



NIWAF eMailing June 2004



NI Women's Aid Events and News

Newry Women's Aid is delighted to invite Becky Dudley to the official opening of their recently refurbished Resource Centre which is now fully accessible for all users. The event takes place on the 22nd June from 10.30-2.00pm. Tel: 028 30250765 for more info.

Other News

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 became effective throughout the UK on 1 May 2004. A number of new offences in Part 1 of the Act have been extended to Northern Ireland. There is a new offence of meeting a child following sexual grooming designed to protect children from adults who use various means, particularly the internet, to lure children to meetings for sexual abuse. The Act also extends to NI strengthened provisions which protect children, often particularly vulnerable children, who are in relationships of trust with adults.

It also creates a new offence which specifically criminalises the abuse of children through prostitution and pornography. Guidance on Parts 1 & 2 of the Act, which provides a fuller account of these changes and is intended to familiarise relevant bodies with the new legislation, is now available on the NIO website at www.nio.gov.uk

Pregnancy 'can spark violence by partners'. Babies are dying in the womb or being born with torn limbs because their mother has been attacked during pregnancy, according to midwives who will lift the lid on a hitherto taboo subject this week. In a study carried out over one week last month, one in five midwives working in the 10 regional centres in the UK, including Leeds, Birmingham and London, reported seeing at least one physically abused pregnant woman. These findings are included in a study conducted by the Royal College of Midwives, which will be the subject of a debate in London this week. Click here for more info http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1222789,00.html

Helping midwives and other health professionals identify and manage domestic violence in pregnancy via a new website. This website focusing on domestic violence in pregnancy – is a site designed to deliver practical help to midwives and other health professionals working with pregnant women. If you work in this field, the site can help you engage with and effectively support pregnant women who experience domestic violence, ultimately improving their health. The need for this site is clear. There are three main risk factors for experiencing domestic abuse - namely being a woman, being pregnant and being between 16-24 years old. All women who experience domestic abuse will have individual and sometimes complex needs. This website is funded by the Department of Health. It is part of an ongoing impact evaluation assessing the training and support provided for midwives during the introduction of routine antenatal enquiry for domestic violence. The independent evaluation is being undertaken by the University of the West of England, Bristol. Click here to find out more about the research project behind this domestic violence in pregnancy website initiative <http://www.northbristol.org.uk/midwives/domesticviolence/index.html>

The Women's Human Rights Alliance (WHRA) has recently launched the report *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) Shadow Report Ireland 2004*. Four general areas of concern to women in Ireland emerged from a questionnaire survey conducted nationwide at the start of the consultation process: political representation, health, violence against women, and barriers to employment and education. Specific issues within these four areas were highlighted and analysed at regional workshops and through one-to-one meetings with specialist agencies and individuals. Of particular interest is the section on violence against women. The report presents the incidence and scope of the different forms of violence against women (VAW), including domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment in the workplace, trafficking and prostitution. In Ireland, the traditional viewpoint that domestic violence is a private matter rather than a social crime has been slow to change.

As a partial consequence of this, support services for women experiencing violence are inadequate in both number and resources. Research shows that 88% of women do not leave their violent partners because they have nowhere to go.

Court responses are characterised by a lack of consistency in judge's approaches and treatment of the problem of violence against women. Fewer than 6% of domestic violence perpetrators receive a prison sentence, and rape conviction rates, at 2%, are the lowest in Europe.

The report recommends that the government:

- provide adequate funding to frontline services so that all women and children can access them as appropriate to their needs.
- recognise violence against women as a crime and take responsibility to ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned and that women remain safe and attain justice.

The full report can be obtained from <http://www.whra-ireland.org/PDFs/ireland.pdf> or
T: 00353 (0) 91764372

Refuge partnership to fit 'panic rooms' for abused women. Refuge and Greenwich Women's Aid are backing a scheme in which 'panic rooms' are installed in around 50 women's homes to protect them from 50 violent ex lovers. Within 24 hours of referral, a locksmith visits the property to create a safe room inside the house with outward-opening doors and a 'panic button'. <http://www.refuge.org.uk>

ICTU have recently launched '**Domestic Violence and the Workplace - guidelines for negotiators**'. A PDF copy can be downloaded from their website
http://www.ictu.ie/html/publications/ictu/domestic_violence.pdf

Community organisations throughout Northern Ireland have formed a new consortium for learning, known as Callnet. Callnet stands for Community Action for Life Long Learning Network. The website has been developed by 15 community partners in Northern Ireland and is open to any learning provider to become a Callnet Partner. Click here for more info www.callnetni.org

Money Matters

Big Lottery Fund due for consultation. A consultation process, in relation to the amalgamation of the Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund into the new Big Lottery Fund, is set to get underway in Northern Ireland in June 2004. Secretary of State, Tessa Jowell recently announced the creation of The Big Lottery Fund, which will assume responsibility for the distribution of over half of all national lottery funding. Northern Ireland activities will take place on the following dates:

- Belfast - Tues 15 June 2004 - Odyssey Arena
- Derry - Wed 16 June 2004 - St Columbs Park House
- Newry - Mon 21 June 2004 - Ballybot House
- Fermanagh - Tues 22 June 2004 - The Clinton Centre, Enniskillen.

For more information on the consultation process, please call 028 9055 1455.

<http://www.childpolicy.org.uk/consultations/index.cfm?ccs=520&cs=11003>

Community Re>Paint is a network of paint reuse schemes across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The purpose of the scheme is to collect leftover reusable paint from householders, and redistribute it to those who need paint but cannot afford it. Click here for more info

<http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk/about2002.htm> or T: 01132438777

| Events/Training | | |
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| Northern Ireland Women's European Platform AGM. | Host: NIWEP Date: 9 June 2004 Venue: 58 Howard Street, Belfast. Time: 7.00 pm Cost: Free | T: 02890 339 916 E: mogey40@btinternet.com |
| Stress Reduction Workshop by Paul Heller, Abbot of San Francisco | Host: Intercomm Date: 10 June 2004 Venue: Belfast Time: 10.00am -4.00pm Cost: Free | T: 028 90 744220 or 028 90 352165 |
| Introduction to Employment Law - one day training course. | Host: Law centre (NI) Date: 24 June 2004 Venue: Belfast. Time: 10.00-4.00 pm Cost: £55 - £150 | T: 028 90 244401 |
| Policing with the Community – A Conference for District Policing Partnership members and others interested in how best to provide local police accountability. | Host: CAJ Date: 28 June 2004 Venue: Belfast. Time: 10.00-4.00 pm Cost: Free | T: 028 90 961122 E: paula@caj.org.uk W: www.caj.org.uk |
| The Future of Public Administration Theory and Practice: moving from models to proposals. | Host: BMF Date: 29 June 2004 Venue: Belfast Time: 9.00am – 5.00pm Cost: £165-£255 | T: 028 92628787 E: sandra@businessservices.com |
| Alcohol and Drugs in Sexual Assault – one day conference. | Host: St Mary's Centre Date: 28 September 2004 Venue: Manchester | T: 0161 276 6515 E: stmarys.sarc@cmmc.nhs.uk W: www.stmaryscentre.org |
| Domestic Violence – the effects on children and young people. Topics include: child contact, schools materials, child protection and listening to children. | Host: Wearside Domestic Violence Forum Date: 13 November 2004 Venue: Sunderland Time: 9.15am – 4.00pm Cost: £10-£75 | T: 0191 553 6295 E: Sharon.KaneA@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk |
| New Publications to the Library | | |
| Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) Shadow Report Ireland 2004. The Women's Human Rights Alliance. | | W: http://www.whra-ireland.org/PDFs/ireland.pdf T: 00353 (0) 91764372 |
| Is anyone listening? Accountability and women survivors of domestic violence. Hague, G, Mullender, A & Aris, R. (2003). Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, London. | | ISBN: 0415259460 |

Deadline for submissions for this newsletter is the last Friday of the month.
Please send all related news items to [Charlene @ NIWAF](mailto:Charlene@NIWAF)

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24 hour domestic violence helpline 028 90 331818 (Language Line and Minicom available.)