

National Women's Council of Ireland E-newsletter

Comhairle Naisiunta na mBan in Eirinn Nuachtlitir Leichtreonach

September 2007

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Migrant Women in Ireland: Action for Integration

Report of NWCi Members Meeting September 15th 2007

The international trend of the feminisation of migration is one which is also evidenced in Ireland. The UN estimates that of the 175 million migrants worldwide 50% are women and in some regions of the world this percentage is higher. In Asia, for example, women comprise the majority of those who work abroad. In 2000, women in the Philippines made up 70% of the migrant worker population.

In Ireland as in many other countries throughout the world, migrant women are now occupying positions in the labour market which are low paid, insecure and at times unregulated. Unfortunately however, the working and living conditions of many of these women leave much to be desired. Exploitation, violence, isolation, poor health and long term separation from their children and families characterize the lives of many migrant women here.

A number of NWCi affiliates are working directly with migrant women to address their concerns and on Saturday September the 15th the NWCi hosted our members meeting on the theme of “Migrant Women in Ireland Action for Integration”. The purpose of the meeting was to provide NWCi affiliates with an opportunity to learn more about migration and the issues facing migrant women in Ireland, consider actions which may be taken within their own organisations to support the integration of migrant women and identify actions which should be taken by NWCi to promote equality for migrant women in Ireland. Guest speakers on the day were;

- Jane Pillinger – independent consultant, who presented the core elements of research which she conducted for the Immigrant Council of Ireland on the feminization of migration.
- Lot Gernan – Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, who highlighted the issues facing domestic workers in Ireland and the work of the Domestic Workers Support Group.
- NushaYonkova – Immigrant Council of Ireland, who presented the barriers and challenges facing migrant women experiencing domestic violence and those seeking family reunification.
- Anca Lupa – Cairde, who presented the key barriers facing migrant women in accessing health services and challenges for

the state in building a health service which meets the diverse health needs of migrant women.

- Siobhan O'Donoghue – Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, who called on NWCI affiliates to find ways in which we as individuals and organizations can challenge the exploitation and oppression of migrant women living and working here.

Copies of the speakers presentations and an outline of the key issues raised by NWCI affiliates on the day can be downloaded from our website

www.nwci.ie/membership/members_meetings

The following articles in this e newsletter outline the work and concerns of members and friends of the NWCI in promoting social and inclusion and equality for migrant women.

The Domestic Workers Support Group Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) is a national organisation concerned with policy and change in addition to responding to the direct needs of migrant workers and their families. MRCI has been working with migrant women including domestic workers for number of years. In response to the growing reports of difficulties experienced by migrant domestic and care workers we undertook a study titled Private Homes: A Public Concern (2004), to highlight, using 20 case studies, the isolation, invisibility, exploitation, social exclusion and marginalisation that this group experience. Further data from MRCI's Case Management System revealed that 10% of all cases opened during the period July 2005 to January 2007 were domestic workers, and of this group, 48% of those living inside the home experienced exploitation. An additional response was developed through the establishment of MRCI's Domestic Workers Support Group (DWSG).

The Domestic Workers Support Group (DWSG).

The group is made up of migrant women working in the private home, as carers or childminders who also have responsibility for cleaning and housekeeping. The DWSG has a membership of over 80 women and at present meets on the second Sunday of every month. This group has brought together domestic workers employed in the private home to

share, analyse and reflect upon their experiences to bring about change. One of its core aims is building leadership and solidarity across ethnic divisions, while advancing the rights of this group through the development of campaigns and collaborations. The DWSG is coordinated by a core group of 8 women and a volunteer coordinator from within the group with the support of MRCI's community work team.

Actions and Activities of the DWSG

- **Code of Practice:**

To date some of the successes of the DWSG are; unionisation with SIPTU and a collaboration with ICTU and SIPTU to develop a Code of Practice for Protecting People in other Peoples Homes. The Code of Practice was negotiated in Social Partnership and agreed in Towards 2016. The DWSG has thus enabled domestic workers to have a voice and be active agents in decision making and policy arenas on the issues affecting their lives.

- **Training**

With the support of FAS 19 women have successfully completed a pilot training programme, undertaking courses in occupational First Aid, FETAC level 5 Care Provision and Practice and Child Development. Due to the nature of the work carried out by domestic workers, often working irregular hours including weekend work and with poor access to transport especially for those living in rural areas it is very difficult to access mainstream training initiatives. As domestic workers tend to have Sundays off MRCI delivered this training on that day. This has helped to increase equality of access, opportunity and outcome through this targeted approach for the participants

- **Creative Project**

In March 2006 the group made a decision to undertake a creative project that would raise awareness and make visible the experiences of domestic workers. The creative project was developed to tie into the DWSG campaign to regulate the domestic work sector and put in place specific laws that reflect the reality of this employment. The project was a year long process; work commenced in February 2006 and finished with a contemporary and photography and textile exhibition

launched on International Women's Day, March 8th 2007. The DWSG hopes this exhibition will tour Ireland over the coming year.

The DWSG have been very active and effective in highlighting their issues and in bringing about change and they continue to campaign for statutory protections which are legally binding. To date this work has been supported by Equality for Women Measure and the Integration Fund funded through Pobal. This work is ongoing and will continue into the future subject the DWSG securing funding.

The Work of Longford Women's Link

Vision of Longford Women's Link

A society where women, men and the institutions that they use to organise and govern themselves all share responsibility for ensuring equality and social justice for all its citizens .

Mission of Longford Women's Link

A flexible and dynamic community-based women's organisation that provides a safe place for women to meet, learn and explore new opportunities. The organisation acts as a catalyst to address specific gender-based inequalities through support, critical reflection and action at individual, collective and policy levels.

Longford Women's Link is a grass roots organisation that has an understanding and sympathy with the experience of women so the organisation continues to find flexible and various ways of responding to women's needs. The women make contact and use the organisation for a variety of reasons, a number of agencies are happy to refer women to the Women's Link. 'Word of mouth' referral is particularly useful especially with new communities. The organisation has a well honed capacity for 'intense listening' - i.e. the ability to be in dialogue one-to-one, facilitate group interaction, see repeating patterns, make some form of shared analysis and decide on collaborative action. From an institutional perspective, Longford Women's Link is regarded as a legitimate representative voice in a variety of policy making fora at local, regional, national and international levels. It has continued to balance day-to-day delivery of direct services with a policy influencing role.

As Longford's population becomes more diverse and multicultural, Longford Women's Link has responded to and continues to respond to, the needs of migrant women and their families. We do this by

enabling migrant women to access women's groups' activities which makes it possible for the women to contribute as active citizens in the wider community. One of the main barriers particularly for migrant women is language and Longford Women's Link has responded to this barrier by making English Language Classes available to migrant women through the BTEI (Back to Education Initiative) programme.

Through the support that Longford Women's Link gives to migrant women in the area of domestic violence, it has become apparent that there is a vital need for community interpreters. Longford Women's Link is preparing to hold a community interpreters training course in the centre. The interpreters will be mainly recruited from the multi-lingual migrant population. The training will include modules on interpreting techniques, on anti-discrimination and anti-racism issues, on public services and main organisations in Ireland, confidentiality, acquisition of technical relevant jargon and the definition of community interpreting. Community interpreters, more than any other kind of interpreter, act as a cultural bridge between service providers and clients. Overall, this training will give sound grounds for the creation of a pool of interpreters who can play an important role in the process of inclusion and integration of migrants within the wider society.

Longford Women's Link continually looks at ways to relate the day-to-day experience of migrant women living in Ireland into a range of local and national lobbying and support groups, with a particular focus on how migrant women can be supported to have a voice in all policy making fora

info@longfordwomenslink.org
www.longfordwomenslink.org

The Immigrant Council of Ireland: Their work on behalf of Migrant Women

The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) works on migrant women's behalf in a number of ways – through direct service provision including provision of legal services, by working with other NGOs, via involvement in lobby groups and through campaigning and research work.

CEO Denise Charlton said the ICI has two major, gender specific research projects underway at the moment.

“Recently, we announced that the ICI is commissioning a major research project on the subject of trafficking of women and children into Ireland for the purposes of sexual exploitation,” Ms Charlton said.

“This project, which is funded by the Religious Sisters of Charity and is expected to take 12 months to complete, will look at the extent, causes and best ways to respond to trafficking of women and children.

“The scale of trafficking into Ireland is largely unknown, and we believe it is not good enough that we don’t know how many women and children are being sexually exploited in Ireland.

“Secondly, the ICI commissioned Dr Jane Pillinger to undertake a research project on the feminisation of migration to Ireland and we will be launching this project in early November.

“The paper aims to capture range of experiences of migrant women in Ireland today, including those who are documented and undocumented, those who are working and those who are unable to work.

“It is expected to show that migrant women are making a positive contribution to the Irish economy and society.”

Ms Charlton said ICI staff members also were involved in work aimed at benefiting migrant women.

Information Officer Nusha Yonkova is a member of the EU-funded European Women’s Lobby, through the ICI’s membership of the NWCI.

Earlier this year, Nusha attended a EWL seminar which mapped the challenges faced by migrant women in the European Union.

The seminar was the first EU forum of its kind and marked the beginning of a new route towards gender equality and advancement of the rights of migrant women in Europe.

Education and Training Officer Gill Kennedy has been working in coalition with Women’s Aid and AkiDWA to address the issues facing Black and Ethnic Minority women who are experiencing male violence.

A seminar was held in 2006 in Dublin to bring together groups providing services to Black and Ethnic Minority women who have experienced violence. A report on the seminar is available from the ICI.

ICI’s work with AkiDWA and Women’s Aid in this area is on ongoing.

In addition to these activities, the ICI supports and assists migrant women who use the Information and Support Service.

The ICI Information and Support Service dealt with enquiries from more than 5,000 people from more than 140 countries between January and June this year.

While the service dealt with a very broad range of matters, the issue of migrants being able to have their families with them in Ireland has been one of the most commonly raised again this year.

Another issue of concern relates to women who are in the vulnerable position of having 'dependent spouse' immigration status. The issue of dependent status is particularly important for women who are victims of domestic violence.

In addition, families can be placed under further strain if one parent is given 'dependent spouse' status and denied permission to work, meaning the family must survive on one income.

The ICI continues to assist women in those positions to gain independent immigration status.

Ms Charlton said that this work with migrant women informs the ICI's research agenda as well as priorities for campaigns and lobbying effort.

If you would like further information please e-mail communications@immigrantcouncil.ie .

Action for Integration a view from Cairde

Even though women's issues do not sound or appear **new** any more, inequalities in women's lives continue to exist and women from minority ethnic communities continue to experience poverty, ill health and social exclusion.

It is well known that inequalities are caused by the way society is organised and the solutions lie in the hands of the individuals and the communities to change the way they live. But as we move along we realise that there are layers and layers that influence our health; although we do not see these as immediately related to our health; that have a major impact on our health.

Sometimes women do not see the immediate connection between bad accommodation and health, the connection between unemployment and health, the connection between immigration status and health. Sometimes women blame themselves for being poor or unemployed and they do not believe that something is going to change their lifestyle.

From our experience the issues facing the women are:

Racism and discrimination

Racism, discrimination and hostile attitudes to minority ethnic women were mentioned almost in each workshop when looking for education or training, employment, during employment and accessing public services.

Health

Poor health is experienced by many women from minority ethnic communities.

Although women are aware that healthy lifestyles mean balanced diet and exercise they cannot afford to buy healthy, organic foods and do not have time to exercise.

There is very **little information** on how to access services in different situations, what are the rights and entitlements when accessing different health services; who is entitled to what (re: medical cards entitlements); and also on how the system works in Ireland (referrals to specialists).

Depression was often mentioned as a result of the conditions women live in.

Women experience **cultural barriers** when accessing health services. Because there are practices in some cultures that women should be seen by female doctors only, sometimes there are clashes and women avoid to be seen by a specialist until the last minute.

Language barrier was often mentioned when accessing health services because many health services do not provide any information in different languages or interpreting services.

Support

Lack of trust from the host society that communities have the capacity to address these issues was the general feeling that different women or women's groups experience.

There is little support for these communities to develop. Women expressed their concern that they are addressing their issues every time but there is very little done or promises do not become facts. Women from minority ethnic communities are not resourced to be involved at community or local level.

As a response to these barriers women come together to overcome these obstacles by being involved in different processes facilitated by

Cairde in order to empower women to shift their lives towards social inclusion, equality and good health.

Some women were involved in the HSE Intercultural Strategy addressing these very important issues that affect them and their families. Other women came together and discussed their health issues during Ethnic Minority Health Forum meetings in the inner city and made a submission with their recommendations to HSE under the review of the Maternity and Gynaecological services in greater Dublin Area. Women's group's representatives decided to get involved in leadership training programmes focusing on health and equality (Women as Leaders Programme 2005–2007).

Other women are requesting information about their rights and entitlements and asking to meet different health service provider's representatives to advocate on behalf of their communities and to negotiate with them.

Other women are taking leadership roles in order to get women together and collectively to have their voices heard by making representations to different political representatives. There are women leaders who organise regular meetings with their members and give them information and encourage them to participate in different events and pass the information further to other women who are isolated although there are not many resources available to them.

If you need more details about these activities you can contact **Anca Lupu** at wha@cairde.ie

Introducing the New Communities Partnership

New Communities Partnership (NCP) is a national network partnership of forty one (41) minority ethnic led organisations in Ireland who have come together to support their communities through a strategic alliance with other ethnic groups.

The aim of the NCP is that ethnic minority organisations and community leaders would work together to address the underlying causes of the difficulties new communities in Ireland are facing. Challenges such as; racism and discrimination; unemployment; poor housing; access to public services; and difficulties with the justice system stem from no single cause and a multi-cultural Ireland is a

fairly new phenomenon; it will take time for policies makers, state institutions, ordinary citizens and new communities themselves to adapt and change. Language and culture barriers; fear and ignorance; the slow pace of institutional change; a lack of state investment in helping public services accommodate diversity are among the factors which hinder the development of Ireland as a welcoming and inclusive society for new communities.

Immigrant women

Immigrant women face additional challenges in participating fully within their own communities and within Irish society. Culture and religion can often be influencing factors in their participation, but so too is the lack of family support and childcare. Lone Parents are all the more vulnerable and excluded.

In the NCP, we believe in equality and equal opportunities and we foster and value women's participation within all our activities.

To this end:

- NCP Facilitates the analysis of issues that impact on the lives of minority ethnic women. This may include training such as social analysis, community development, policy development, understanding policy context and human rights.
- In the NCP particular attentions is given to the representation of women's issues by women, and ensure that all necessary supports are put in place to make this happen.
- NCP have three women sitting on their Management Board.
- NCP provide childcare to support women participation in its activities
- NCP plan equality and leadership training for women to empower women to overcome inequalities in their lives

The aim of NCP is to develop an inclusive national ethnic minority infrastructure through which new communities can build on their existing capacity and bring their voice to the policy and service planning table.

For any information on NCP you can contact **Issah Hussein**, NCP co-ordinator, at info@newcommunities.ie.

Addressing the challenges faced by migrant and minority women in the EU

Despite the fact that migrant women make up nearly half of the migrant population worldwide there is “remarkably little reliable information about women as migrants”. Research on immigration has for a long time focused on the male migrant worker, reinforcing a model of migrant woman only expected to assist her husband and children, with no independent status (family reunification). As stated in the European Commission’s reflection paper “Migration and public perception”, this “static model does not correspond to the reality of the majority of migrant families (and) contributes to keep women migrants out of the official labour market, and to undermine the benefits for the receiving society of the empowerment process entered into by migrant women”.

The issue of immigration and asylum is a critical area of concern in Europe today, particularly so for women as these policies are being pursued in a framework of security and border control and for most parts lacking a gender perspective. Despite the Treaty requirement that the European Community should “eliminate inequalities and to promote the equality of women and men in all its activities” (i. e. gender mainstreaming), in practice the European Union fails to integrate a women’s perspective in its activities on immigration and integration. Although we can note some recent positive developments (see for example the “Roadmap for equality between women and men”, adopted in March 2006, which recommends a gender perspective on migration and integration), issues related to gender and to ethnic minorities tend to be covered by separate and compartmentalized policies rather than an integrated approach.

This article seeks to identify some of the specific challenges experienced by migrant and ethnic minority women in the EU today, to demonstrate the need to reevaluate the role of women in immigration and integration, moving away from the male breadwinner model.

To download a copy of the complete article follow the link below:

http://www.nwci.ie/publications/e_newsletters

The research and analysis in this article were conducted in the framework of project “**Equal rights, Equal Voices – Migrant women in the EU**” (2006–2007) further details available at:

http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=1837&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=

NWCI Policy News

NWCI Pre-Budget Submission (Social Welfare proposals).

The NWCI has just completed a consultation process with our membership in preparation for the Pre-Budget Submission. The areas to be covered are:

- Social Welfare
- Achieving Economic Independence for Women
- Childcare
- Women's Participation in Decision Making
- Promoting The Health & Well-Being of Women
- Violence Against Women

Date for your Diary Launch

NWCI Pre-Budget Submission 2008

The NWCI pre-Budget Submission 2008 will be launched on Wednesday October 24th 2007 in the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street Dublin 2. For further information on the launch please see the NWCI website www.nwci.ie.

Social Welfare Reform Campaign 2007

Valerie O' Carroll has recently joined the staff team in the National Women's Council, as Campaign Development worker on Social Welfare reform.

Valerie have been involved in Women's Groups and women's Networks over the past sixteen years and has extensive knowledge of the issues and difficulties experienced by women and women's groups in Ireland.

Over the next twelve months she will be organising regional workshops with affiliates to move the campaign forward on Social

Welfare reform. Valerie is looking forward to starting to work with groups around the country.

Valerie has spent the summer building her knowledge of the previous social welfare campaign run by the NWCI and working closely with the Head of policy and the Policy analyst in planning the workshops.

We hope your group will participate as we are really trying to make it a very pro-active policy based campaign that will make a difference to so many women's lives in the future.

The NWCI aim to have many more organisations and groups involved in the next stage of the campaign. As you well know looking for women's equality is never easy, but if we work together we can really make the government take notice of this inequality, and strongly influence policy in order to make the necessary changes.

We need to work together to achieve positive changes for women, SO we hope your group will GET INVOLVED!

For further information contact Valerie on 018787248/ Mobile:
0876724785

Or e-mail valerieoc@nwci.ie

Skillnets supporting marginalised workers

Skillnets is an enterprise-led support body, funded by the National Training Fund, which provides access to flexible funding and support to allow enterprises to acquire skills and training most relevant to their work.

Skillnets stakeholders include leading employer and employee representative bodies – IBEC, Chambers Ireland, CIF, SFA, ICTU.

Skillnets has been allocated significant increased funding to continue its support for training networks in 2007– 2009. A particular focus for the next round of this funding will be the training needs of lower skilled and marginalised workers.

The Women at Work Project is a training network established by four Unions: MANDATE, IBOA, INO, & IMPACT and working with Skillnets.com to create learning solutions for women in vulnerable employment.

The NWCI welcomes the attention to those in vulnerable and low-paid employment in the private sector, where women dominate as flexi- and part-time workers.

In particular we welcome the flexible and responsive methods to be used within this training which, it is hoped, will encourage women's engagement with the programme. See www.womenatworkskillnet.com and your Union.

Road Map for Change Project – women mobilising in rural areas

Women's groups have been busy in Clare, Leitrim and Mayo as part of the Road Map for Change Project. Funded by the Equality for Women Measure, the overall aim of this Project is to enhance the capacity of women in rural areas to influence the decisions taken in a range of policy arenas as they affect women. Project Co-ordinator, Noirin Clancy and a Development Worker, Melisa Bracken have set up focus groups in the 3 counties with each group choosing work on an issue that particularly concerns them.

- In Clare, women are working to highlight the discrimination they face in relation to pensions. They are currently planning an information seminar on pensions which will take place in Ennis on Saturday morning, 20th October.
- In Erris, County Mayo, women's health issues have been a key area of concern and the group have been liaising with the Primary Health Care Team to ensure the services of a female GP are available in the region.
- In Leitrim, women from the south of the county have come together and are carrying out an audit to identify the current facilities and services available to women in the area.

Networking, training and teambuilding are key elements of the project. In June, groups from Mayo and Leitrim visited the North Leitrim Women's Resource Centre to learn from their experiences and see the Well Woman Clinic in action. Training on policy and media skills is currently being planned. All three groups will come together to share their experiences and learning at a conference in Galway on 29th November. The project will finish in December 2007.

Border Counties Childcare Network Conference 9th/10th November 2007

BCCN, The Border Counties Childcare Network

Date for your Diary 9th/10th November 2007
Conference and 10 year celebration at the Conference Centre
Hillgrove Hotel Monaghan

Theme Aiming High: Developing World Class Early Years and After School Services.

Who should attend?

- Centre Based staff working with babies, toddlers , pre-school and/or school age children.
- Childminders/Family Daycarers
- Owner Managers/Management Committees
- Trainer Students on FETAC or Early Year Degree Programmes, CCC's members and staff.
- HSE staff working in the Early Years/ After School area.

Key note speakers will include:

- Dr. Noirin Hayes, DIT
- Brenda Taggart UK Member of the research team for Effective Pre- school Practice
- Ros Bailey, UK leading consultant on Language, Literacy and Story telling.
- Bob Hughes, UK key consultant on After School services
- Geoffrey Shannon, Leading Solicitor /Barrister Advocate for Children's Rights
- Arlene Foster, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
- Sylva Langford, Director General, Office of the Minister for Children

Choice of Workshops/presentations/discussion groupsA varied programme of practical and research based workshops/learning forums will held to interest and inform delegates regardless of their role within the sector engaging local national and international expertise.

Information stands, exhibits and displays

A wide variety of information, publications, equipment and resources will be on offer over the two days.

Book your place by phoning the BCCN office on 047 72469 or e-mailing info@bccn.ie or by texting 086 0662969.

Women in the 2007 General Election

Only 22 women were elected to the Dail in the 2007 Election, compared to 144 men. This means that the representation of women in political decision-making at a national government level in Ireland remains at 13%.

This figure compares poorly with international comparisons. The world average is currently 17.7% for the lower house of national parliaments. Sub-Saharan Africa has 17.9%, Asia has 16.6%, the Pacific 16.7% and only the Arab States are lower than Ireland at 9%. The Regional average for Europe, including the Nordic countries, is 19.8%. The average for the Nordic countries by themselves is 41.6%.

(Women in Parliaments: World and Regional Averages) <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>).

The question is what needs to happen in Ireland to achieve power sharing, i.e. to have more women in positions of decision-making? The National Women's Council is preparing a research project to identify what would be the most effective mechanisms, at government, political party, and at an individual support level, to increase women's representation. We need to look at the international experience, particularly in electoral systems similar to our own, to identify solutions to this problem, and at all these levels.

The full breakdown of results in the 2007 Election, constituency by constituency, is as follows:

Carlow-Kilkenny: 1 woman elected (**Mary White**- Green Party)

Count: 9 male candidates; 2 female candidates

Female Candidates: Mary White- Green, Kathleen Funchion- Sinn Fein

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Cavan-Monaghan: 1 woman elected (**Margaret Conlon**- Fianna Fail)

Count: 8 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Margaret Conlon- Fianna Fail

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Clare: No women elected

Count: 10 male candidates; 2 female candidates

Female Candidates: Anna Prior- Sinn Fein, Madeleine Taylor Quinn- Fine Gael

Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Cork East: No women elected

Count: 8 male candidates; 2 female candidates

Female Candidates: Sandra McLellan– Sinn Fein, Sarah Iremonger– Green Party

Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Cork North Central: 1 woman elected (**Kathleen Lynch**– Labour Party)

Count: 12 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Kathleen Lynch– Labour Party

Outcome: 3 men elected; 1 woman elected

Cork North West: No women elected

Count: 6 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Caroline Robinson– Green Party

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Cork South Central: 1 woman elected (**Deirdre Clune**– Fine Gael)

Count: 13 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Deirdre Clune– Fine Gael

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Cork South West: No women elected

Count: 7 male candidates; 0 female candidates

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Donegal North East: No women elected

Count: 8 male candidates; 3 female candidates

Female Candidates: Siobhan McLaughlin– Labour Party, Mary Doherty– Christian Solidarity Party, and Cecilia Keaveney– Fianna Fail

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Donegal South West: 1 woman elected (**Mary Coughlan**– Fianna Fail)

Count: 6 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Candidate: Mary Coughlan– Fianna Fail

Outcome: 2 men elected; 1 woman elected

Dublin Central: No women elected

Count: 10 male candidates; 3 female candidates

Female Candidates: Mary Lou McDonald– Sinn Fein, Mary Fitzpatrick– Fianna Fail, and Patricia McKenna– Green Party

Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Dublin Mid–West: 2 women elected (**Mary Harney**– Progressive Democrats and **Joanna Tuffy**– Labour Party)

Count: 7 male candidates; 4 female candidates
Female Candidates: Mary Harney– Progressive Democrats, Joanna Tuffy– Labour Party, Joanna Spain– Sinn Fein, and Frances Fitzgerald– Fine Gael
Outcome: 2 men elected; 2 women elected

Dublin North: No women elected
Count: 12 male candidates; 1 female candidate
Female Candidate: Clare Daly– Socialist Party
Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Dublin North Central: No women elected
Count: 7 male candidates; 0 female candidates
Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Dublin North East: No women elected
Count: 8 male candidates; 0 female candidates
Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Dublin North West: 1 woman elected (**Róisín Shortall**– Labour Party)
Count: 7 male candidates; 1 female candidate
Female Candidate– Róisín Shortall– Labour Party
Outcome: 2 men elected; 1 woman elected

Dublin South: 1 woman elected (**Olivia Mitchell**– Fine Gael)
Count: 9 male candidates; 4 female candidates
Female Candidates: Olivia Mitchell– Fine Gael, Maria Corrigan– Fianna Fail, Liz O'Donnell– Progressive Democrats, and Sorcha Nic Cormaic– Sinn Fein
Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Dublin South Central: 2 women elected (**Catherine Byrne**– Fine Gael, and **Mary Upton**– Labour Party)
Count: 10 male candidates; 6 female candidates
Female Candidates: Catherine Byrne– Fine Gael, Mary Upton– Labour Party, Joan Collins– Independent, Anne Marie Martin– Fine Gael, Dr. Róisín Healy– Independent, Brid Smith– People Before Profit Alliance/ Non-Party
Outcome: 3 men elected; 2 women elected

Dublin South East: 1 woman elected (**Lucinda Creighton**– Fine Gael)
Count: 11 male candidates; 2 female candidates
Female Candidates: Lucinda Creighton– Fine Gael, Esther Uzell– Independent
Outcome: 3 men elected; 1 woman elected

Dublin South West: No women elected
Count: 7 male candidates; 1 female candidate
Female Candidate: Elizabeth Davidson– Green Party
Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Dublin West: 1 woman elected (**Joan Burton**– Labour Party)
Count: 6 male candidates; 2 female candidates
Female Candidates: Joan Burton– Labour Party, Mags Murray–
Progressive Democrat
Outcome: 2 men elected; 1 female elected

Dún Laoghaire: 1 woman elected (**Mary Hanafin**– Fianna Fail)
Count: 9 male candidates; 2 female candidates
Female Candidates: Mary Hanafin– Fianna Fail, Fiona O’Malley–
Progressive Democrats
Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Galway East: No women elected
Count: 12 male candidates; 2 female candidates
Female Candidates: Clare Flynn– Independent, Mairead Ni Chronin–
Green Party
Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Galway West: No women elected
Count: 11 male candidates; 4 female candidates
Female Candidates: Catherine Connolly– Independent, Margaret Cox–
Independent, Anne Marie Carroll– Sinn Fein, and Fidelma Healy Eames–
Fine Gael
Outcome: 5 men elected; no women elected

Kerry North: No women elected
Count: 9 male candidates; 1 female candidate
Female Candidates: Norma Foley– Fianna Fail
Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Kerry South: No women elected
Count: 6 male candidates; 2 female candidates
Female Candidates: Breda Moynihan Cronin– Labour Party, Lynn Ni
Bhaoigheallain– Sinn Fein
Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Kildare North: 1 woman elected (**Áine Brady**– Fianna Fail)
Count: 8 male candidates; 3 female candidates
Female Candidates: Áine Brady– Fianna Fail, Catherine Murphy–
Independent, and Cristin McCauley– Sinn Fein

Outcome: 3 men elected; 1 woman elected

Kildare South: No women elected

Count: 7 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Jane Mullins– Progressive Democrat

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Laois–Offaly: 1 woman elected (**Olwyn Enright**– Fine Gael)

Count: 13 male candidates; 3 female candidates

Female Candidates: Olwyn Enright– Fine Gael, Molly Buckley– Fine Gael, and Maire McKay– Green Party

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 female elected

Limerick East: 1 woman elected (**Jan O’Sullivan**– The Labour Party)

Count: 11 male candidates; 3 female candidates

Female Candidates: Jan O’Sullivan– Labour Party, Noreen Ryan– Fianna Fail, Trish Forde Brennan– Green Party

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Limerick West: No women elected

Count: 7 male candidates; 0 female candidates

Outcome: 3 men elected, no women elected

Longford–Westmeath: 1 woman elected (**Mary O’Rourke**– Fianna Fail)

Count: 9 male candidates; 4 female candidates

Female Candidates: Mary O’Rourke– Fianna Fail, Mae Sexton– Progressive Democrat, Betty Doran– Green Party, and Nicky McFadden– Fine Gael

Outcome: 3 men elected; 1 female elected

Louth: No women elected

Count: 11 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Mairead McGuinness– Fine Gael

Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Mayo: 1 woman elected (**Beverley Flynn**– Independent)

Count: 11 male candidates; 2 female candidates

Female Candidates: Beverley Flynn– Independent, Michelle Mulherin– Fine Gael

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

Meath East: 1 woman elected (**Mary Wallace**– Fianna Fail)

Count: 7 male candidates; 4 female candidates

Female Candidates: Mary Wallace– Fianna Fail, Joanne Finnigan– Sinn Fein, Sirena Campbell– Progressive Democrat, and Regina Doherty– Fine Gael

Outcome: 2 men elected; 1 woman elected

Meath West: No women elected

Count: 10 male candidates; 0 female candidates

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Roscommon–South Leitrim: No women elected

Count: 9 male candidates; 0 female candidates

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Sligo–North Leitrim: No women elected

Count: 9 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Imelda Henry– Fine Gael

Outcome: 3 men elected; no women elected

Tipperary North: 1 woman elected (**Maire Hctor**– Fianna Fail)

Count: 7 male candidates; 2 female candidates

Female Candidates: Maire Hctor– Fianna Fail, Kathleen O’Meara– Labour Party

Outcome: 2 men elected; 1 woman elected

Tipperary South: No women elected

Count: 10 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Siobhan Ambrose– Fianna Fail

Outcome: 3 men elected; 0 women elected

Waterford: No women elected

Count: 12 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Mary Roche– Independent

Outcome: 4 men elected; no women elected

Wexford: No women elected

Count: 10 male candidates; 1 female candidate

Female Candidate: Lisa McDonald– Fianna Fail

Outcome: 5 men elected; no women elected

Wicklow: 1 woman elected (**Liz McManus**– Labour Party)

Count: 11 male candidates; 4 female candidates

Female Candidates: Liz McManus– Labour Party, Evelyn Cawley– Independent, Deirdre de Burca– Green Party, Carmel McKenna– People Before Profit Alliance/Non–Party

Outcome: 4 men elected; 1 woman elected

The NWCI and the Media

The National Women's Council challenges the News of the World & Ryanair in two separate incidences

NWCI & the News of the World

The NWCI had cause to challenge the News of the World last month over an article that was printed in their Sunday edition on 26th August 2007 entitled 'Women Blamed' – in which they misrepresented the NWCI and assigned quotations to the NWCI Head of Policy Orla O'Connor which were never sought or given. The NWCI demanded a full retraction of the article and an apology for printing it in the first place, which we received in the following weekend's paper (2nd September 2007).

The article in question attempted to discuss the issue of the gender pay gap, but gave no insight into the causes of the problem or the correct position of the NWCI. The News of the World conceded that the article was 'written in haste' and 'did not represent the position of the NWCI'.

We felt that it was important to challenge the incorrect representation of the Council immediately. The NWCI has an important position to maintain and the article in question could have been damaging to that reputation and to the relationships that the NWCI works hard to build with members, with Government, with policy makers, with the media and with members of the community and voluntary sector. The article raised many issues around truthful, accurate and honest journalistic practices, but overall we were happy with the prompt response that we received from the News of the World.

On the above note the NWCI welcomes the establishment of Ireland's first Press Council (and the Office of the Press Ombudsman) whose role it will be to provide an independent regulatory body for Ireland's print media.

NWCI & Ryanair

The NWCI also challenged Ryanair, through a formal complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland (ASAI), over what we felt was an 'inappropriate, distasteful and irresponsible advertisement' which has appeared in print in a number of papers throughout August and September. The ad highlighted the 'Back to School Fares' that

Ryanair were offering and showed a young school girl dressed in a school uniform and posed in a sexually inviting way to draw attention. The NWCI are concerned that images of sexualised teenagers and children are becoming increasingly common in advertising and marketing material. The NWCI believes that advertisers must take responsibility for the images and messages that they are sending out to children and teenagers and to the public at large. We are also concerned about the direct link between the sexualisation of children, internet pornography and paedophile activity. The NWCI is deeply concerned by the damaging effects that pornography and the portrayal of sexualised images of young women is having on the public's perception of women as sex objects and commodities to be bought by men.

The above issues were the basis for our complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority.

We are awaiting a response from the ASAI, but we have already been contacted by them, on receipt of our complaint, to request our permission to 'disclose' ourselves publicly to Ryanair, as complainants. In the next edition of the newsletter, we will inform you of the outcome.

National and European News

Cosc the new office in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Context

The Irish government has signed up to the UN Definition of Violence Against Women (VAW) that includes all forms of gender-based violence: including domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, prostitution, trafficking and pornography. The National Steering Committee on VAW (NSC) has also accepted that this is the definition of VAW that informs their work, and should also inform the work of COSC.

The UN Definition recognises that gender based violence is

- 1. a direct result of gender inequality**
- 2. a means to maintain male power and privilege**
- 3. a violation of women's human rights, and**
- 4. a systematic crime endangering women and girls**

The UN definition

- recognises the structural and intentional nature of gender based violence

- keeps it central to the wider work on women's participation and citizenship
- identifies it as an obstacle to women's equality as has been recognised by the European Union

Cosc – the Irish Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Earlier this summer, The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (DJELR) established **Cosc – the Irish Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence** with the key responsibility to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated "whole of Government" response to violence against women and domestic violence.

Eimear Fisher, a senior civil servant from the DJELR, heads the new office and has been meeting all the different members of the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women. Following proposals from the NGOs represented on the NSC, the name of the agency will be changed to **Cosc – the Irish Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Gender Based Violence**. This is an important and welcome change that encompasses the UN definition above.

The tasks that Cosc will undertake include:

- Working with Government Departments, Agencies, and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the sector to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated service to support victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Developing and delivering awareness raising strategies to ensure that victims are aware of the availability of services in their locality and that society is made aware of the extent and impact of behaviours and crimes of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Developing strategies to address the issue of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in line with best international practice.
- Further developing standards for service delivery and for training programmes, which address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Putting in place strategically based positive actions, which work with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Providing leadership and support to the National Steering Committee on Violence against Women (NSC) and its sub-committees.
- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the 1997 Task Force on Violence against Women.

- Considering and where relevant facilitating the implementation of internationally established best practice throughout the sector.
- Working with the National Crime Council and external bodies as appropriate to establish a body of research to inform future policy directions for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Representing Ireland at international fora that have a remit in relation to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Cosc is also expected to propose legislative/policy change.

The NSC is chaired by the Head of Cosc, with the Minister of State at the DJELR in attendance, and comprises representatives from all relevant Government Departments, government agencies, and NGOs with a national role, working in the field.

The NGOs represented on the NSC are: Women's Aid, National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Services, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, the Rape Crisis Network Ireland, Ruhama, Pavee Point and the National Women's Council of Ireland.

With the establishment of Cosc, the role of the NSC will be to:

- advise on the development and implementation of policies and guidelines for action on domestic and sexual violence against women including those concerning services and supports, perpetrators, and State intervention;
- advise on research to be undertaken and needs assessments nationally;
- assist Cosc in the promotion of interagency co-operation and sharing of information;
- assist and advise Cosc in the development of codes of practice for collecting statistics and monitoring responses;
- assist and advise Cosc in promoting public awareness about the issues involved in violence against women;
- assist and advise Cosc in identification of legal issues affecting the prevention of, and action responding to, violence against women;
- share information on international developments in relation to the issue of violence against women.

Currently, the NSC is collaborating with Cosc to identify strategic priorities for future work.

The Need for a Rights-Based Approach to Reproductive Health and Rights

By Ivana Bacik, Spokesperson for the Safe and Legal (in Ireland) Abortion Rights Campaign

The State has displayed scant regard for the reproductive health rights of women and men facing difficulties with conception – and scant regard for the rights of any children born as a result of assisted human reproduction techniques.

Reproductive rights are recognised as human rights in international law. This was explicitly affirmed in the Programme of Action agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, where a definition of “reproductive health rights” was developed, to include the right to sexual health; the right of access to safe, effective and affordable family planning methods; and the right to appropriate healthcare services to enable safe pregnancy and childbirth. This holistic approach to reproductive health has been confirmed in many other international treaties and covenants.

In Ireland, however, law and policy on reproductive health falls far short of the rights-based approach advocated at international level. In particular, women’s reproductive health is jeopardised by the lack of access to legal abortion in this country. The 1992 X case established that abortion is only legal in Ireland where the woman’s life is at risk due to the continuation of her pregnancy, and in all other circumstances abortion remains a criminal offence. As a result, thousands of women are forced to travel abroad each year in order to avail of terminations of pregnancy in other EU countries.

Abortion is illegal here, even where women are pregnant as a result of rape or incest; face severe health risks from continuing pregnancy; or find that they are carrying a foetus with severe disabilities. Incredibly, it is denied even to those women in the deeply traumatic position of being told that their baby will be stillborn. Such unfortunate women must either carry their pregnancy to term in Ireland, knowing their baby has died; or travel to England for a termination.

By contrast to the extremely restrictive law on abortion, legal regulation of assisted human reproduction is notably lacking. The Government-appointed Commission on Assisted Human Reproduction produced a comprehensive report in 2005, recommending the need for legislation to deal with issues around infertility treatments, donor programmes, surrogacy, legal parentage, and stem-cell research. Despite the sensible approach taken by the Commission, and the need

for urgency due to the existence of unregulated services here, no legislation has been forthcoming. The State has displayed scant regard for the reproductive health rights of women and men facing difficulties with conception – and scant regard for the rights of any children born as a result of assisted human reproduction techniques.

The Government must now begin to take reproductive health more seriously; especially as it is becoming increasingly likely that we will be held accountable internationally for any further inaction. In July 2005, the Committee to monitor compliance with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) expressed its concern about the consequences of the “very restrictive abortion laws” in Ireland, and called for “a national dialogue on women’s right to reproductive health, including on the very restrictive abortion laws”.

In a landmark decision in November 2005, the UN Human Rights Committee, which monitors compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, gave its decision in a case taken by human rights groups on behalf of a young Peruvian woman who was forced by state officials to carry a fatally impaired foetus to term. The decision established that denying access to legal abortion violates women’s basic human rights – the first time an international human rights body had held a government accountable for failing to ensure access to legal abortion.

There are obvious lessons for Ireland in this decision. Irish law on abortion has already been raised before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In a 1992 case taken by Open Door Counselling and the Dublin Well Woman Centre Ltd., the Court declared that the ban on providing information about abortion clinics in England was an interference with the right to freedom of expression under the Convention.

Since then, information on abortion has become legally available, and the establishment of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency in 2001 has brought about greatly increased access to counselling for pregnant women generally.

But other cases taken against Ireland, dealing directly with the ban on abortion, have recently been initiated before the Strasbourg Court. In *D v. Ireland*, the applicant argued that her Convention rights were violated because she could not get an abortion under Irish law, although she was carrying a foetus with a severe abnormality incompatible with life. The Court ruled in 2006 that she should have litigated that particular issue before the Irish courts.

In August 2005, a group of three women living in Ireland – all of whom had recent experience of a crisis pregnancy, involving a much broader range of circumstances than those at issue in D’s case – lodged a complaint before the Strasbourg Court, facilitated by the Irish Family Planning Association. They argue that the prohibition on abortion has violated their rights to privacy and to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment, among other things. Their case has not yet been heard.

Around the world, individuals are coming forward in increasing numbers to challenge violations of their human rights before international courts and institutions. Our Government should take notice of this important development, and act without delay to implement a rights-based policy for reproductive health.

Ivana Bacik, Barrister, Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology, Trinity College Dublin and independent candidate for the Seanad election 2007 on the Dublin University panel is Spokesperson for the Safe and Legal (in Ireland) Abortion Rights Campaign.

<http://safeandlegal.blogspot.com>

EWL Welcomes Commission’s Initiative to Tackle the Gender Pay Gap, but More Concrete Steps Needed

The European Women’s Lobby welcomes the Communication from the European Commission [“Tackling the pay gap between women and men”](#) issued on the 18th of July, which outlines the measures to be taken by the EU to address the issue.

Women’s employment is key for women’s economic autonomy and equality between women and men. Although the principle of equal pay was established in the EU treaties fifty years ago, there is still a significant gap between women and men’s wages. The average gender pay gap in EU countries – defined as the difference between the average hourly pay for women and men before tax and across the economy– is 15%. The figure ranges from a surprising 26% in Germany and 4% in Malta.

One of the measures proposed by the Communication is for Member States to “set objectives and national deadlines for reducing the pay gap between women and men”. While welcoming this proposal, EWL

would like the Commission to be more concrete, notably by setting targets, indicators and a timetable for the elimination of the pay gap for the whole of the EU. EWL also support the proposal of the ETUC to introduce a specific target and timetable on the elimination of the pay gap in the European Employment Strategy.

The Commission states that the gender pay gap can not solely be attributed to “objective factors” such as education or occupational skills and gender based discrimination. Instead it reflects segregation in the labour market and unequal division of unpaid work between women and men at home.

Figures show that it is the countries where women to a large extent work part time that have the largest gender pay gap. This demonstrates the need for a comprehensive approach to the problem. For example, the elimination of the gender pay gap will necessitate stronger measures for the conciliation of private and working life including the promotion of an equal sharing of care responsibilities between women and men.

In this respect, the Commission has launched a consultation with social partners, which EWL hopes, will lead to further concrete European action for the conciliation of working and private life, notably in relation to parental leave and paternity leave.

News from Members and Friends of the NWCI

Miriam O Callaghan RTE joins forces with Network Ireland.

Miriam O Callaghan, star of Prime Time and Saturday Night with Miriam, is arriving in Limerick on Friday 5th October to chair Network Ireland’s National Conference in Castletroy Park Hotel.

Miriam’s ‘guests’ will be Bill Cullen, entrepreneur and best selling author, and Caroline Casey of The Aisling Foundation and 02 Ability awards, amongst many others. The theme for discussion is CREATE CHANGE AND BE INSPIRED.

400 delegates nationwide from Network Ireland’s 11 branches will attend the conference, which this year is the highlight of Limerick

Business week – culminating in a Black Tie Gala Dinner to announce the winners of Network Business Women of The year Awards.

For further information please go to

www.networklimerick.com

or contact

Gaye Moore, National President Network Ireland,

president@networkireland.ie

Celebrate Learning: Nominate Your Project for a STAR Award!

AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation is delighted to invite nominations for the STAR Awards 2008 which take place on Monday, 4 February 2008 as part of the second annual Adult Learners' Festival. The STAR Awards Ceremony is kindly sponsored by FETAC. Eleven Awards in total will be granted to adult learning projects based within the island of Ireland.

The STAR Awards is about showcasing teamwork and awarding recognition – it is about acknowledging the fantastic work being done by adult learning projects throughout the country! Most of all, it is about celebrating the positive contribution that these project make to our society, our economy and our local communities.

It couldn't be easier to nominate a project for a STAR Award....

1. Fill in an online nomination form by clicking [here](#)
2. Download a nomination form by clicking [here](#) for the English language version and [here](#) for the Irish language version. Fill it out and e-mail it to mail@aontas.com
3. Hard copies of the nominations form are on their way to adult learning projects all over the country. Simply fill in the nomination form in block capitals and return to AONTAS by post

The closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday, 19 October 2007 at 5pm

Nomination forms are available in both English & Irish. For more information on the STAR Awards click [here](#) or visit www.adultlearnersfestival.com. Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01 4068220 or e-mail mail@aontas.com if you would like assistance filling out the nomination form. We look forward to receiving completed nomination forms in the coming weeks.

**Combat Poverty Agency 3rd Annual 'Having Your Say Conference
'Participation in Policy- Making it Work'**

Tuesday, 11th December 2007
Dublin Castle, Conference Centre
10am - 3pm
Including lunch

Conference aims:

- Share the learning of how disadvantaged groups have engaged with the policy system in Ireland at local and national level
- Practical workshops on 'how to' make participation in policy work
- Explore methodologies for engaging vulnerable groups to have their say in policy and decision making processes
- Introduce new resources designed to support communities in the policy making process
- A chance to network with other organisations

Who should be there?

Members of Management committees and staff of

- Community Development Projects
- Family Resource Centres
- Local Development Social Inclusion Programme
- Community and voluntary groups working on poverty issues
- Public officials, particularly those liaising or working with community based groups at national or local level

Brochures and booking forms will issue in October 2007. If you wish to be added to the mailing list for a brochure please send details to havingyoursay@combatpoverty.ie or www.combatpoverty.ie/ havingyoursay

Exploring Gender Participation and Power -Tipping the Scales Project | Limerick

The PAUL Partnership, Limerick on behalf of 'Tipping the Scales' Equality for Women Measure hosted a conference 'Exploring Gender, Participation and Power' on Friday 22 June 2007 at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick.

The 'Tipping the Scales' project is supported by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform which is responsible for the Equality for Women Measure. This project is funded by the Irish Government and part-financed by the European Union under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

At the conference the following documents were launched:

- (1) A Toolkit of Positive Action Initiatives
The purpose of the 'toolkit' is to provide organisations working in the community and voluntary sector with some ideas of how to boost the participation of women (and men) in their decision-making structures. In addition to this, some analysis is presented in an attempt to provide practitioners with some of the reasons behind how and why women choose to participate.
- (2) Information Guide to organisations and groups working with the Community in Limerick City
The Guide shows the overview of structures in Limerick City where decisions that effect the community, interest group or club are made
The Guide maps out the places in Limerick City where you can get information and support on a variety of topics from local educational courses, welfare rights, money advice, childcare services, job seeking etc.

(Copies of same are available. Contact Ann Spillane
(aspillane@paulpartnership.ie)

An overview of the 'Tipping the Scales' programme was presented by John Buttery, Co-Coordinator, Social Programmes PAUL Partnership.

The Keynote speaker was Ms Orla O'Connor, Head of Policy, National Women's Council of Ireland.

The Workshops were as follows:

Workshop 1: Participation, what works?

There are many strategies employed by organisations working in Limerick City to encourage and facilitate women's participation. The 'Toolkit' produced by 'Tipping the Scales' documents some of these strategies. This is an opportunity to share ideas and experiences about what strategies you think work well and less well in encouraging women to participate in decision-making.

Workshop 2: Participation, why bother?

While organisations working in local development are working to increase the participation of women in decision-making this on its own does not ensure that the strategic needs of women are addressed in policies, plans and actions. This session will explore what can be put in place to ensure that participation is translated into practical tangible results.

Conference Report on Pornography now available

In Oct 2006 Limerick Rape Crisis Centre Held a conference Pornography: A Violence Against Women .Copies of the report on the conference are available for a charge of €10 each (to cover postage and admin) from Limerick Rape Crisis Centre, Rocheville House, Punch's Close, Rosbrien Rd., Limerick. E-mail lrcc@oceanfree.net .

Irish Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society annual service of Remembrance and launch of new booklet

ISANDS (Irish Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) will launch their new booklet Working with families whose baby dies around the time of Birth on November 14th in Dublin Castle. ISANDS will also hold its annual Christmas Service of Remembrance on December 2nd 2007 in St Nicholas of Myra Church, Francis Street, Dublin at 7.30pm. We welcome families to join us in remembering our babies in a special way at Christmas. The ISANDS National Remembrance Quilt will be on display.

For more information on this events please e-mail info@isands.ie .

Women in Media and Entertainment new book and DVD available

NEW FILM (selected & shown in this year's Galway Film Fleadh)

YELLOW GATE WOMEN (60-minute documentary)

A Women in Media & Entertainment production

For 19 years women stayed at the Yellow Gate peace camp, Greenham Common, till the 96 US Cruise Missiles left and the Common was restored to the people. This film celebrates their eloquence and resilience in the face of eviction, arrest and jail, as they constantly faced up to the military with bolt cutters and legal challenges.

Margaretta D'Arcy, award-winning director of *Big Plane Small Axe*, the mis-trials of Mary Kelly (Galway Film Fleadh 2005), once again uses her quirky personal camera technique to record a story not to be forgotten. A constant visitor and activist at Greenham, she brings to the screen a campaign which went beyond the protest against the US missiles, to highlight the British government's militarization of the countryside, including little-known coverage of a Wiltshire village taken over by the army and used to train troops for street-fighting in the north of Ireland. The film is principally made up of footage taken by D'Arcy over the years, and at a "troops out" rally in London in 1989 (plus the late Sr. Sarah Clarke talking about the notable support she gave to the families of republican prisoners); together with contemporary material about the present state of military-free Greenham and retrospective interviews with a number of Greenham veterans and local inhabitants, including D'Arcy's own experience in Holloway Gaol and her stand against strip-searching.

LOOSE THEATRE, Memoirs of a Guerrilla Theatre Activist

by Margaretta D'Arcy

Co-published by Trafford Publishing and Women's Pirate Press (2005)

Margaretta D'Arcy, controversial component of the partnership with playwright John Arden over nearly fifty years, has now put together a nimble collection of loose memories, together with a ragbag of diary excerpts, letters, cuttings from newspapers, etc. With a caustic, sideways glance, she traces her life and family background, as affected by the Czar of Russia, the War of Irish Independence and the theocratic Irish Free State of the 1930s and the early days of the Women's Movement. She fills up gaps and gives us glimpses, not previously recorded, of the early days of the Royal Court Theatre, the internal politics of the Theatre Writers' Union, and Ban-the-Bomb, the Committee of 100 and the consequences of anti-nuclear civil disobedience in a small Yorkshire village, leading on through the turbulent 1970s via bankruptcy, libel cases, Irish activism, death and

motherhood, to her involvement with the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp (arrests and gaolings) until its final closure at the end of the 20th century. Also vignettes of the aftermath of the 1980s Miners' Strike and the extension of loose theatre to the Beijing Women's Conference of the United Nations, the greatest playhouse of them all.

DVDs of the film (€ 10.00) and of the book (€ 20.00) -- postage included -- can be obtained from Women in Media & Entertainment, 10 St Bridget's Place Lower, Galway -- or (online) from www.margarettadarcy.com