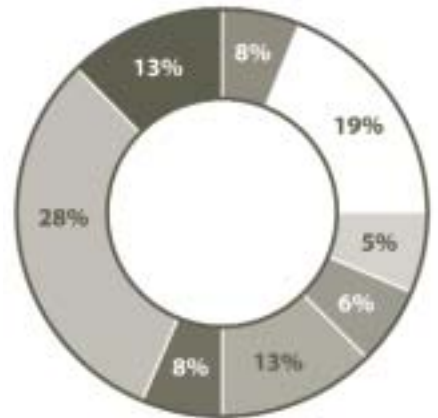
16th December 2006 - *Irish Times*  
14th December 2006 - *Irish Times*  
14th December 2006 - *The Irish Sun*  
16th January 2006

# NWCI Information Service 2006

2006 saw the ongoing development of the NWCI Information Service as a resource for NWCI members of the general public.

## Popular Queries

- Childcare and Maternity
- Equality
- Social Welfare Reform
- Health
- Work of the NWCI
- Women In Decision Making
- NWCI Publications
- Violence Against Women  
(including Prostitution and Pornography)



## Information Service

- In 2006 the general public were the largest group to contact the service with information queries followed by the affiliate members and supporting members. The most popular query was requests for NWCI publications. Queries on women's equality, the work of the NWCI, women in decision-making and violence against women including prostitution and pornography were all dealt with during 2006.
- A new cataloguing system was developed in 2006 for the NWCI Resource centre which is of particular use to NWCI staff in their daily work.
- 4 editions of the bi-monthly NWCI E-newsletter were produced in 2006. Contributions from members were an essential part of the newsletter.
- As a means of promoting the work of the NWCI information stands were staffed at the Combat Poverty Conference "Having your Say" in October 2006 and the Young Social Innovators Showcase in May 2006. Information stands were also staffed at NWCI events including the 4 members meetings, International Women's Day and the launch of NWCI publications (Women's Health Report and Lobbying Toolkit) during September 2006.

## NWCI Website

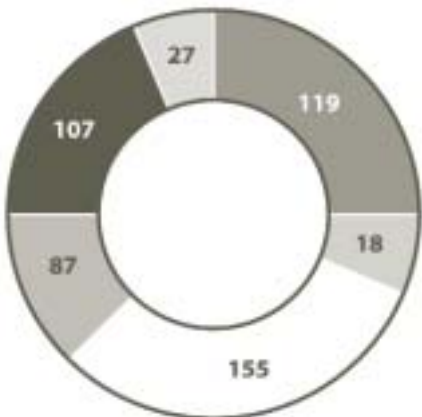
- A complete redesign and redevelopment of the NWCI website (<http://www.nwci.ie>) was ongoing throughout 2006. Both the overall look and content structure of the site were overhauled. A significant amount of work was carried out in relation to the redevelopment both by the NWCI staff team and by the external web design company employed to carry out the re-development.
- The new website went live in December 2006 and we have received positive feedback on the site and hope that it continues to be a valuable resource for women throughout the country.
- In March 2006 the 'Buying Sex is not a Sport' online petition was available online for people to support the campaign over 1,400 online signatures were received for the campaign (as part of the 4,500 signatures collected in total).
- In the lead up to International Women's Day information on events taking place around the country to celebrate IWD were made available on the website.

## Information Centre Statistics for 2006

### Queries received from:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| ● Members       | 119 |
| ● Board         | 18  |
| ○ Individuals   | 155 |
| ● Organisations | 87  |
| ● Staff         | 107 |
| ● Students      | 27  |

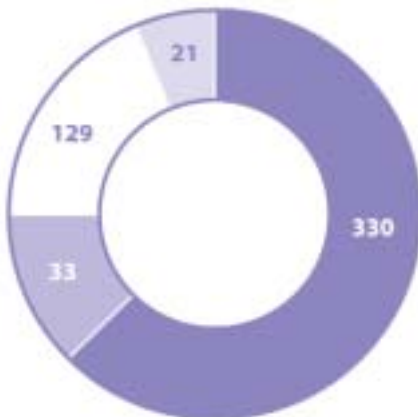
**TOTAL 513**



### Queries received by:

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| ● E-mail    | 119 |
| ● In person | 18  |
| ○ Phone     | 155 |
| ● Post      | 87  |

**TOTAL 513**



# Financial Report

## FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

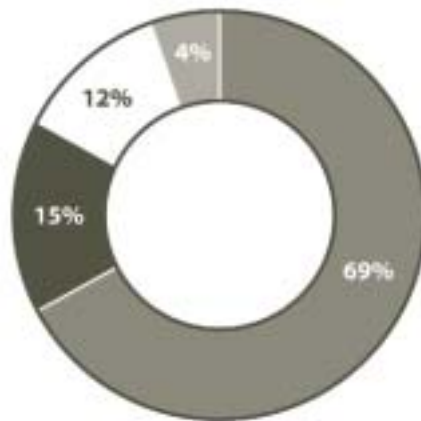
Once again, 2006 proved to be a busy year for the finances of the NWCI as the organisation commenced work on the implementation of its new Strategic Plan 2006-2010.

The principal activities carried out as reflected in its statement of financial activities and Balance Sheet for the year are as follows:

- Completion of the research on a Women's Health Policy in Ireland and launch of the publication.
- Production and launch of a Policy Lobbying Handbook.
- Continuing the work on the Social Welfare Campaign through hosting a seminar on the "Law and Social Welfare" and a number of Focus Group Meetings.
- Hosting annual events including - Members' Meetings; AGM; International Women's Day; Pre-Budget Submission launch.
- Undertaking the redevelopment of the organisation's website.
- Commencement of the Zest 4 project - selection of participating groups and provision of ongoing support.
- Carrying out its governance and representative responsibilities including attendance at EWL and CSW meetings.
- Continuing to work with members through our outreach and support programme.
- Submission of funding applications and sourcing new funding.
- Ongoing research work into sourcing a new office premises.

## Income Analysis 2006

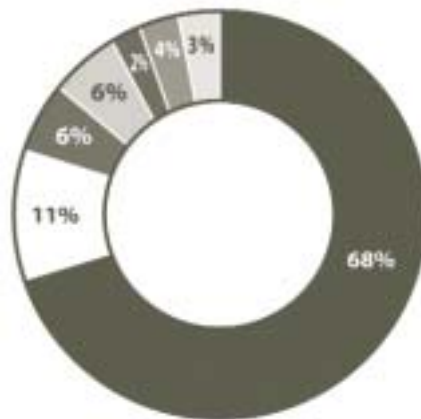
|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| ● Core grant (DJELR)            | € 551,000 |
| ● Programme and Activity Grants | € 121,578 |
| ○ Atlantic Philanthropies       | € 98,626  |
| ● Members' fees                 | € 28,723  |



Income for the year was 9.5% less than 2005, which is mainly due to the completion of the three year funding grant from Atlantic Philanthropies.

## Expenditure Analysis 2006

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| ● Staff Costs                    | € 570,184 |
| ○ Programme Activities           | € 90,971  |
| ● Administration Expenses        | € 51,933  |
| ● Office Premises Costs          | € 51,534  |
| ● Professional Fees              | € 12,521  |
| ● Governance and Statutory Costs | € 29,644  |
| ○ Communication Costs            | € 23,312  |



Expenditure for 2006 was 2% more than 2005. This is due in the main to level of activities undertaken in 2006 especially in terms of publication costs and the investment in the redevelopment of the website.

## End of Year Position

At the end of the year, the accounts show operating reserves of €22,917 and an infrastructural fund of €200,000. These reserves will be used to fund the ongoing operational and infrastructural needs of the organisation in 2007.

## Financial Outlook for 2007

Although the organisation's accounts reported a loss of €30,172 for 2006 it still has a healthy balance of €22,917 in its operating reserves at year end. In addition, at the end of 2006 it was successful in sourcing two new funding grants. The first grant is from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to continue the work on the Social Welfare Reform Campaign and the second grant is from the Equality for Women Measure to carry out a project on enhancing rural women's capacity to take on decision making roles. The organisation now expects that it will have sufficient funding for 2007 to undertake its ongoing work plan, maintain its current staffing level and achieve a break-even situation at year end.

## Financial Priorities for 2007 are as follows:

- Continuing to look for new funding opportunities to ensure achievement of the Strategic Plan objectives.
- Sourcing of a new Office Premises.
- Efficient and effective financial management of its resources (financial and staff).
- Ongoing development of the internal financial management systems and procedures.

## 2006 Financial Statements

For 2006 as a matter of best practice, the NWCI has adopted the UK SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) for the presentation of its financial statements.

In the U.K. all charities are regulated by the Charities Commission and in 2005 the Commission issued a SORP in connection with the preparation of financial statements for Charities and Not for Profit organisations. SORP 2005 provides a framework that enables organisations to pull together narrative and financial reporting into a coherent package focused on activities undertaken. It details out formats for the presentation of the Director's Report and the layout of financial statements.

# SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF IRELAND AMALGAMATED LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

## Amalgamated Statement of Financial Activities

|  | Restricted Funds | Unrestricted Funds | Total 2006     | Total 2005     |
|--|------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Incoming Resources</b>                      |                  |                    |                |                |
| <b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b> |                  |                    |                |                |
| Voluntary Income - Grants                      | 218,348          | 551,000            | 769,348        | 855,201        |
| Membership Subscriptions                       |                  | 28,723             | 28,723         | 27,532         |
| Other  |                  | 607                | 607            | 2,037          |
| Interest Income                                | 1,249            | 0                  | 1,249          | 0              |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                | <b>219,597</b>   | <b>580,330</b>     | <b>799,927</b> | <b>884,770</b> |
| <b>Resources Expended</b>                      |                  |                    |                |                |
| Costs of generating voluntary income           | 322              | 4,140              | 4,462          | 4,922          |
| Programme Activities                           | 210,977          | 572,495            | 783,472        | 755,845        |
| Governance and Professional Costs              | 6,066            | 36,099             | 42,165         | 51,893         |
| <b>Total Resources Expended</b>                | <b>217,365</b>   | <b>612,734</b>     | <b>830,099</b> | <b>812,660</b> |
| Net Income Resources                           | 2,232            | (32,404)           | (30,172)       | 72,110         |
| Gross transfers between funds                  | 0                | 0                  | 0              | 0              |
| Total funds brought forward                    | 210,892          | 42,197             | 253,089        | 180,979        |
| <b>Total Funds carried forward</b>             | <b>213,124</b>   | <b>9,793</b>       | <b>222,917</b> | <b>253,089</b> |

## Amalgamated Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2006

|  | 2006           | 2005           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                            |                |                |
| Tangible Assets                                | 18,851         | 15,791         |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                          |                |                |
| Debtors  | 6,832          | 17,857         |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       | 306,437        | 438,474        |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                    | <b>313,269</b> | <b>456,331</b> |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 109,203        | 219,033        |
| <b>Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets</b>        | <b>204,066</b> | <b>237,298</b> |
| <b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>   | <b>222,917</b> | <b>253,089</b> |
| <b>Funds</b>                                   |                |                |
| Restricted funds                               |                |                |
| - Building Development Fund                    | 200,000        | 200,000        |
| Restricted - other                             | 13,124         | 10,892         |
| Unrestricted funds                             | 9,793          | 42,197         |
| <b>Member's Funds</b>                          | <b>222,917</b> | <b>253,089</b> |

The financial statements were approved by the directors on the 9th of May 2007 and signed on its behalf by:  
Therese Murphy - Chairperson & Director  
Aileen Heverin - Director.

These summary accounts have been extracted from the statutory financial statements of the National Women's Council of Ireland Limited and the National Women's Council of Ireland Education & Training Ltd.

Those statutory financial statements, on which the Auditors (Grant Thornton) expressed an unqualified audit opinion will be filed with the Registrar of Companies following the Annual General Meeting.

Copies of the full audited financial statements have been sent to members and are available on the NWC Website ([www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)).



# List Of Affiliates – 2006

## a

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Access 2000  
Action Breast Cancer  
AIM Family Services  
AKIDWA  
Alexandra College Guild  
An Cosán  
Aoibhneas Women's Refuge  
Aontas  
Association of Baha'i Women  
Association of Secondary Teachers Association  
Association of Teachers of Home Economics

## b

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Ballybane Beg Women's Group  
Ballymote Family Resource Centre  
Ballymun Women's Resource Centre  
Baltinglass Women's Group  
Banúlacht  
Bodywhys

## c

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Cáirde  
Catherine McAuley Centre  
Cavan Monaghan Rural Development  
Women's Group  
Centre for Gender Studies Trinity College  
Childminding Ireland  
Civil & Public Service Union  
Clare Women's Network  
Clondalkin Women's Network  
Community Women's Education Initiatives  
Cork City Childcare Committee  
Cork Rape Crisis Centre  
Cork Women in Focus  
Cork Women's Poetry Circle  
Cork Women's Political Association  
County Carlow Women's Network  
County Leitrim Partnership (Women's  
Development Section)  
County Roscommon Women's Network

## d

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DES Action Ireland  
Dóchas for Women  
Donegal Traveller Women's Project  
Donegal Women's Network  
Doras Buí  
Dublin 12 Women's Action Group  
Dublin Adult Learning Centre  
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
Dublin University Women Graduates Association  
Dublin Wellwoman Centre  
Duhallow Women's forum

## e

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Electricity Supply Board Officers Association  
Europa Donna Ireland

## f

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Federation of Business & Professional Women  
Fianna Fáil Women's Equality Forum  
Fine Gael Women's Group  
Fingal Centre for the Unemployed

## g

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Girls Friendly Society  
Graphical, Paper & Media Union  
Green Party Women's Group

## i

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Immigrant Council of Ireland  
Impact  
Inchicore Outreach Centre  
Inishowen Women's Information Network  
IPPA, The Early Childhood Organisation  
Irish Agricultural Advisers Association  
Irish Association of Social Workers  
Irish Countrywomen's Association  
Irish Deaf Women's Group  
Irish Family Planning Association  
Irish Farmers Association  
Irish Federation of University Teachers  
Irish Federation of University Women  
Irish Girl Guides  
Irish National Teachers Organisation  
Irish Nurses Organisation  
Irish Stillbirth & Neo Natal Deaths Society  
Irish Women Lawyers Association

## k

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Kenmare Area Women's Network  
Kerry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre  
Kilkenny Rape Crisis Centre

## l

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Labour Women  
Leitrim Women's Network  
Letterkenny Women's Centre Ltd  
Lifestart National Office  
Limerick Family Planning Clinic  
LinC  
Longford Women's Centre  
Louisburgh Community Project Ltd  
Lourdes Youth & Community Services Ltd  
Louth African Women's Support Group

## m

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Mandate  
Mayo Rape Crisis Centre  
Methodist Women's Association  
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland  
Mothers' Union  
Mountwood Fitzgerald Community  
Development Centre  
Moving On Project Carlow

## n

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National Association of Widows in Ireland  
National Children's Nurseries Association  
National Domestic Violence Intervention Agency  
National Network of Women's Refuges  
Network Ireland  
Network Kildare  
North Leitrim Women's Centre  
North West Inner City Women's Network

## o

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Older Women's Network  
One Family  
One Parent Exchange & Network  
OSS Cork

## p

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Parlaimint na mBan  
Pavee Point  
Positive Action  
Presbyterian Women's Association  
Primary Health Care for Travellers  
Public Service Executive Union

## r

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Rathcoole Women's Development Group  
Rape Crisis Network Ireland  
Reach to Recovery  
Rehab Women's Group  
Retrieve Foundation  
Rowlagh Women's Group Ltd  
Ruhama Women's Project

## s

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Second Chance Education Project for Women  
Sexual Violence Centre Cork  
Sinn Féin National Women's Forum  
SIPTU National Women's Committee  
Sláinte Pobal  
Sligo Family Resoure Centre  
Sonas Housing Association  
Soroptimists International

## s

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Southill Domestic Abuse Project  
Southside Women's Action Network  
Southwest Kerry Women's Association  
Step Forward Group  
Summerhill Active Retirement Group

## t

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Teachers Union of Ireland  
Teach Tearmainn Women's Refuge  
Tearmann Domestic Violence Service  
The Sexual Health Centre  
The Unforgettable Woman  
Tipperary Women's Networking Group  
Tralee Women's Resource Centre  
Triskele Community Training & Development  
Tuam Community Development Resource Centre

## u

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UCC Women's Studies  
UCD Women Graduates Association  
UNIFEM Women's Committee

## v

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Vital Voices

## w

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Waterford Rape & Sexual Abuse Service  
Waterford Student Mothers Group  
Waterford Women's Centre  
WAVES Women's Support Service  
West Clare Women's Forum  
Women in Technology & Science  
Women in Media & Entertainment  
Women Managers Network for the Civil Service  
Women of the North East Galway  
Women of the North West  
Women Together Tallaght Network  
Women with Disabilities Forum  
Women's Aid  
Women's Aid Dundalk  
Women's Community Projects (Mullingar)  
Association  
Women's Education Research & Resource Centre  
Women's Health Project  
Women's Human Rights Alliance  
Women's Resource & Development Agency  
Women's Studies Centre

## z

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Zonta Club of Dublin

# Legal and Administrative Information

## Executive Board Members

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Thérèse Murphy       | Chairperson                              |
| Marie Hainsworth     | Deputy Chairperson - January - June 2006 |
| Noirin Clancy        | Deputy Chairperson - Elected June 2006   |
| Berta Armitage       | Elected June 2006                        |
| Isobel Butler        |  |
| Maura Butler         | Elected June 2006                        |
| Tara Droog           | Elected June 2006                        |
| Aileen Heverin       |  |
| Kathleen O' Sullivan |  |
| Breda Raggett        | Elected June 2006                        |
| Clare Treacy         |  |
| Stephanie Whyte      | On maternity leave August to December    |
| Ellen Dillon         | Stepped down June 2006                   |
| Maureen McGovern     | Stepped down June 2006                   |
| Rhona McSweeney      | Stepped down June 2006                   |

## 2006 Attendance Executive Board

The Executive Board met 10 times during the year.

|                        |   |                           |    |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| Thérèse Murphy.....    | 9 | Kathleen O' Sullivan..... | 10 |
| Marie Hainsworth ..... | 7 | Breda Raggett.....        | 4  |
| Noirín Clancy.....     | 9 | Clare Treacy .....        | 7  |
| Berta Armitage.....    | 4 | Stephanie Whyte .....     | 5  |
| Isobel Butler .....    | 9 | Ellen Dillon .....        | 3  |
| Maura Butler.....      | 3 | Maureen McGovern .....    | 0  |
| Tara Droog .....       | 4 | Rhona McSweeney .....     | 1  |
| Aileen Heverin .....   | 9 |                           |    |

### Company Secretary

Bridget O' Sullivan

### Registered Office and Business Address

9 Marlborough Court  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

### Auditors

Grant Thornton  
Chartered Accountants  
City Quay  
Dublin 2

### Bankers

Bank of Ireland  
Lower Baggot Street,  
Dublin 2

# NWCI

## Board / Staff Representation

| Organisation   | Sphere                     | NWCI Rep.        | Board/Staff  |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Carers Advisory Group for the Equality Authority             | Affective Equality         | Claire Dunne     | Staff member |
| Community Platform   | Equality - General         | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| Crisis Pregnancy Agency Expert Group                         | Social & Cultural          | Annie Dillon     | Staff member |
| Dublin Employment Pact EQUAL at Work                         | Economic Equality          | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| EEl Working Group - Department of Education & Science        | Social & Cultural Equality | Aileen Heverin   | Board member |
| Equality Authority C&V Sector                                | Equality - General         | Rachel Doyle     | Staff member |
| Equality Coalition   | Equality - General         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Equality for women (EWM) Technical Advisory Group            | Gender Equality - General  | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) Employment Policy Group | Economic Equality          | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| European Network Against Racism - Ireland                    | Social & Cultural Equality | Rachel Doyle     | Staff member |
| European Movement  | Political Equality         | Thérèse Murphy   | Board member |
| European Women's Lobby Board                                 | Gender Equality - General  | Thérèse Murphy   | Board member |
| Female Genital Mutilation Coalition                          | Social and Cultural        | Annie Dillon     | Staff member |
| Forum on Europe  | Gender Equality - General  | Thérèse Murphy   | Board member |
| Freedom from Pornography Campaign                            | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Gender Equality Unit – Management Committee                  | Equality - General         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Hanna's House Steering Group                                 | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Irish Cancer Society Coalition                               | Social & Cultural          | Annie Dillon     | Staff member |
| Irish Childcare Policy Network                               | Affective Equality         | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women                  | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| KAL Advocacy Platform  | Social & Cultural Equality | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| National Childcare Co-ordinating Committee                   | Affective Equality         | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| National Consultative Committee on Racism & Interculturalism | Social & Cultural Equality | Rachel Doyle     | Staff member |
| National Economic and Social Forum (NESF)                    | Equality - General         | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| National Steering Committee on Violence against Women        | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| NGO Coalition on Violence Against Women                      | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Pavee Point Education Steering Committee                     | Social & Cultural          | Annie Dillon     | Staff member |
| Perpetrators Subgroup - National Steering Committee on VAW   | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Pobal Community Development and Equality Advisory Group      | Equality - General         | Orla O'Connor    | Staff member |
| Power Partnership  | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Public Health Alliance of Ireland                            | Social & Cultural Equality | Annie Dillon     | Staff member |
| SAOL Women's Studies Working Group                           | Social & Cultural          | Annie Dillon     | Staff member |
| Women Human Rights Alliance                                  | Political Equality         | Joanna McMinn    | Staff member |
| Women's Health Council Board                                 | Social & Cultural Equality | Marie Hainsworth | Board member |

# Conferences

## **31st January:**

The Director contributed to a Gender Mainstreaming Roundtable Think Tank on Gender Mainstreaming organised by the Equality Authority.

## **1st February:**

The Director contributed a workshop paper to an 'Equality and Social Inclusion' Conference, co-hosted by Queen's University Belfast, University College Dublin and The University of Ulster, in Belfast.

## **6th February:**

The Director attended a 'Raising The Standards' Conference, bringing together Statutory and non-Governmental Organisations to share ideas and good practices relating to Violence Against Women, across UK and Irish jurisdictions.

## **10th - 11th March:**

The Director attended the ICTU Biennial Women's Conference which adopted an emergency motion supporting the NWCI Anti-Trafficking campaign.

## **23rd March:**

The Director contributed to a parallel session on the monitoring of CEDAW at a WHRA 'Taking CEDAW Seriously' Conference in Galway, which aimed to promote, apply and enforce the UN CEDAW Convention.

## **3rd April:**

The Director gave an input on the NWCI Anti-Trafficking Campaign at a seminar on Prostitution and Trafficking, organised jointly by the Women's Education Research and Resource Centre (WERRC) and the Gender Equality Unit DJELR.

## **6th May:**

The Head of Policy gave a presentation to the Fine Gael Ard Fheis on Women's Equality and Poverty.

## **7th June:**

The Director gave the keynote address on 'Sexism in an age of Equality' to a conference, organised by Second Chance Education Project for Women in Donegal.

## **3rd July:**

The Director and Head of Policy attended a discussion/briefing session hosted by the Global Coalition for Women's Rights / Worker's Rights for Dr Jody Heymann the author of the groundbreaking study 'Forgotten Families' which examines the impact of the current model of globalization.

## **23rd September:**

The Head of Policy gave a presentation to Tuam Development Resource Centre on Working Collectively for Women's Rights.

## **4th October:**

The Head of Policy gave a presentation Cavan Partnership women's forum on Policy Lobbying and Campaigning.

## **24th October:**

The Head of Outreach made a presentation on the theme of 'Women in Local Development' at a 2-day national seminar, hosted by Pobal. The target audience for this seminar was Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, Community Development Workers, Partnership Managers and Board Members.

## **10th November:**

The Director gave the keynote paper at a conference on Supervision, Management and Community Based Work, organised by the Cork Institute of Technology.

## **16th November:**

The Head of Policy and the Head of Outreach and Support provided training on Policy Lobbying to Ballyhoura Community Development Group.

## **18th November:**

The Head of Outreach made a presentation on the theme of 'Community Work and Gender' at a 2-day national conference in NUI Maynooth: From the Margins to the Mainstream - Community Work and Youth Work in a Changing Ireland'.

## **25th November:**

The Director gave an input on the NWCI and women's position in the Irish Constitution to the Kildare Women's Network FETAC course participants.



making a real  
difference

[www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)



National Women's  
Council of Ireland  
Comhairle Náisiúnta  
na mBan in Éirinn

The National Women's Council Of Ireland  
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