

### **'Equipping The Church To Take Action and End Domestic Abuse'**

*'Equipping The Church To Take Action and End Domestic Abuse'* is a practical, insightful, informative and explorative programme created by Mothers' Union, Bishops' appeal, Tearfund Ireland and the Ministry for Healing.

Accompanying the 5-part course is an Irish edition of the Restored manual: *'A guide for Churches to Address Domestic Abuse.'*

The programme is a real opportunity to make a difference. The church is at the grassroots in every community and ideally placed to speak up about violence against women, to stand against domestic abuse and walk alongside survivors. Let's stand up and be counted, and let's encourage our communities to work together to make a difference.

### **16 Days 365 From Awareness Into Action**

16 Days 365 is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence, and to support those affected by it, not just during the 16 Days of Activism, but now every day of the year. We also continue to take part in the 'Thursdays in Black' campaign.

### **'Changing the Story' Conference**

The 'Changing the Story' conferences will launch the gender-justice programme – 'Equipping The Church To Take Action and End Domestic Abuse' and our new on-line Zoom DA Survivors Support Group – 'Survivors Changing the Story.'

The guest speakers are Bekah Legg, CEO of Restored, and Revd. Dr. Helen Paynter, author of 'The Bible Tells Me So.'

The conferences take place in September:

- Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> – Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown
- Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> – Kiltarnan Parish Centre, Dublin.

### **Helpline Phone Numbers**

Garda/PSNI	999
Women's Aid Ire.	1800 341 900
Women's Aid NI	028 9024 9041

## **Housing and Cost of Living Crisis**

Recent government reports showed that in the Republic of Ireland there are more than 11,500 people now living in homeless accommodation, with 3,494 of those being children.

Likewise in Northern Ireland the figures show that there are around 8,500 people without permanent homes, of which 3,476 are minors.

There continues to be a lack of suitable housing throughout the Island of Ireland, an issue we should be lobbying our local government and council members about.

For information and advice about support with the cost of living, including help with energy costs, help for families and children, help for older people, and help with housing: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/cost-living](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/cost-living) and/or [www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/659/responding-to-the-cost-of](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/659/responding-to-the-cost-of).

### **Helpline Numbers Northern Ireland:**

Advice NI	0800 915 4604
Christians Against Poverty	0800 328 0006
Consumer Council	0800 121 6022

### **Helpline Numbers Republic of Ireland:**

Protestant Aid	01 668 4298
Threshold	1800 454 454
MABS	0818 07 2000

## **Women's Aid**

Women's Aid Research 2022 shows that:

- 3 in 5 young people have experienced, or know someone who has experienced, intimate relationship abuse.
- 1 in 5 young women have suffered intimate relationship abuse.
- 1 in 6 young women have suffered coercive control.
- 51% of young women affected, experienced the abuse under the age of 18.
- 1 in 2 experienced online abuse.
- 1 in 3 young women never spoke to anyone about the abuse they experienced.

## **Elder Abuse**

There are a number of types of elder abuse, including: physical abuse, financial or material abuse, psychological abuse, neglect and acts of omission, sexual abuse and discriminatory abuse. Download a leaflet at [www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie) for more information about what financial elder abuse is, and how to address it. If you are concerned about a suspected case of Elder Abuse, please call the HSE helpline on: 1850 24 1850 or in Northern Ireland contact hourglass on: 0808 808 8141.

## **Parenting NI**

Do you have something that's worrying you as a parent? Not sure where to turn? The Parenting NI Support Line is here for you.

We are here to listen to your concerns and offer reassurance to help you through any parenting challenge you are facing.

The Support Line also open doors to other Parenting NI services including parenting programmes, family support projects and a specific Dad's Project.

We can also help you find other services which are available in your local area.  
Phone 0808 8010 722.

## **Immigrant Council of Ireland**

According to the ICI (Immigrant Council of Ireland), migration when managed effectively is a win-win process for everyone involved. As with the movement of people comes new ideas, skills and viewpoints, which can enrich and enhance our society as a whole.

In today's world, armed conflict and war are the biggest cause of migration movements, and the result is that men, women and children are forced to flee their homes in search of safety from persecution, violence and danger.

It is crucial that we make clear to both our governments, and the international community, that the Island of Ireland prioritises humanity and compassion, and that we want to play our part in supporting those who are forced to leave their homes and families through no fault of their own.

## **SPIN Extra....**

Give a gift of support @ [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) encourages churches of all denominations to take an eco-approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, community outreach and contact with the developing world.

But Fairtrade – Buy Ethical.

## **Meet the new Social Policy Team**



Cathy Doig  
Northern SP Rep.



Lesley Bayley  
Southern SP Rep.