

National Women’s Council of Ireland E-newsletter

Comhairle Naisiunta na mBan in Eirinn Nuachtlitir Leichtreonach

December 2007

NWCI POLICY NEWS.....	2
NWCI Reaction to Budget 2008.....	2
Sharing the Care Work Symposium.....	3
Equality Review by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.....	4
Road Map for Change Project – women mobilising in rural areas networking event.....	5
The Global Sex Industry Evening Seminar.....	6
THE NWCI AND THE MEDIA.....	6
The National Women’s Council take Ryanair to task over inappropriate advertising.....	7
NWCI Care Symposium- Sharing of Care Work between women and men- media coverage.....	7
Breast Cancer Public Protest.....	7
NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN NEWS.....	8
The European Union Reform Treaty.....	8
2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.....	11
NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE NWCI.....	13
Immigrant Council of Ireland Roundtable on Feminisation of Migration.....	13
Advancing Migrant Women’s Rights in the European Union-EWL seminar.....	13
Family Reunification Conference “Together Again”.....	13
Roundtable on Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.....	13
Europa Donna Ireland – New Publications.....	13
Southside Women’s Action Network mark 16 Days of Action.....	13
ISANDS parents nights and new publication.....	13
CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE NWCI.....	13

NWCI POLICY NEWS

NWCI Reaction to Budget 2008

The National Women's Council was critical of the measures announced in Budget 2008 as no attempt was made to reduce inequalities for women. Increasing social welfare by €12 was a meagre increase which is unlikely to meet rising costs in weekly shopping bills. The Budget will do little to improve the financial situation of lone parents despite the fact that 32.5% of lone parents are living in poverty.

The increase in the Qualified Adult Payment of the Contributory Pension is welcome and keeps the Government on track to meet its election promise to bring the qualified adult rate up to the level of the non-contributory pension. However Budget 2008 made no progress to end the discrimination against other women in the social welfare system. Apart from pension payments, 2008 will be another year where women will remain dependent on their husbands. They will still not receive full payments in their own right and will continue to receive a lower rate of social welfare. The increase to the main claimant on contributory pensions of €14 means that subsequent Budgets will have to have sharper increases in payments to meet the Government's election promises of €300 per week.

Once again, Budget 2008 was a missed opportunity by the Government to establish a universal publicly funded childcare infrastructure. The NWCI, in its press release in response to Budget 2008, expressed dismay that less than €2 per week was allocated for childcare costs given that current the costs for childcare are €170 – €190 per week. The NWCI has consistently raised with government the inappropriateness and ineffectiveness of the Early Childcare Supplement to provide affordable childcare. The Budget introduced no measures to make childcare affordable and alleviate the immense hardship on families to meet childcare costs. This particularly impacts on women's participation in all areas of society.

The NWCI welcomed the increase in health expenditure, but urged the Government to target the increase in the Health budget to improving cancer care services for women and to prioritise financial support to access local, regional and national services.

The NWCI will produce a budget grid comparing recommendations in our Pre-Budget Submission with the measures announced in Budget 2008.

Sharing the Care Work Symposium

As part of the **European Year of Equal Opportunities**, and the “**Burning Issues**” Campaign, led by the Equality Authority, the NWCI held a “**Symposium on the Sharing of Care Work between Women and Men**” in the Fitzwilliam Hotel on November 20th 2007.

Professor Kathleen Lynch of UCD and Mr. Cathal McCoille, Journalist with Morning Ireland addressed the Symposium, offering contrasting and insightful ideas on this issue, which directly and disproportionately affects the everyday lives of women.

In her presentation, which is available on our website, **Kathleen Lynch** noted the gendered reality of caring in Irish Society;

- The most typical hours of work for women carers is 61+ hours per week (40% do these hours)
- The most typical hours of work for men carers is 14–28 hours per week (40% do these hours);
- Only 6% of men do 61+ hours caring compared with 40% of women

- 40% or four out of every ten women believe that their care work and lack of care supports prevents them doing the amount and kind of paid care work they would like to do; just 8% of men think this (ECHP, 2001)

Professor Lynch went on to observe that women’s exploitation as carers is the principal form of exploitation that applies specifically to them as women. She discussed this in the context of a society that ignores the role of love and care, and the concrete outcomes they produce, for both individuals and society. Human and social flourishing is impossible without both care and love, and she observed that this work can be experienced as both a burden and a pleasure by women, making it sometimes difficult to discuss in political terms. She called for a fundamental re-ordering of our perception of society to acknowledge the necessity for both love and care to be recognised and supported publicly. She concluded that the “citizen” of contemporary societies is expected to be a “**zero-load worker**”, one with no ongoing attachments or caring rights and responsibilities. In contrast to this, she suggested putting the role of caring at the centre of society, noting that “Solidarity is the Social Form of Love”. With such a shift, personal, professional and family life will be in balance and fully supported by society at every level. In this way men and women will be enabled to realise true equality and society will flourish.

Cathal McCoille added both a supporting and a contrasting opinion to this position. He noted that most men want to have an equal relationship with their female partners and would rarely ‘set out’ with an unequal

agenda. He felt that many women want to stay at home and also observed that different standards about housework can give rise to the disproportionate work carried out by women in the home. Mr McCoille placed great emphasis on personal choice in his discussion and also felt that greater availability of paternal leave and supports or fathers would improve the balance of labour between men and women regarding childcare, if not in housework.

The roundtable discussions which followed these presentations were lively and varied. The general feedback focussed on the importance of childcare, parental leave and carer's support and payments.

The difficulty of trying to separate different aspects of this issue for women was apparent at the concluding plenary session, when it was noted that personal choice is only a real option when there are, IN REALITY, choices available. Women, it was felt, do **not** have fully supported choices in this arena, which restricts their options regarding leisure time and personal development, their work and professional lives and the balance of work in maintaining personal and family relationships. Realising women's equality requires engaging with this complex work-web of love, care, rights and responsibilities between men and women. The Symposium was a very fruitful engagement on a provocative issue.

Equality Review by the Department of Social and Family Affairs

The Department of Social and Family Affairs are currently reviewing all area's of the Social Welfare System to ensure that they are compliant with the provisions under the Equal Status Act 2000-2004.

Your Submission can be a letter or a document

Remember you can decide to address just one area of the Social Welfare System

eg: Pensions issues, Marriage bar

We want to encourage individuals and organisations to submit to this.

If you would like to discuss your submission please contact us

On 01-8787248 or e-mail orlaoc@nwci.ie

The nine grounds under the equality Act

Gender

Marital Status

Family Status

**Sexual Orientation
Religious Belief
Disability
Age
Race, Colour, Nationality, Ethnic or national origin
Membership of the Traveller Community**

The Department of Social and Family Affairs have an online questionnaire which you complete as a submission or you can download in PDF format on: <http://www.welfare.ie/equalityreview.html>

Important: If you are sending a letter remember to write the word Submission at the top. Closing Date for Submissions is Monday 28th January 2008.

The postal address to send submissions to is Equality Review Project, Department of Social and Family Affairs, Floor 1, Aras Mhic Dhiarmada Store Street Dublin 1 or e-mail submissions to equality.review@welfare.ie

Road Map for Change Project – women mobilising in rural areas networking event

This Project, which is funded by the Equality for Women Measure, is now in its final stages as it is due to finish at the end of December. Three Focus Groups were established in Clare, Leitrim and Mayo where Project Workers, Noirin and Melisa, worked with women on a range of policy issues.

At the end of November, the three groups came together for a Networking Event in Claregalway. This event was a great success and was attended by over 60 women – affiliates, other EWM projects and women's groups and networks from around the country. Dr. Anne Byrne, sociologist from NUI Galway gave a very informative and challenging presentation on Gender and Sustainable Rural Development in which she outlined the absence of rural women's concerns in government policies and strategies. Members of the Focus Groups presented their work and shared their experiences of being involved in the Project.

- In Clare, women focused on raising awareness of the inequalities of State pensions for women and organised a seminar which was attended by women from all over the county. To illustrate the different discriminations they presented a very entertaining and thought provoking drama. The women formed the Clare Women's

Action Group and will continue to campaign and work with the NWCI on this issue.

- In Leitrim, women in the south of the county came together to explore forming a network. They carried out a mapping exercise to identify services and facilities for women in the area. The group visited the North Leitrim Women's Centre to learn from their experiences
- In Erris, Co. Mayo, women focused on improving the delivery of women's health services, particularly focusing on getting a female GP into the region. The group met with their local Primary Care Team and travelled to Donegal to meet with members of a Community Health Forum who have representation on the Primary Care Team in the Lifford/Clonleigh area. This visit has stimulated them to establish a similar forum.

The Project is now in the process of being completed. Publications are underway – a booklet on pensions and a handbook on influencing policy which will outline some of the work and the training carried out by the groups. An external evaluation has started and a final project report will also be produced. Anyone who would like further information on the Project can contact Noirin Clancy at noirinc@nwci.ie

The Global Sex Industry Evening Seminar

On November 27th the NWCI hosted a public evening seminar on the theme of the Global Sex Industry. The aims of the seminar were a) to present an analysis of the global sex industry from the perspective of individuals and NGOs working to address the human rights abuses of the industry and b) to highlight the links between different aspects of the industry including child and adult prostitution, child and adult pornography, trafficking and prostitution. Presentations were made by Kate Mc Carthy (Inchicore Outreach Service), Kathleen Fahy (Ruhama) and Nora Gibbons (Barnardos). To download copies of the presentations log onto <http://www.nwci.ie/publications/presentations>. Thank you to our speakers for their insightful and challenging presentations and to all who attended the event.

The NWCI and the Media

The National Women's Council take Ryanair to task over inappropriate advertising

In August 2007, the National Women's Council made a formal complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland (ASAI) regarding a Ryanair advertisement which ran in all the newspapers in August ('Hottest Back to School Fares'). The NWCI deemed the ad inappropriate, irresponsible and degrading. We received notification in October that the ASAI has upheld our complaint, saying 'The Complaints Committee considered the depiction of the model in the advertisement, as a schoolgirl provocatively dressed and under the wording 'hottest' was inappropriate'.

The NWCI had emailed members asking for support in highlighting this advertisement to the ASAI, so we thank all of you who contacted the ASAI to voice your concerns over the ad. We were told that we were not the only complainant.

The NWCI issued a press statement following the notification that we received from the ASAI and we received very positive feedback from the media and a considerable amount of coverage in the print and broadcast (radio) media.

NWCI Care Symposium- Sharing of Care Work between women and men- media coverage

The NWCI Care Symposium which took place in the Fitzwilliam Hotel on November 20th received a lot of media coverage, including a prominent piece in The Irish Times the following day. The feedback from the discussions at the Symposium has given us plenty of 'food for thought' in relation to pursuing and prioritizing the issue in the media for 2008.

Breast Cancer Public Protest

The NWCI organised a public protest over the recent Breast Cancer Scandal on Tuesday, December 4th 2007. The Protest took place outside Dail Eireann and was well attended by groups from around the country and members of the public alike. The protest also gained the attention and support of opposition party politicians outside Leinster House.

The protest and the key demands set out by the NWCi received an extensive amount of positive, supportive and accurate media coverage, including all television networks, print publications (newspapers), on-line news facilities and all Dublin radio stations on the day in question. The protest received a 'flurry' of media activity outside the Dail for the duration. Colour photographs appeared in all broadsheet newspapers and several tabloid papers the following day. Our decision to wear specifically-designed pink t-shirts and hold aloft pink banners proved a hit with the photographers and editors alike.

The protest was covered on the evening and night-time news bulletins on RTE 1 and TV3.

Many regional and local radio interviews also took place both before the event, on the day of the event and since the event.

We received many messages of support by email and telephone prior to the protest from well-wishers and supporters who were unable to attend the protest but who wanted to acknowledge their support.

For a full and conclusive list of all media coverage or if you would like to view the many photographs that we have from the protest, please contact Ciara, NWCi Communications Officer.

National and European News

The European Union Reform Treaty

EU Heads of State and Governments adopted the new Reform Treaty, replacing the EU Constitution, at the Intergovernmental Conference in Lisbon that took place on 18th & 19th October 2007. The new treaty, expected to come into force in 2009 (subject to ratification), aims to make the enlarged EU work better by establishing simpler, clearer decision-making rules, streamlining foreign policy, and giving the Union a greater role in police and justice cooperation.

The key provisions of the Reform treaty are:

- A full-time **Council president**, for a two and a half year, renewable term.
- A clearer, fairer and more transparent **voting system** based on the "double majority" system.

- A **smaller Commission** capped at two-thirds the number of member states from 2014.
- A **stronger foreign policy representative**, creating the post of High Representative for Foreign Policy by merging the roles of the Council High Representative and the commissioner for external action.
- An **extension of majority voting** to 50 new areas, most of them minor, and most notably concerning cooperation on fighting terrorism, crime and immigration.
- The **Charter of Fundamental Rights** will become **legally binding**, though only on European legislation.
- A **stronger role for national parliaments**, who now have the right to challenge European legislation that they consider unnecessary.

It will be formally signed in December and be ratified by Member States during the coming year. Ireland will hold a referendum to ratify the Treaty.

According to gender equality researchers and activists the Reform Treaty contains the same commitments to and provisions for gender equality and gender mainstreaming as the EU Constitution that has failed to be ratified.

The European Charter of Human Rights was also adopted in Lisbon and given the same legal status as the treaties. The European Women's Lobby (EWL) welcomed the fact that the Presidency Conclusions give a clear mandate to the Intergovernmental Conference to **preserve the Charter of Fundamental Rights as having a legally binding value** in relation with the Reform Treaty.

Human rights NGOs, including those focusing on gender equality, from throughout Europe regret that two Member States, Poland and the UK, chose to regard the Charter as non binding ("opt out"). They are urging those countries considering opting out of the binding nature of the Charter to revise their opinion. The European Charter of Fundamental Rights enshrines basic human rights in accordance with the values of the European Union and existing international commitments. These rights must be equally accessible to all women and men in the European Union regardless of the country they live in.

The EWL called on the Portuguese Presidency and all Member States to keep up the momentum of gender equality policies and to ensure further

development and action. Moreover, the EWL asked for complete transparency of the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Conference.

The provisions related to equality between women and men contained in the draft Constitutional Treaty that are retained in the draft Reform Treaty, are as follows:

- **Equality between women and men as part of the Union's values and as an objective** of the European Union (originally Art. I-2 and Art. I-3 of the draft Constitutional Treaty - Articles 2 and 3 in the IGC working document CIG 1/07 dated 23.07.2007)

- The commitment to **mainstream gender into all EU activities** as a horizontal principle (Art. III-116 of the draft Constitutional Treaty, which will become Article 8 "In all its activities, the Community shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women", under the Chapter "Provisions having general application" - Point 21 page 48 in the IGC working document CIG 1/07 dated 23.07.2007)

- The need to **combat discrimination** based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. (Art. III-118 of the Constitutional Treaty, which will become Article 10: "In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation." - Point 23 page 48 in the IGC working document CIG 1/07 dated 23.07.2007).

- The **fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation** of women and girls:

-- Art. III-267 paragraph 2d and Art. III-271 (1) of the Constitutional Treaty which will become Article 69b,2(d): "1. The Union shall develop a common immigration policy aimed at ensuring, at all stages, the efficient management of migration flows, fair treatment of third-country nationals residing legally in Member States, and the prevention of, and enhanced measures to combat, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings. 2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall adopt measures in the following areas: (...) (d) combating trafficking in persons, in particular women and children". - Page 61 in the IGC working document CIG 1/07 dated 23.07.2007,

-- and Art. III-271 (1) of the Constitutional Treaty which will become Article 69f,1§2: "1. The European Parliament and the Council may, by means of directives adopted in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, establish minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal

offences and sanctions in the areas of particularly serious crime with a cross-border dimension resulting from the nature or impact of such offences or from a special need to combat them on a common basis. These areas of crime are the following: terrorism, trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of women and children, (...).”

– The provision on **non-discriminatory application of humanitarian aid**: Art. III-321 (2) of the Const. Treaty which will become Article 188j§2: ”2. Humanitarian aid operations shall be conducted in compliance with the principles of international law and with the principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination.”

– The Declaration N°13 on the fight against domestic violence: page 50 of document CIG 3/07 dated 23.07.2007.

However, EWL is concerned about the decision to relegate the obligation to apply equal treatment in the provision of services of public interest (Art. III-122 of the Const. Treaty) to a Protocol attached to the Reform Treaty (Annex I. point 19. i) and footnote 12. of the Presidency Conclusions 11177/07). Services of general economic interest affect women’s lives to a great extent, and EWL believes that the article calling for equal treatment in this area should be placed in the main text.

Equality between women and men is defined by the current Treaty as one of the missions of the EU and is one of the fundamental drivers of economic, social, and democratic development. In order to keep the EU close to European women, it is essential that strong agreed provisions in this respect are maintained in the new Treaty. The drafting of the Reform Treaty is a unique opportunity to demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to strengthen democracy in Europe and to contribute to the realisation of equality between women and men in Europe.

Sources:

<http://www.womenlobby.org/>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en>

2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

2008 has been designated European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EY/ID) by the European Parliament and Council. In the context of the significant inward migration into Ireland in recent years and the consequent growing diversity that is a feature of Irish society, the Year presents a unique opportunity to promote dialogue and understanding about the challenges and opportunities arising from this diversity.

The key objective of EY/ID 2008 is to emphasise the importance of dialogue as one of the key components in building an intercultural

society in Ireland where diversity, equality and interaction are valued but where there is also a shared sense of place and cohesion.

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) has been designated by the Government and the EU as the National Coordinating Body for the Year in Ireland. A Steering Committee comprised of Government Departments and key stakeholders from civil society including NGOs working with minority ethnic groups, the Arts Council and Social Partnership bodies has been established to help coordinate the Year. A draft strategy has been developed which was presented and discussed at a series of public consultative meetings with key stakeholders from October to December 2007. The final strategy will be launched by President Mary Mc Aleese in the Mansion House, Dublin on 24 January.

Based on the priorities set out at EU level, the following programmes and priorities have been proposed for Ireland:

- A focus on **Service Providers**, in particular local authorities and government agencies on linking more effectively with new and existing minority communities in Ireland. There will be a strong focus on **Education**.
- A focus on **Arts** as a tool to help stimulate interaction and dialogue.
- A focus on the inclusion of minority ethnic groups in Ireland through **Community Participation** at local, regional and national level
- A focus on **Sports** as a tool for promoting intercultural dialogue.
- A focus on support and participation of the **Media** and on effective **Communication** through a focus on translation and interpretation services.
- A focus on the **Business Sector** in particular chambers of commerce, employer bodies, trade union and government bodies on promoting greater understanding of the business case for diversity.

There will also be a specific focus on **Women and the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue** around the theme "Participation by Women for Women." This theme was discussed at a joint NCCRI and NWCI

consultative forum on 13 November in Dublin which was attended by representatives of both the community and the statutory sector. Among the main issues that emerged was the need for networking between women's groups. While recognising diversity within diversity and the different challenges faced by women according to class, ethnic background, sexuality, education etc, it was agreed that through sharing information and experiences a collective voice could be developed resulting in a more effective lobby process. In this context the need for spaces for women to meet was also highlighted.

The importance of challenging stereotypes of women from minority ethnic communities and highlighting the positive contribution they make was raised. That the most vulnerable are often invisible was raised hence the importance of targeted strategies on access to services for women who are excluded, in particular women asylum seekers, women from the LGBT community and women from minority ethnic groups with disabilities.

There will also be a focus on other cross cutting themes such as Young People and North - South Cooperation throughout the Year. In addition there will be a 'virtual' twinning programme between a number of cities and cities in Ireland. To date four cities have been identified which have historical and/or contemporary linkages with Ireland, including emigration and inward migration. These include Liverpool, EU Capital of Culture 2008; Chicago, a multi ethnic city but with historic legacies of segregation and civil rights; Krakow, as Polish migrants are the largest minority in Ireland and Beijing which is hosting the Olympic games in 2008.

Overall, the Year represents an opportunity for groups to make their own contribution towards encouraging intercultural dialogue at a number of different levels. Be it at the policy level or the community level, in the workplace or at school, everyone has the potential to contribute to the success of EY/ID 08!

News from Members and Friends of the NWC

Immigrant Council of Ireland Roundtable on Feminisation of Migration

The ICI received a strong response to invitations to the Roundtable on Feminisation of Migration on the 7th November 2007.

The event launched the ICI-commissioned research “Feminisation of Migration: Experiences and Opportunities in Ireland”, conducted by Dr. Jane Pillinger, who described the findings of the paper.

Tina Roche, Chief Executive of Business in the Community, officially opened proceedings and the International Migration Specialist Gloria Moreno-Fontes also contributed her experience to the discussion. In addition, research participants Nusha Yonkova, Salome Mbugua and Summayah Kenna took part in the roundtable.

The event was supported by the Equality Authority. For further information on this event please e-mail info@immigrantcouncil.ie

Advancing Migrant Women’s Rights in the European Union-EWL seminar

Through membership of the NWCI, the ICI had the opportunity to attend the European Women’s Lobby Annual General Assembly, which was held on the 26 October in Bulgaria.

ICI Information Officer and newly appointed Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Nusha Yonkova took part in the seminar “Advancing Migrant Women’s Rights in the European Union”, which belongs to a pilot project intending to grant access to migrant women living across Europe to the EU lobbying structures.

Family Reunification Conference “Together Again”

The Refugee Information Service (RIS) and Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre, jointly hosted a conference, Together Again, Reuniting Migrant Families in Ireland at the Clarion Hotel, Cork, on 15 November 2007.

ICI Legal Officer Catherine Cosgrave chaired a panel on broader immigration issues and Senior Solicitor Hilikka Becker gave a presentation

on family reunification in the context of EU and human rights requirements.

Roundtable on Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation

On the 29th of November 2007, The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) hosted a strategic discussion in response to the Government's recent commitment to provide increased protection for the victims of trafficking.

The session, was informed by international experience (CATW speaker), and discussed possible legislative reform and Ireland's transposition of the recently signed Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and inform the Government's proposed development of a National Anti-trafficking Action Plan.

Europa Donna Ireland – New Publications

Europa Donna Ireland, The Irish Breast Cancer Campaign, has produced two new publications:

Specialist Breast Centres Europa Donna Ireland has launched an information leaflet on the Specialist Breast Centres which have been designated by the HSE in Ireland. The leaflet details what a Specialist Breast Centre is, where they are located, why a woman with an actual or potential diagnosis of breast cancer needs to attend one, and what to expect there. Specialist Breast Centres, offer those with breast cancer symptoms a high quality multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and women who are diagnosed and treated in them have been found to have a 20–25% better chance of survival. Last year EDI published the **Irish Breast Cancer Charter** which sets out 23 principles which centres should meet and which women should be entitled to.

Both publications are available on www.europadonnaireland.ie and from the contacts below.

Breast Cancer and Fertility For younger women with a diagnosis of breast cancer the effect of treatment on their fertility is a very serious issue. This booklet has been written to help younger women diagnosed

with breast cancer understand how various treatments affect the reproductive system, enabling them to make more informed decisions regarding their treatment. The booklet has been prepared by health care professionals with specialist knowledge in the area of breast cancer and fertility.

If you would like to have any or all of these publications sent to you, please contact edi@iol.ie or phone 01 4960198

Southside Women's Action Network mark 16 Days of Action

Members of the Southside Women's Action Network designed and printed a range of postcards to mark the "International 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women", and to launch our new Domestic Violence Support Service. On Monday 26th November the staff from SWAN, Southside Women's Action Network handed out over 7000 postcards outside Dun Laoghaire County Council offices. The postcards were also delivered to local Community Development Projects and Resource Centres and Garda stations in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Area.

Talking to women on the street we got very good feedback both on the postcards and domestic violence awareness.

ISANDS parents nights and new publication

ISANDS Parents Nights for parents bereaved by stillbirth or Neonatal Death will be held in:

DUBLIN

Wednesday 16th January 2008
Tuesday 19th February 2008
Tuesday 11th March 2008
Tuesday 2nd April 2008
Tuesday 6th May 2008
Tuesday 3rd June 2008

Bewley's Hotel, Naas Road
Bewley's Hotel, Naas Road
Bewley's Hotel, Naas Road
Bewley's Hotel, Naas Road
Bewley's Hotel, Naas Road
Bewley's Hotel, Naas Road

ISANDS New Book “**Guidelines for Professionals**” written by Professionals working with parents and families whose baby has died or is expected to die was launched by Mary Harney T.D. Minister for Health and Children. It is available by contacting Isands at 01 8726996.

Christmas Greeting from the NWC

This year the NWC have purchased three gifts from Trocaire.

The gift of baby care

This gift will provide pre and postnatal care for mothers and babies, training for midwives and basic medical equipment, ensuring that childbirth is a safe and happy occasion that results in a healthy mother and baby.

The gift of a weaving loom

The indigenous Mayans are the poorest people in Guatemala.

This gift will provide a Mayan woman with a weaving loom and threads, enabling her to weave clothes and blankets to sell at local markets, and earn money to provide for her family.

The gift of water

Over one billion people worldwide are denied access to clean water.

This gift will fund water projects all over the world, digging wells for drinking water, irrigation and livestock. It will give communities the foundation for a stable agricultural economy, a resistance to drought and help them adapt to climate change.

With best wishes from the Board and Staff of the National Women’s Council of Ireland.

