

West Cork Whisper

West Cork Women Against Violence Project Newsletter

45th Edition

Oct, Nov, Dec 2011

What is currently happening in Ireland around Domestic Violence

TO MARK this year's 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women we have tried, in this edition of the Whisper, to highlight some of the work that is being done in Ireland today to end domestic violence. Despite economic difficulties many dedicated organisations and individuals continue to progress this work. Support services and refuges nationwide carry on providing a high quality of support to women experiencing domestic violence.

Many organisations are working on awareness raising, including support services, Safe Ireland and Cosc. Information on some of this work is given in this newsletter. Awareness raising includes giving the clear message that violence against women and children is not acceptable in Ireland today.

As every year the 16 Days of Action run from November 25 to December 10. There will be events around the country to mark this. The White Ribbon Campaign was begun by a group of Canadian men in 1991. There are now campaigns in many countries internationally. Last year 'The Other Half' was launched, an alliance of men and women working together. The campaign supports men to talk openly about violence.



Keep an eye for what's happening in your area during this year's 16 Days of Action .

CONTENTS:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| What is currently happening in Ireland around DV | 1 |
| Various 'snippets' of information around domestic violence and supporting work | 2 / 3 / 4 |
| Notices & Support Services for women | 4 |

Break the Silence on Domestic Violence

West Cork Women Against Violence Project,
Harbour View,
Bantry, Co. Cork.

Freephone Helpline:
Tuesday 10am - 4 pm
Tel: 1800 203 136

Office: Tel: 027 53847
Open: 10am-1pm,
Monday - Friday

Website:
www.westcorkwomensproject.ie

Email: admin@westcorkwomensproject.ie

The Women's Aid Dublin **2in2u National Public Awareness Campaign** is a groundbreaking campaign highlighting the issue of violence and abuse against young women in dating relationships. The campaign is designed to show the hidden reality for many young women who are experiencing abuse, control and violence at the hands of their boyfriends.

See: **2in2u National Public Awareness campaign**



Since January 2011, there is a new public awareness campaign around the organisation "Positive Options" to raise awareness of the free, non-judgemental counselling service to those experiencing a crisis pregnancy.

Visit : www.positiveoptions.ie

MEN ARE IMPORTANT ALLIES IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN IRELAND

The Other Half is an alliance of men's and women's organisations working together to end men's violence against women.

Rape Crisis Network Ireland, SAFE Ireland and the Men's Development Network now work as allies to encourage Irish men to stand up and become potentially powerful allies in the fight against gender based violence.



New translation service for women experiencing domestic violence

Women's Aid has announced the commencement of a new language line interpretation service, via its National Freephone Helpline. This new service will give helpline workers the ability to connect women, with limited or no English, to an accredited and professional translator who can facilitate translation between the woman and the helpline worker, so that the woman can access support and information appropriate to her needs. The service is available throughout the normal opening hours of the helpline 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Seven days per week. West Cork Women against Violence Project can help women to access this service or a woman can phone the Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline on 1800-341-900 herself and state the language in which she would like to speak.

Joint Working Group on Domestic Violence & Pregnancy

Made up of key staff from the four Dublin maternity hospitals and Women's Aid, the Joint Working Group is currently producing Guidelines for Maternity Hospital Staff Responding to Domestic Violence, due to be released in 2012.

Women's Aid is also currently providing specialised training for maternity staff responding to domestic violence on best practice approaches to recognising and responding to domestic violence during pregnancy and after a birth.

Cosc is the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Cosc is the Irish for 'to stop' or 'to prevent'. Cosc is an executive office of the Department of Justice and Equality with a role that covers coordination across the justice, health, housing, education, family support and community sectors. See the website for more information at: www.cosc.ie

We offer an appointment and court accompaniment service

Support to Families

The family resource centres are providing support to families through their Parenting Plus Programmes and through the Strengthening Families Programme. Contact them for more information:

- West Cork Development Partnership (Bantry area) – 027 52266
- Dunmanaway Family Resource Centre (Dunmanway area) – 023 88 56818
- The Caha Centre (Beara) – 027 60909

Women's Aid is continuing their 'One in five Women' 16 Days campaign theme in 2011. The hope is that by raising awareness of the enduring prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and promoting services available for those affected, that they can reach out to women living with domestic violence.



SAFE Ireland is the only national organisation representing frontline domestic violence services in Ireland (including refuges)

SAFE Ireland want to see that the needs of women and children experiencing domestic violence are met and that civic society takes responsibility for the eradication of violence against women. They have a leading role in researching and disseminating good practice to members, other professionals and statutory bodies as well as giving public voice of victims' experiences and the enormity and extent of domestic violence in our country

Elder abuse helpline:

The Senior Helpline provides a confidential telephone service for older people for the price of a local call. Lines are open from 10am to 4pm and each evening from 7pm to 10pm 365 days a year.

Phone: 1850 – 440 444

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA'S POLICY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL CRIMES:

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA has published its updated policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes Against Children and Child Welfare and has made this policy together with its' policy on Domestic Violence available on the Garda website. Their objective in doing so is to ensure maximum confidence in their investigation capabilities and their determination to deal with these difficult crimes.

An Garda Síochána has established a new Sexual Crime Management Unit at the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit, of the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation. This unit will focus on assisting and advising members in the investigation of sexual crime, crimes against children and child welfare by promoting best investigative practice in line with international standards.



Free iPhone Information App for Everyone

Recent research has highlighted the important role of friends and families and a range of professionals in giving

information about support services to victims of domestic violence. **Safe Ireland** has developed this App for Everyone, so that people can be aware of how they can support someone, ways to recognise abuse and ways to maximise the safety of the victim, her children and themselves.

This free App is available to download at the iPhone App Store now.

The Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 amends the Domestic Violence Act 1996 to extend the powers of the court to order protection to non-cohabitants and same sex couples. This came into law on 2nd August 2011. The main changes are highlighted below, please see our website (www.westcorkwomensproject.ie) or telephone our service for further information.

- Parents with a child in common are now able to apply for Safety Orders even if they have never lived together.
- Cohabiting partners can now apply for Safety Orders without any specific duration of cohabitation needed (previously it was a minimum of 6 out of the last 12 months).
- Same sex cohabitants are now eligible for **all orders** under the Domestic Violence Act in the same way as opposite sex cohabitants.

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Refuge:

A refuge is a safe place where women who are experiencing domestic violence can live safely while they decide what to do next.

There is no time limit for how long you can stay in a refuge. If you have children, you can take them with you to the refuge. Refuges are generally open 24 hours a day. There are 21 refuges across Ireland and staff in a refuge are able to help and support you. Women usually go to a refuge when they are unable to be in their homes safely. The nearest refuges to West Cork are Cuanlee Refuge in Cork City and Adapt Women's refuge in Tralee (see back page for phone numbers).

West Cork Women against Violence Project can contact any Refuge with you and assist you and your children with transport, discuss your safety plan and any other arrangements.



Visit Women's Aid **16 Days blog** to find out about events taking place around the country for the 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women:

Nov 25th – Dec 10th 2011

www.womensaid.ie/16daysblog/

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN:

West Cork Women against Violence Project,
Bantry **Freephone 1800-203 136**

Women's Aid Freephone..... **1800-341 900**

Cuanlee Refuge, Cork **021-427 7698**

Aid Board, Cork..... **021-455 1686**

..... **021-427 5998**

Mná Feasa
(Domestic Violence Project) **021-421 1757**

OSS Cork **Freephone 1800-497 497**
(Domestic Violence Resource Centre
for men and women)

Sexual Assault Treatment Unit. **021-492 6297**

Sexual Violence Centre..... **Freephone 1800-496 496**

Domestic Violence Social Work **021-492 1728**

Y.A.N.A. North Cork **022-53915**

Kerry

Kerry Women's Refuge and Support Services
(ADAPT) **066-712 9100**

Open Door Network **066-718 5472**

Kerry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre **1800-633 333**

Legal Aid Board..... **066-712 6900**

Tralee Women's Resource Centre **066-712 0622**

Empowering young people to take control of their world and the world around them

SpunOut.ie is an independent, youth powered national charity working to empower young people to create personal and social change. SpunOut.ie uses social media to empower young people aged 16-25 with information, support and opportunities. SpunOut.ie has a lot of interesting and informative relationship information for young people on their website's 'health & life' section.

WEST CORK CITIZENS' INFORMATION SERVICE

The Square, Bantry. Ph: 027 52100
South Square, Macroom. Ph: 026 42179

West Cork Citizens' Information Service can provide you with information, advocacy and advice on all your rights and entitlements. The service is free, confidential and independent. Open daily, please call for times.

LEGAL AID BOARD

3rd Tuesday of month 10.30am – 4.30pm

For an appointment with the Legal Aid Board please phone the Legal Aid Cork office on:
021 4551686.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC (F.L.A.C.)

1st Tuesday of month 6pm – 7pm

Appointments for F.L.A.C. are made by contacting the West Cork Citizens' Information Service via drop in or telephone **027 52100.**

MABS OUTREACH CLINIC:

Each Friday 10 am – 11.30 am
Phone MABS at **023 55155** for an appointment.

THESE ARE CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES

We offer an appointment and court accompaniment service.