

That This House Believes that

The R'n'L Debate

the Modern
Irish Woman
Has ~~No~~ Need
for a Women's
Movement



ANNUAL REPORT
NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF IRELAND

Guest Chair

Mary Robinson

Guest speaker's include:

Susan McKay, CEO

National Women's Council of Ireland

Mon. 15th March, Exam Hall, 7.30.

RSVP maryrobinson@thehist.com



Our vision is of an Ireland where all women and men have equal power to shape society and their own lives. We work to promote equality and empower women.



Inez McCormack, Mary Robinson, Margot Wallstrom and Susan McKay
at the annual meeting of the Consortium on Gender Based Violence

THIS IS PAGE THREE...



Susan McKay, CEO of the NWCI



Orla O'Connor, Head of Policy



Rachel Doyle, Head of
Outreach & Support



Maureen Kelly, Head of
Finance & Operations



Anne Gibney,
Head of Administration and Events



Joanne Vance, Health Worker



Camille Loftus, policy officer



Beatrice Mbogo,
intern



Brandy Peak, intern



Claire Marshall, intern



Madeline Hawke, intern



Michelle Culbert, intern

The Staff Team and Interns

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

It is my privilege as Chairperson to present to you the 2010 Annual Report for the National Women's Council of Ireland.

I would like to thank the outgoing Board, and to welcome the current Board elected in June 2010. I am proud to chair a diverse Board which includes representatives of Travellers, migrant women, lesbian women, women from disadvantaged areas, and women working on violence against women.

I am delighted to be the first nurse to Chair the Women's Council, and I wish to warmly thank Salome Mbugua, elected as Deputy Chairperson, who is the first African woman on the Board, and Tessa Collins, the first Traveller.



Chairperson, Clare Treacy

2010 was an economically turbulent year. I wish to pay special tribute to CEO Susan McKay for her tireless media work, together with the other staff who eloquently and professionally ensured that women's voices were heard in the crisis.

This report shows that despite a reduction in staff, significant work was carried out during 2010 on behalf of our members.

A decision by the Board to open our members meetings to allies, friends and potential members proved very successful. On a personal basis, it was particularly significant for me to Chair the debate about women in trade unions following the screening of "Made in Dagenham", about the 1960's struggle for equal pay in the UK. I urge all NWCI members to encourage other organisations to attend our meetings and to join us.

Throughout the year we worked closely with NGOs, trade unions and other key players, both nationally and internationally. The NWCI was critical of the Government's attitude to the National Women's Strategy, and we rightly predicted that the lack of targets, together with funding cuts, contributed to inertia around the Strategy. I thank our representatives on the National Women's Strategy Monitoring Committee; Susan McKay, Frances Byrne, One Parent, and Tess Murphy, Longford Women's Link.

I would like to record my appreciation of Board members for their work throughout the year, and commend their commitment to the NWCI, and on-going input to assist us in achieving our goals and objectives in these extraordinarily challenging times. I particularly thank Maura Butler who represents the organisation on the European Women's Lobby (EWL).

I also wish to thank all members of the staff team for their commitment and tireless work, and finally, the members of the National Women's Council for their participation, attendance at meetings, and support. This Annual Report reflects the work and activities of the NWCI in 2010. I commend it to you.

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The Year in Review

Highlights of 2010

FROM WINTER TO SPRING

One of the first events of the year was the debate featuring on the cover of this report. Naturally, we opposed the motion that ‘the modern Irish woman has no need of a women’s movement’. With former president Mary Robinson in the chair, and 800 students in the audience, the Hist debate in Trinity College Dublin last February was passionate and well informed, with great speeches by young male and female students. It was very affirming of our work – and our side won.



Launch of the Irish Feminist Network

Encouraging young women to engage in feminism was central to our activities in 2010 and we were inspired by the emergence of the Irish Feminist Network, one of the founders of which, Madeline Hawke, helped us develop a proposal for an ambitious young women’s project.

Student leader Linda Kelly delivered a challenging speech at our International Women’s Day event in March, cautioning that retrograde events like wet tee shirt competitions had become part of student political life. Our keynote speaker at the packed event was the young British author Kat Banyard, who spoke about her new book, “The Equality Illusion”, providing us with a comprehensive overview of why feminist activism is urgently required. [2010, Faber & Faber]



Madeline Hawke, Ivana Bacik and Susan McKay at the launch of the Irish Feminist Network



Alwiye Xuseyn, Kat Banyard and Sylvia Meehan at International Women's Day

It was one of Irish feminism's great pioneers, Sylvia Meehan – the first chairperson of the Employment Equality Agency in 1977, and still going strong – who articulated another of our themes for 2010. She told our IWD participants that while women in Ireland have achieved many things, what we haven't yet got is political power. That, she said, is what we need if we are really to transform this into a country in which women and men are equal.

The need for this transformation was starkly apparent at the conference held by Feminist Open Forum and Kilbarrack CDP, on "A Nation in Crisis – Feminist Perspectives on Women, Poverty and Social Welfare." Head of Policy Orla O'Connor and CEO Susan McKay both spoke at the event which was well attended by working class women who are bearing the brunt of the crisis.

Sexual and domestic violence

Combating the culture of violence against women underpins our work, and a Members Meeting in Galway in March took a fascinating cross-border look at the legal issues, with excellent contributions from Professor Tom O'Malley, Fiona Neary from the Rape Crisis Network of Ireland and Marie Browne of Foyle Women's Aid. The National Strategy on domestic and sexual violence was launched in March and, having been members of its consultative group, we will work with our frontline colleagues to maximise its effectiveness.



Fiona Neary (RCNI) and Professor Tom O'Malley



A speaker at the Members Meeting

Violence against women is, of course, a global phenomenon, and our efforts to ensure that Ireland produces a good National Action Plan on UN Resolution 1325, on women, peace and security, and other instruments, led to our co-publication with other NGOs of a good practice guide. This was endorsed by Concern, Trocaire, Amnesty and other civil society organisations including NWCI members Akidwa, Banulacht and the Global Women's Studies Department at NUI Galway. We were delighted when the government appointed the renowned feminist Inez McCormack as independent chair of the consultative process.



We also continued to participate on the National Steering Committee on Female Genital Mutilation, and contributed to the International Day of Zero Tolerance for these brutal practices. The day was held for the first time in Ireland in February. The Minister for Health welcomed Senator Ivana Bacik's proposed legislation. [Visit <http://www.cairde.ie/international-day-of-zero-tolerance-to-fgm-2011/> to learn more]

The NWCI continued to chair the observatory on violence against women, bringing together women from frontline services and advocacy organisations and enabling us to discuss Irish and EU developments.

In other international developments, our then chairperson, Maura Butler, and our then deputy chairperson, Therese Murphy, attended the UN's Beijing + 15 in New York. The NWCI and other feminist NGOs said that governments taking part in the review of the Beijing Declaration of 1995 had 'depoliticised and diluted' the action plan which accompanied the declaration. We issued a press release after the event criticising a speech made by then Minister with responsibility for equality, John Moloney, in which he painted a rosy picture of gender equality in Ireland.



Salome Mbugua, deputy chair of the NWCI

At the invitation of the head of the government's civil service Equality Division, Pauline Moreau, the CEO attended a conference on gender equality and employment in Spain.



Former chairperson of the NWCI, Maura Butler

Our health worker, Joanne Vance, was active on the National Development Agency's Pregnancy Research Steering Committee [report available at www.nda.ie] and on preparing, with Europa Donna and the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency, of a submission to the National Cancer Screening Services Programme. This focussed on 'hard to reach' groups, and we organised a round table event to discuss the issues, bringing together NWCI members and health professionals.

We supported the IFPA's campaign to raise awareness of a free cervical screening programme by distributing Pearls of Wisdom brooches to our members. [Click on link - <http://www.ifpa.ie/eng/Media-Info/News-Events/IFPA-in-the-News-2010/The-Pearl-of-Wisdom-Cervical-Cancer-Prevention-Awards> to learn more] Our cross border remit came into play again when we took part in the advisory committee for an EU-funded exploration of the potential for cross border hospital services.

Women's rights to reproductive health are far from having been achieved, and the CEO chaired a roundtable discussion on abortion organised by the New York based Human Rights Watch. We forged strong links with Ballymun in 2010, starting with the CEO launching an innovative programme on women's mental health, involving story-telling and other ways of being creative.



Susan McKay and Ivana Bacik

SPRING TO SUMMER

We had a brilliant day of celebrations of Ireland as a multicultural society in June 2010, with a Members Meeting on Women and Integration, followed by the publication of “Making our Voices Heard – the stories of Muslim Women in Ireland.” The meeting heard from Catherine Lynch, co-ordinator of the European Network Against Racism, Ireland, Tessa Collins from Pavee Point, Anele Jakiel from the Domestic Workers Action Group, and Nisha Tandon from ArtsEkta, an ethnic minority arts organisation in Belfast. The Labour party’s spokesperson on finance, Joan Burton TD, was the guest speaker. Ms Burton has a long history of supporting migrant women in Ireland.



Joan Burton TD at the launch of “Make Our Voices Heard”

The book was launched by then Minister for Equality, Mary White, following our member’s meeting on integration in May. The idea came from discussions among Muslim women, facilitated by the NWCI and the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI). After the NCCRI ceased to operate, the NWCI’s head of outreach, Rachel Doyle, continued to work with the women, many of whom felt that their lives and their contributions to society were in some significant ways invisible.

Edited by Catherine Lynch, and funded by the office of the Minister for Integration, and the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland, the report is beautifully produced. It features the moving and diverse stories of 16 women, from countries including Bosnia, Egypt, Malaysia, Algeria, Morocco, Pakistan and Iraq, as well as Irish women who have converted to Islam. The work had a cross border element, with some of the women living in the North. The stories challenge stereotypes and are full of insight.



The panel at the launch of the "Make Our Voices Heard" – Doaa Morsy, Salome Mbugus, Minister of State Mary White, Joan Burton TD, Amel Yasef, Lorraine O'Connor

At the launch, Doaa Morsy, one of the contributors said, "Oppression of women happens in every community in the world and we do not support that. We need true integration, communication with non-Muslim women and a shared understanding of our differences and our similarities." Amel Yacef, a youth worker from Algeria said, "Young people must be taught to respect difference and not to fear it. A book like this is an important step in bridging the gap between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities."

Copies are available at the NWCI's offices.





The Charter for Women's Equality and the Campaign to Stop the Destruction of Locally-Based Women's Organisations.

There was a pressing need for solidarity among feminist organisations in 2010 as the recession continued to bite. We worked closely with the National Collective of Community-Based Women's Networks to stop the destruction of almost 20 locally-based women's groups. The government proposed to amalgamate them, along with other community development projects, into a new structure which would have seen them lose their autonomy and significant amounts of their already low funding.

We made representations to Ministers Eamon O'Cuiv and Mary White, briefed the Equality Unit and lobbied other government officials, and we co-hosted, with the NCCWN, national and regional women's meetings. Together we also proposed an alternative model, and later in 2010, good sense prevailed, and our campaign was successful. Sadly, some of our other CDP members were not so fortunate. The NCCWN became the administering body for 17 local women's centres and networks. Rachel Doyle joined the interim board.

The NWCI and the NCCWN also co-operated to produce a much needed Charter for Women's Equality. We held consultation meetings in Galway, Dublin, Waterford, Donegal and Killarney, and attracted a great diversity of women to the discussions. They included women working in the statutory sector, local development groups, women's groups, community organisations and interested individuals.

The charter was developed in the context of an economic crisis which has seen women bear the brunt of cuts to social welfare and public services, rising unemployment and serious increases in reports of domestic violence. The purposes we identified for it included:

- supporting decision makers at local and national level to name women's inequality and address it
- establishing opportunities for discussion on ways to achieve equality
- supporting feminist organisations

We organised a national round-table discussion, chaired by the NWCI CEO, to finalise the charter, and decided to formally launch it in 2011.

Work with our members also included the CEO accompanying Salome Mbugwa, CEO of Akidwa, to meetings with government ministers and the head of the reception agency for asylum seekers.



Annual General Meeting 2010.



Our AGM in June was well attended and included the election of a new board. Clare Treacy from the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation was elected as chairperson, with Salome Mbugwa of Akidwa as vice chairperson. Members of the outgoing board who successfully sought re-election were Maura Butler, Breda Raggett, Aileen Heverin and Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop while five new board members were elected. They are: Tessa Collins from Pavee Point, Moninne Griffith from Marriage Equality, Miriam Holt from the National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks, Catherine Lynch from Longford Women's Link and Siobhan O'Donoghue from the Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland



Susan McKay and Tessa Collins



Guest speakers Ewa Jasiewicz and Freda Hughes

Members debated and passed motions on a wide range of issues including motions for women's participation in politics, Justice for Magdalenes, a campaign to end the exploitation of women in the sex industry and addressing the issue of gender bias in the Irish media.

We made recommendations in relation to the unjust legacy of the Marriage Bar, gender mainstreaming and a wide range of other issues. We called on the government to publish a second SAVI report on sexual abuse and violence in Ireland to follow the first groundbreaking report in 2002, and to include the NGO sector in all aspects of the implementation of the National Strategy on domestic, sexual and gender based violence.

You can read the full document at

<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/National%20Womens%20Strategy%20PDF.pdf/Files/National%20Womens%20Strategy%20PDF.pdf> .

In June, the CEO spoke along with renowned British feminist author, Natasha Walter, at the Dublin Writer's Festival, considering the changing face of feminism from the 1980's to the present. Visit <http://www.nwci.ie/blog/2010/06/11/susan-mckay-speech-at-the-dublin-writers-festival/> to read Susan's speech.



Natasha Walters, Anthea McTiernan and Susan McKay at the Dublin Writer's Festival

SUMMER TO AUTUMN



During the summer, Minister of State Mary White called together the general secretaries of the main political parties to discuss how to achieve gender balance in the Dail, and she invited the NWCI to contribute as we had made submissions to two all-party Oireachtas committee reports on the issue. Visit -

<http://www.nwci.ie/news/2010/03/10/response-to-the-second-report-of-the-joint-committee-on-justice-equality-defence-and-human-rights-on-womens-participation-in-politics/> to read one of our submissions.

An Irish Times survey gave rise to an interesting public debate in which we were key participants. We suggested that some of the female TDs who opposed affirmative measures to bring more women into politics were exhibiting an “I’m alright Jill attitude”. Go to

<http://www.nwci.ie/news/prarchive/2010/08/04/national-womens-council-slams-im-alright-jill-atti/> to learn more.

In September, the CEO spoke at a conference in Cork, called “Moving in from the Margins: Women’s Political Representation in Ireland.” This important gathering, organised by the Women’s Studies Department at UCC brought together leading feminist academics, politicians and activists including Senator Ivana Bacik, former government minister, Gemma Hussey, Senator Mary White, TDs Maire Hctor and Kathleen Lynch, Professor Yvonne Galligan, Dr. Sandra McEvoy, and Fiona Buckley. Minister Mary White declared herself unconvinced about candidate quotas – TD Kathleen Lynch strongly advocated them.



Yvonne Galligan, Sandra McEvoy, Rola Hamed O'Neill and Susan Mckay at "Moving in from the Margins."

In September we were able to warmly welcome one highly significant appointment, that of Michele Bachelet, the former president of Chile, as head of the new UN Women agency. We noted her enormous experience of working for women's equality and her commitment to women experiencing violence or poverty. We said she would make a 'wonderful difference'. (Look at link - <http://www.nwci.ie/news/prarchive/2010/09/15/national-womens-council-welcomes-appointment-of-mi/> to learn more)



Michele Bachelet

AUTUMN TO WINTER

Cuts, cuts, cuts.

It was a winter in which the poorest people in Ireland, particularly women, were told that they would have to pay for the folly of the elite by taking cuts to their pay and social welfare. We opposed cutting the minimum wage – earned predominantly by women, called for child benefit to be protected as a universal payment for all children, and lobbied for changes to the Social Welfare Bill on lone parent entitlements.

Our CEO launched the Poor Can't Pay campaign's protest videos, and did the voiceover for one of them. The NWCI is part of the campaign, which also includes, among others, Age Action, Barnardo's, the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed and the European Anti-Poverty Network. (check out this link - <http://www.nwci.ie/news/2010/10/19/the-poor-cant-pay-protect-the-vulnerable/> - to see the videos in full)



The budget loomed over the women's sector and having consulted our members in preparing our submission to the government in advance of it, we responded angrily to its cuts, including those to carers and to people with disabilities. It was, we said, 'bad for women, bad for children, and bad for the economy.'

Our policy officer, Camille Loftus, attended meetings with officials at the Department of Education and Science and with the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan – she stressed the impact of the recession on women, including increased domestic violence. Throughout the year, Camille also attended meetings of the Community and Voluntary Pillar in relation to social partnership, and the Community Platform as well as doing a lot of fantastic media work for us. Camille also took part in a Feminist Open Forum post-budget discussion on women on the economy. Click here to see it in full - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q05VeBLgHfc> . Camille also prepared a commentary on the National Women’s Strategy earlier in the year.

Women’s Health and Human Rights.

Older women were the focus of 3 well attended workshops in Dublin, Cork and Cavan on the Right to Health. The purpose of the workshops was to ensure that the views of older women were included in the Women’s Health rights Alliance alternative report to the UN committee on economic social and cultural rights. The CEO launched an excellent DVD on the legacy of the marriage bar on pension rights, made by the West Clare Women’s Network.



Susan McKay and Rachel Doyle

She gave a keynote speech at the conference of the Equality Authority, stressing that women are half the population, that gender overarches and undercuts all the other categories of inequality and that this must be recognised. We wrote a critique of the Equality Rights Alliance’s draft Roadmap for Equality, which we did not feel showed a good understanding of the nature of gender inequality. We did not sign up to the Roadmap but will continue to engage with ERA.

Through our head of outreach, Rachel Doyle, we continued to participate in the HSE gender mainstreaming group and were delighted to receive an offer of funds for work to be carried out in 2011. Rachel also represented us in Claiming our Future. This is an exciting new social movement of groups and individuals working for an equal sustainable and thriving Ireland (www.claimingourfuture.ie). She spoke at conferences in Galway and in Clare and facilitated a roundtable discussion at a major national event which brought together 1,000 people in the RDS on October 30th. At that event, a number of values and themes were identified to set an agenda and mandate for the work of Claiming our Future. The values identified on the day were Equality, Environmental Sustainability, Accountability, Participation and Solidarity. Claiming our Future agreed to work in the following key areas; Economy

and Environment; Income, Wealth and Work; Reforming our State to work for the People – Governance; Access to Services and Public Sector Renewal.

We supported the Justice for Magdalenes survivor advocacy group in their campaign for justice for survivors of the Magdalene Laundries. We wrote to all women TDs, senators and councillors twice in 2010 urging them to support the campaign which sought an apology from the state for the abuse suffered by the women involved, financial support and access to their records.

“The Other Violence”

At the end of November, we followed up on our March members meeting by organising, with Foyle Women’s Aid, an important cross border seminar on violence against women. With speakers from NI, the Republic, Scotland and the US, and an audience of experts, “The Other Violence” explored a neglected legacy of the NI conflict. Susan McKay chaired the event in Derry.

Thousands of women and children had to suffer male violence in silence because the perpetrators were armed supposedly to protect their communities, or because justice was denied as it was politically unsafe or unacceptable to approach the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The seminar heard that violence against women is still rife in the North and in the border areas, where services are extremely underfunded. A report on the seminar will be published in 2011 and it is hoped that funds can be accessed to develop a strategy to address



Marie Browne, director of Foyle Women’s Aid

the ongoing problems.

The issue was also addressed at a conference on trauma in Belfast. A meeting of the North South Consultative Process at which the CEO was to speak about this issue was postponed until 2011.

The CEO also spoke about the importance of establishing good monitoring and evaluation for the forthcoming national action plan on UN Resolution 1325. This was at the annual meeting of the Consortium on Gender Based Violence, on a panel with Mary Robinson and Margot Wallstrom, chaired by Inez McCormack.

Visit the youtube link - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxzFx0eA248&feature=related> – to see the videos in full. She spoke on work-life balance to the Women’s Network in North Leitrim.



Susan McKay, Inez McCormack, Mary Robinson, Margot Wallstrom and Brendan Howlin TD

There was an end of year victory with the announcement that the European Court of Human Rights had ruled that Ireland had failed to vindicate women’s constitutional rights in relation to reproductive health. The court called on the government to legislate for a woman’s right to abortion if her life is at risk. We welcomed the news, and congratulated the IFPA for supporting the brave women who took this case. In 2011, we will campaign to ensure that the ruling leads to long overdue legislation.

At the end of the year, we felt we needed something to boost the spirits of the campaigning women of Ireland. Our administrator, Anne Gibney, organised our final 2010 members meeting at the Lighthouse Cinema. This was a special screening of the film “Made in Dagenham” about the 1960s’ struggle by women factory workers in the UK for equal pay. In line with our new policy, the meeting was open to members and friends – including potential new members.



The film was followed by an inspiring panel discussion at which our chairperson Clare Treacy was joined by our old friend, Sylvia Meehan, and veteran trade unionists Noirin Greene and Pamela Dooley. Members of the audience, which included a lot of trade union women, spoke about brilliant campaigns in which they were involved, including one for equal rights to welfare benefits.

Finally, the Women's Council was honoured when Susan McKay received the Irish Tatler Woman of the Year in Public Life award at a ceremony in Dublin. Other award winners included Katie Taylor, Imelda May, Maureen O'Hara and Maire Geoghegan Quinn.



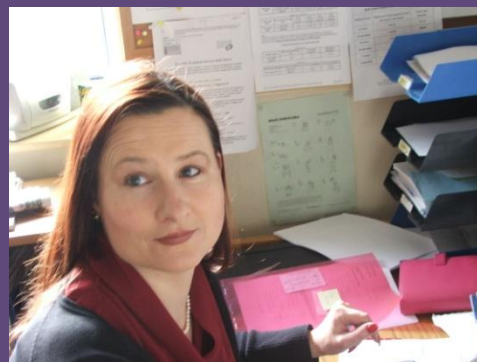
Susan McKay accepting her award with Norah Casey, CEO Harmonia

The CEO and the staff wish to thank Chairperson Clare Treacy, Deputy Chair Salome Mbugua and the rest of the board for their outstanding support throughout the year. We would also like to thank our members for their continued participation and their support for women in Ireland.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Review of the Year

During 2010 the organisation continued its work in line with the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2006-2010. It should be noted that without the support of our interns and volunteers the work of the NWCI in 2010 would have been severely curtailed.



Maureen Kelly, Head of Finance and Operations

Interns

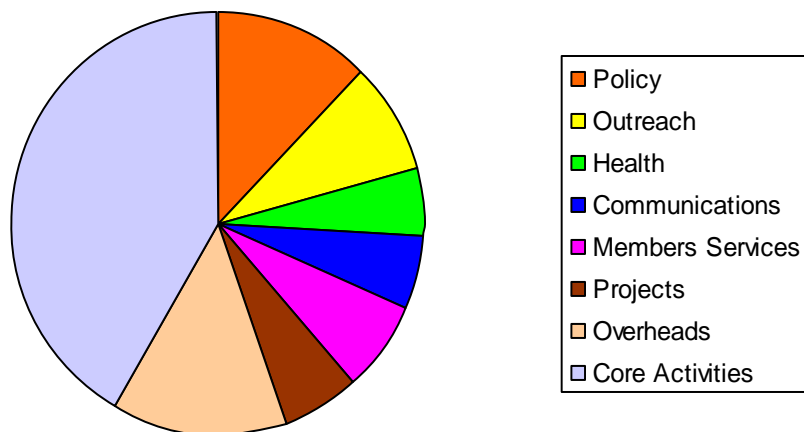
Michelle Gifford	January to March
Beatrice Mbogo	February to year end
Kirsten McKenzie	March to April
Michelle Culbert	May to year end
Brandy Peak	July to August
Claire Marshall	November to year end
Madeline Hawke	November to year end

For the first 2 weeks of March we also had 2 young women on work experience Florina Strmbeanu and Deborah Daly who assisted in the administration of International Women's Day.

The principal activities carried out in 2010 and which are reflected in the income and expenditure accounts for the year are as follows:

- Lobbying to increase the presence of women in decision-making arenas.
- Participating in the National Women's Strategy Coordinating Committee.
- Supporting the Violence Against Women sector in its engagement with diverse women's groups experiencing disadvantage and discrimination.
- Management of the Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women.
- Significantly increasing our visibility and that of our members in the media and other public fora.
- Continued development of the website to provide a more dynamic, relevant and interactive forum for the organisation, its members and the general public.
- Working with the Members through the outreach and support programme.
- Holding regular Executive Board Meetings.
- Continuing to develop our support and outreach services to NWCI members and other women's groups.
- Dissemination of the Women's Health Policy through outreach work and national meetings.
- Attending European Women's Lobby (EWL) meetings in Brussels.
- Attending Beijing +15 in New York
- Development of new Strategic Plan 2011-2014
- Hosting of annual events (Members Meetings, AGM, and International Women's Day (IWD) Event).
- Production and dissemination of Publications (Muslim Women's Voices, Women's Charter booklet and poster, Annual Report and Pre- Budget Submission (web based and in-house printing).
- Continuing to apply for new sources of funding and working on sourcing new premises.

Expenditure 2010



Policy	78,798
Outreach	56,071
Health	34,849
Communications	36,611
Members Services	45,705
Projects	39,188
Overheads	88,066
Core Activities	271,800
Total Expenditure	651,088

End of Year Position

At the end of the year, the accounts show operating reserves of €185,253 and an infrastructural fund of €200,000. These reserves will be used to fund the ongoing operational and developmental needs of the organisation in 2011 along with the purchase of a new permanent home for the NWCI.

Financial Outlook for 2011

For the first quarter of 2010 we were on interim funding for our Core Funding from Government. Other Government funding was then reduced in 2010. All of which impacted on the level of activities which we were able to engage in during the year. The possibility of further reductions in Government funding in 2011 pose a risk to the organisation.

Financial Priorities for 2011 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.

2010 Financial Statements

As in previous years the NWCI has continued to prepare its financial statements in accordance with the format recommended by the UK SORP 2005.

Summary Accounts For The National Women's Council Of Ireland Limited

Amalgamated Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2010

	2010	2009
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	3,627	2,289
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	20,110	7,548
Cash at bank and in hand	494,254	331,898
Total Current Assets	514,364	339,446
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	132,803	53,443
net current (liabilities)/assets	381,561	286,003
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	385,188	288,292
FUNDS		
Restricted Funds - Building Development Fund	200,000	200,000
Restricted Fund Other	45,135	55,420
Unrestricted Funds	140,053	32,872
Member's Funds	385,188	288,292

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 NWCi Website (www.nwci.ie).

Summary Accounts for The National Women's Council Of Ireland Limited

Amalgamated Statement of Financial Activities

Incoming Resources	Restricted	Unrestricted	Funds	Funds
	Funds	Funds	2010	2009
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds			Total	Total
Voluntary Income – Grants	127,528	548,000	675,528	715,502
Membership Subscriptions		24,877	24,877	20,262
Other	25,288	21,880	47,168	5,503
Interest Income		411	411	678
Total Incoming Resources	152,816	595,168	747,984	741,945
Resources Expended				
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	8,557	5,084	13,641	9,555
Programme Activities	137,681	459,224	596,905	676,064
Governance and Professional Costs	16,863	23,679	40,542	24,294
Total Resources Expended	163,101	487,987	651,088	709,913
Net Income Resources	-10,285	107,181	96,896	32,032
Total Funds at Beginning of Year	255,420	32,872	288,292	256,260
Total Funds Carried Forward	245,135	140,053	385,188	288,292

These financial statements were approved by the directors on the 14th day of April 2011 and are signed on their behalf by: Clare Treacy (Chairperson) and Salome Mbugua (Deputy Chairperson)

Legal & Administrative Information

The Board of Directors

Clare Treacy (Chairperson)

Salome Mbugua (Deputy Chairperson)

Maura Butler

Teresa Collins

Moninne Griffith

Aileen Heverin

Miriam Holt

Catherine Lynch

Siobhan O'Donoghue

Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop

Breda Raggett

Company Secretary

Maureen Kelly

Auditor

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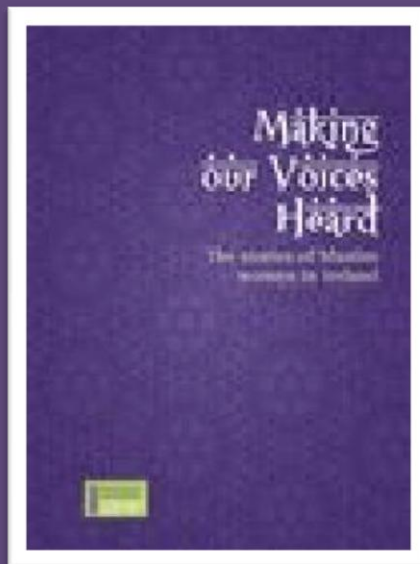
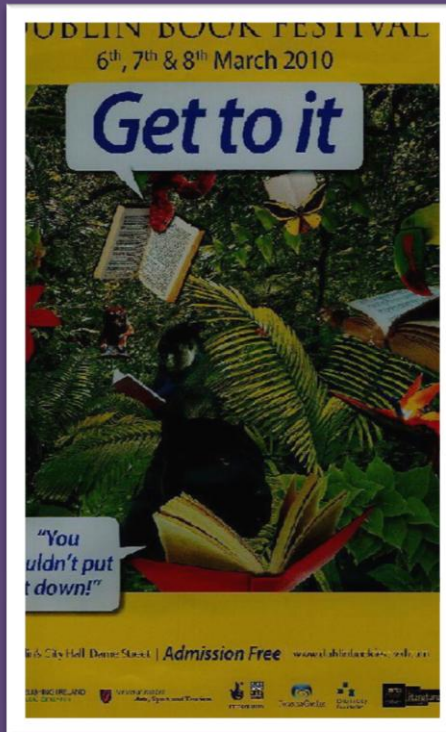
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National Women's
Council of Ireland
Comhairle Náisiúnta
na mBan in Éirinn

A YEAR IN PICTURES



WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT OUR MEETINGS.....

"Great, not often we get to meet others like this and talk - very empowering."

"Very informative and everyone seemed relaxed and comfortable."

"There was a great feeling of support."

"It was good to get different aspects of discrimination and different methods of integration."

"I love the idea that we need to connect the ordinary women to the cause. Re-energising of the women's sector is needed badly."

"A wonderful day - a real reaching out."

"I found it extremely educational - feel I know much more about the issues faced by women of ethnic minority groups now."

"It was moving and enlightening and raised many causes for concern."

"Very friendly, welcoming atmosphere, not at all intimidating or oppressive."