



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

**20 Years Working in Ireland  
With Women Affected by Prostitution**

Ruhama, Senior House, All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

**Telephone:** 353 1 8360292

**Fax:** 353 1 8360268

**Email:** [admin@ruhama.ie](mailto:admin@ruhama.ie)

[www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie)



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

**Biennial Report  
2009**

**Telephone:** 353 1 8360292

[www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie)

# Biennial Report '07-'08

## Contents

	Page
<b>Chairperson's Report</b>	2.
<b>Director's Welcome</b>	3.
<b>Outreach and Casework Services to Women</b>	4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- INTRODUCTION</li><li>- STREET OUTREACH</li><li>- CASEWORK (General)</li><li>- CASEWORK (Specific to victims of Sex Trafficking)</li><li>- ISSUES DEALT WITH THROUGH RUHAMA'S CASEWORK</li><li>- SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH RUHAMA'S CASEWORK</li><li>- YEARLY STATISTICS FOR OUTREACH AND CASEWORK</li><li>- BREAKDOWN OF CASEWORK IN 2007 &amp; 2008</li><li>- AN ANALYSIS OF WORK WITH WOMEN WHO WERE PRESUMED VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING</li><li>- COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF ALL NEW PRESUMED VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING REFERRED TO RUHAMA IN 07/08</li><li>- COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF NEW PRESUMED VICTIMS REFERRED TO RUHAMA IN 07/08 (THE COUNTRY WHERE THE WOMAN/GIRLCHILD BECAME A VICTIM OF SEX TRAFFICKING)</li><li>- PROFILE OF WOMEN WHO WERE NEW PRESUMED VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING INTO AND AROUND IRELAND IN 07/08 (27 WOMEN IN 2007 AND 28 WOMEN IN 2008)</li></ul>	
<b>Development Programmes</b>	8.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. EXITING PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN WHO ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION</li><li>2. ONGOING EXITING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN WITH A HISTORY OF PROSTITUTION</li><li>3. INTEGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMMES</li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN 2007/2008</li><li>- CLASS HOURS FOR 2007/2008</li><li>- SOME OF THE PROGRAMMES OFFERED TO WOMEN IN 2007/2008</li></ul>	
<b>Testimonies</b>	10.
<b>Awareness Raising, Lobbying and Research</b>	13.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CAMPAIGNS</li><li>- LOBBYING</li><li>- RUHAMA IN THE MEDIA</li><li>- QUOTES FROM RUHAMA</li></ul>	
<b>Fundraising</b>	17.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY</li><li>- RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS</li><li>- EVENTS</li><li>- THE FUNDING FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS</li><li>- BENEFICIARY OF AWARDS CEREMONY</li><li>- FUNDRAISING EVENTS :<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FREEDOM KEYS CAMPAIGN</li><li>GRANTS/CORPORATE DONATIONS</li><li>DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS</li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>Detailed Income and Expenditure Account</b>	19.
<b>Other Information</b>	20.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DIRECTORS</li><li>FUNDERS</li><li>FRIENDS/SUPPORTERS</li><li>PATRONS</li><li>TRUSTEES</li></ul>	



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Chairperson's Foreword

## Director's Welcome

I am very pleased to present the 2007-2008 Biennial Report for Ruhama. The report highlights the much needed work of Ruhama in providing support services to women affected by prostitution.

We are publishing our report against a backdrop of very challenging times for the country and for our organisation. The country is grappling with a range of issues from economic decline, rising unemployment and weak public finances which are giving rising to grave concerns and uncertainty for the public and for organisations like Ruhama who are critically dependent on public funding to deliver our much needed services to some of the most marginalised and abused women in Ireland.

While the country may be in recession the sex trade is still thriving in Ireland and is not just confined to the major towns and cities. Technology such as the internet and the mobile phone has facilitated this expansion enabling all involved in the trade to operate with greater anonymity and invisibility.

The nature of the sex trade has changed dramatically in recent years and is now largely controlled by organised crime gangs, conducted in-doors with fewer women in street based prostitution. Research recently commissioned by the Immigrant Council of Ireland "Globalisation, Sex Trafficking and Prostitution" in which Ruhama was a key partner, concluded that 'there is a minimum of 1,000 women in indoor prostitution in Ireland at any one time' Demand for our services continues to grow and we are also encountering a relatively new but growing evil of women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. The number of victims of trafficking being supported by Ruhama has more than doubled since 2006 increasing from 25 cases in 2006 to 57 in 2008.

2008 saw the enactment of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act. Legislation that Ruhama had actively lobbied for and we welcome its enactment as a very positive development. There is now official recognition of the crime of human trafficking and a legislative framework is in place which criminalises the purchase of the services of trafficked victims. However, we have expressed major concerns at how some of those procedures are being applied, in particular the lack of victim centred approach or any mechanisms to ensure the victim's human rights entitlements are addressed, the fact that the legislation is positioned with an immigration framework rather than an organised crime framework and the inadequacy of the administrative structures to support the new legislation.

The focus of Ruhama over the coming years will be to continue to provide a range of emotional and practical supports to those affected by prostitution but we will also continue our work of raising awareness of prostitution as violence against women and a human rights abuse and we will increase our advocacy and lobbying efforts to bring about legislative and policy changes that recognises these human rights abuses and improves services for women abused by the sex trade.

Ruhama is very grateful to its sponsors for the continuing support and funding from the Probation and Welfare Service, HSE, The South Inner City Drug Task Force, the Commission for the Victims of Crime and to its many corporate and private donors.

Ruhama is also fortunate in its dedicated and committed staff and our large pool of volunteers who enable Ruhama to continue to offer support and services to some of the country's most marginalised and exploited women.



**Diarmaid Ó Corrbuí**  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

This year Ruhama celebrates its twentieth anniversary – an ideal opportunity to pause and take stock of the challenges, changes and achievements of the past two decades. Much has changed during that period and regrettably little has changed which reduces the number of women entering into prostitution or the inherent risks which impact on their daily lives. Yet we have made a very worthwhile contribution, as many women who have participated in our programmes have found the courage to take control of and reshape their lives.

In 1989 prostitution was very visible on the streets of Dublin but this has gradually changed over the years and today we are dealing with a predominantly indoor and more covert sex trade.

Ireland is now firmly enmeshed in the global sex trade bringing with it new problems and challenges not anticipated twenty years ago. Technology has played a big role in the expansion of the sex trade and enabling operators, and users to keep a low profile – it has also impacted on our ability to access women as they too are less visible on our streets today.

Though much has changed over the intervening years, the cornerstone of our response has remained constant. This involves reaching out to women, making individual contact; supporting them to make alternative life choices and helping them surmount the barriers they encounter along the way. The process through which this is achieved has of course broadened to meet with changing demands and through the years we have endeavoured to incorporate emerging best practice to respond to new challenges. Advocacy on behalf of our client group for improved services and for policy and legislative change to deal with commercial sexual exploitation has become a key part of our work. Our policies and approaches are informed by our direct experience of working with victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

In 1989 Ruhama's focus was on Irish women engaged in both indoor and street based prostitution. The turn of the century brought with it a new phenomenon – the cross-border trafficking of women into the expanding sex trade here. Since 2000 the number of victims of sex trafficking seeking our support has risen to over 200. And we believe this figure represents the tip of the iceberg. It is widely believed that many more are still trapped in this covert underground exploitation.

The victims of sex trafficking come from all parts of the world; it appears that no country is immune from the predations of this pernicious trade. But much could be done in destinations countries like Ireland by tackling the demand for sexual services which creates such lucrative business for the traffickers. The introduction of anti human trafficking legislation in Ireland last year while welcomed did not go far enough in this direction, yet tacking demand must be a key pillar of any effective policy to end human trafficking. So too must the protection of the victim's rights which should be placed at the heart of our response to the issue. Our advocacy agenda will place a high priority on achieving these ends over the coming years.

Each new decade to date has brought changes and challenges. The coming decade will be no exception, dominated as it will be for the foreseeable future by the economic recession and its impacts. The prospect of further cutbacks on top of what has already been sustained this past twelve months is a real concern. As an organization with already low overheads and a prudent approach to spending, there are few areas of expenditure that can be trimmed further without serious negative impact on programme delivery. Sadly if the trends demonstrated in the attached report continue, the need for our service is likely to increase. It is to be hoped that Ireland honours its responsibilities to this group of women whose lives have been shattered by the ruthlessness of the sex trade here, and that we do not subordinate their human rights and entitlements to the exigencies of our current financial situation.

Finally a word of thanks to all who have worked with us as staff members and volunteers over the past twenty years. Volunteers have played a key role in Ruhama from the beginning and are active in all strands of our work; in service provision, as board members and as patrons. Many professionals have provided services for free or at concessionary rates, thereby enabling us to stretch our resources further. We value the commitment, expertise, and fresh perspectives they all bring and also the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. Many others have organized fundraising events on our behalf and arranged public meetings to raise awareness of our work and the issues that concern us. Still others whose names are unknown to us have provided financial and other material support and above all took the trouble to connect a woman in need of support with our service. Finally thanks to the many funders both statutory and private, whose support has made the services described here possible. We look forward with confidence, trusting that this collective effort will be sustained over the next two decades so that Ruhama will continue to reach out to and bring hope to a very marginalised and exploited group of women.



**Kathleen Fahy**  
Director



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Outreach and Casework Services to Women

## Outreach and Casework Services to Women

**Ruhama provides a range of support services directly to women who are currently involved in prostitution; victims of sex trafficking; women with a history of prostitution and women at high risk of prostitution.**

### INTRODUCTION

This section of the report describes Ruhama's work in the following service areas:

- Street Outreach,
- General Casework with women affected by prostitution; whether still involved in prostitution or with a history of prostitution.
- Casework specifically to victims of the crime of sex trafficking.

### STREET OUTREACH

Since 1989 Ruhama has delivered an outreach service to women involved in street-based prostitution. Ruhama's outreach van is driven around Dublin's 'red light' district at night time and the back of the van is converted specially to allow women to sit inside, avail of a hot drink and have a chat with workers.

Usually a night's work in the Outreach van means making cups of tea or soup for the women and listening as they talk about their lives. From these encounters, trust is established and women's issues begin to surface in their conversations. As well as this listening ear and positive encouragement, Ruhama's workers are able to offer women information on services they could avail of and with the woman's consent set up a referral to the appropriate services. The gradual work done through the outreach workers with the women in street prostitution often leads to a woman becoming a 'case' i.e. one that is supported through Ruhama's casework structure.

The outreach van is a vital and crucial part of the organisation's workings and would not have been possible over the last 20 years without the time and dedication of Ruhama's volunteers, on which the outreach service predominantly relies.

The number of women in street-based prostitution has decreased in recent years and the majority of women are currently drug users. It is an even greater challenge for women in street-based prostitution to exit the life when they have acquired a further addiction to serious drugs. However with adequate supports in place, many women have achieved staying clean from drugs and getting out of prostitution. The journey out of prostitution and serious addiction may involve relapses along the way for many women. Ruhama's Street Outreach service is always there to meet the women in a non-judgemental way and encourages the women to continue on their journey towards a life free of addiction and abuse.

We are happy to know of numerous women in street-based prostitution who have availed of support from Ruhama over the 20 years and who have exited prostitution. Meeting these women today and seeing their lives free from prostitution and all the risks that goes with it, acts as a positive reminder and inspiration to continue the work.

Further outreach targeting women affected by prostitution takes place weekly in the Dochas Centre (Women's prison, Dublin) and a shelter for homeless women.

### CASEWORK (General)

Women are referred into Ruhama's casework either through Ruhama's outreach service, by self referral or from other service providers. Each woman is assigned a key-worker or caseworker who works on a one-to-one basis.

Due to the women's different experiences of prostitution and at what point (whether active in prostitution, in the process of exiting the life or have a history of prostitution) they may come to Ruhama for help, our services will vary greatly.

The range of issues dealt with by Ruhama's casework team and the services provided are outlined at the end of the Casework section in this report.

Many women are referred by caseworkers to Ruhama's Development team to access education, training and resettlement programmes.

Due to Ruhama's long term work in Ireland, an 'aftercare' service is also given to women who have been known to Ruhama for a number of years. Usually these women no longer need high intensity support but might occasionally need some assistance.

### CASEWORK (Specific to victims of Sex Trafficking)

Since 2000 Ruhama has been providing a range of services to women who are victims of the crime of sex trafficking. Most of these women have been trafficked into Ireland but some were trafficked into other countries and escaped to Ireland for help.

Ruhama makes contact with victims of sex trafficking through referrals from other agencies, including the Gardai, refugee services, the medical or legal profession and social workers. We also meet victims through our outreach service in the Dochas Centre and by referrals from the general public.

When Ruhama first meets a presumed victim of trafficking and depending on the woman's physical and psychological state, a member of staff will carry out an initial assessment, to establish her needs and also to begin the process of identifying whether the woman is a victim of the crime of sex trafficking.

The assessment process is ongoing and it is crucial that the emphasis during those initial meetings is on establishing trust with the presumed victim.

However due to the nature of the crime of sex trafficking, Ruhama may have to respond quickly with crisis intervention to the presumed victims of trafficking; for instance this may be when a woman has just escaped or been rescued from a brothel by Gardai. In these situations, Ruhama offers immediate safe accommodation, material and emotional support. After the woman's primary needs are met, Ruhama may begin a more formal assessment process and a care plan.

Usually casework with a presumed victim of trafficking will involve starting the process to apply for her residency status (whether that is temporary or permanent leave to remain in Ireland). Up until June 2008, the only residency option open to presumed victims of sex trafficking was the asylum process. Since June 2008, the Department of Justice put in place a 60-days Recovery and Reflection period for suspected victims and during that time suspected victims can not be deported from the state. A further 6-month renewable Temporary Residency Permit is available to victims who co-operate with the criminal investigation. While Ruhama met a significant number of new referrals after June 2008 only one woman was granted the Recovery and Reflection period by the end of 2008.

Due to the fact that most victims of sex trafficking are non-Irish nationals and have no, or very few, contacts they can trust in the country, Ruhama also acts as an advocate on their behalf in accessing the appropriate services.

Ruhama can provide safe crisis accommodation for presumed victims of sex trafficking. These 10 places are based around the country, including Northern Ireland. Service providers who have come in contact with women who needed immediate safe accommodation for a short term period have used this service.

### Issues dealt with through Ruhama's Casework

- General and mental health
- Exiting prostitution
- Immigration and residency issue
- Integration
- Child care
- Lack of suitable accommodation
- Addiction
- Isolation
- Victims of crime

### Services provided through Ruhama's Casework

- Advocacy; we advocate on behalf of the women with other services i.e. social services, Gardai, courts, welfare, etc.
- Referral to other services
- General practical and material support
- Befriending
- Court accompaniment
- Accompaniment and support to suspected victims of crime as they participate in the criminal investigations.
- Repatriation
- Crisis accommodation
- Counselling
- Social Integration
- Court reports

### YEARLY STATISTICS FOR OUTREACH AND CASEWORK

Number of Individual Women supported through the Street Outreach Service:

Year	2007	2008	Total
Street Outreach Service (Van)	92	75	167

Number of women supported through Ruhama's Case Work:

Year	2007	2008	Total
Casework (General)	42	44	86
Casework (Victim of Trafficking)	43	57	100
Total	85	101	186

[Note: 12 women met in our Street Outreach Service for 2007/08 also went on to avail of our case work service. This leave the total of individual women supported by Ruhama in 2007/08 as 186 + 167 (-12) = 341]

### BREAKDOWN OF CASEWORK IN 2007

A total of 85 women were supported through Ruhama's Casework Service

- 42 of these women had experiences of prostitution or were at risk of prostitution (women were either in street-based or off-street prostitution).
- 43 of these women were presumed victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation

A total of 92 women were supported through Ruhama's Street Outreach Service and 9 of these women are included in the statistics for casework, as they went on to work with Ruhama on a casework level.

### BREAKDOWN OF CASEWORK IN 2008

A total of 101 women were supported through Ruhama's Casework Service

- 44 of these women had experiences of prostitution or were at risk of prostitution (women were either in street based or off street prostitution).
- 57 of these women were presumed victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

A total of 75 women were supported through Ruhama's Street Outreach Service and 3 of these women are included in the statistics for casework, as they went on to work with Ruhama on a casework level.



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Outreach and Casework Services to Women

## Outreach and Casework Services to Women

### AN ANALYSIS OF WORK WITH WOMEN WHO WERE PRESUMED VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

In **2007** Ruhama worked with **43 women** who were presumed victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

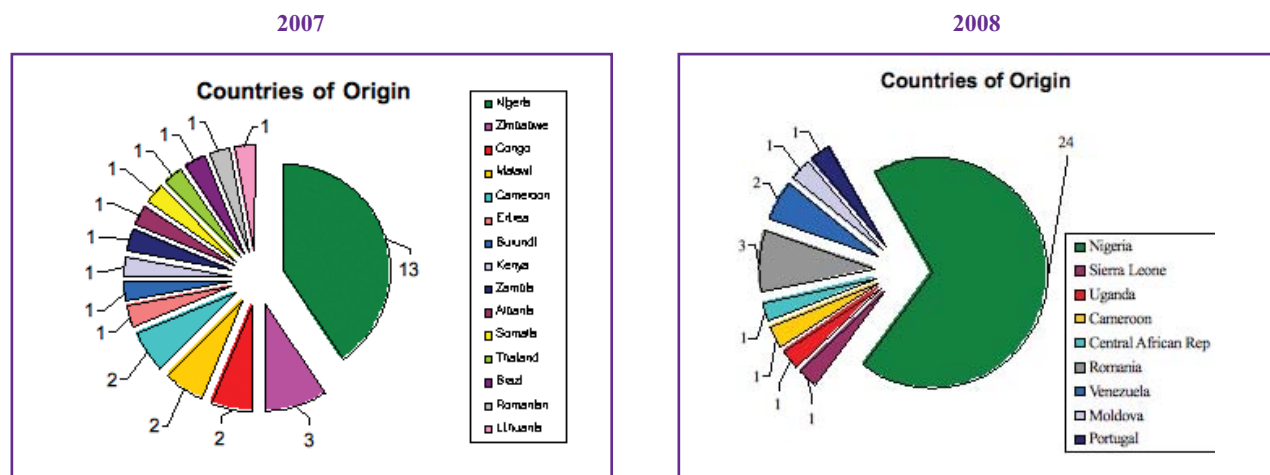
- 32 women were a new referral in the year 2007 (27 of the new referrals were trafficked into Ireland)
- 11 women made their first contact with Ruhama prior to 2007 and continued to avail of our support in 2007

In **2008** Ruhama worked with **57 women** who were presumed victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

- 35 women were a new referral in the year 2008 (28 of the new referrals were trafficked into Ireland)
- 22 women made their first contact with Ruhama prior to 2008 (15 women who were new referrals in 2007 were continuing to avail of Ruhama's support in 2008)

### COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF ALL NEW PRESUMED VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING REFERRED TO RUHAMA IN 2007/08

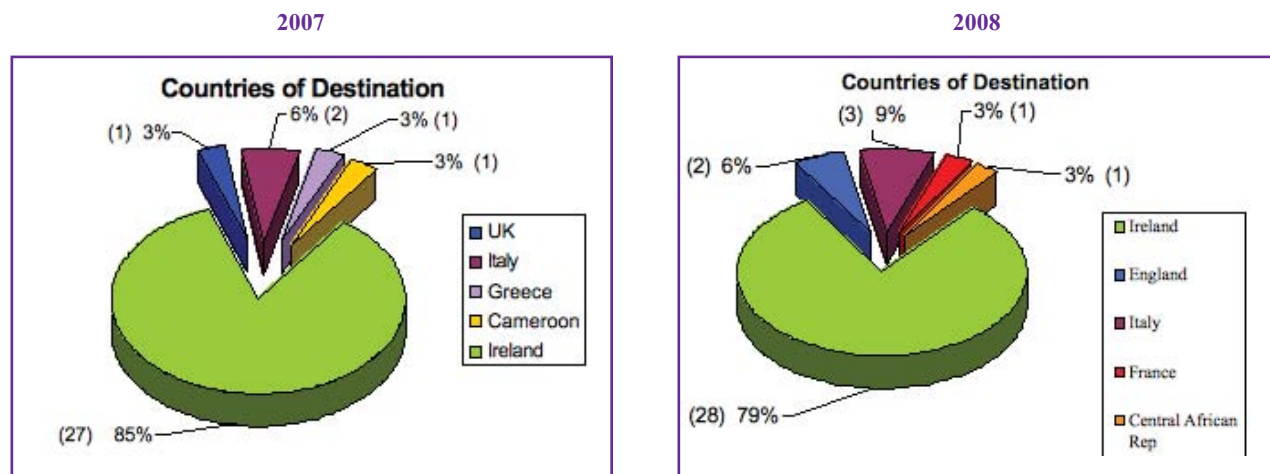
The new referrals of women to Ruhama as presumed victims of trafficking for 2007/08 were from the following countries:



### COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF NEW PRESUMED VICTIMS REFERRED TO RUHAMA IN 2007/08 (THE COUNTRY WHERE THE WOMAN/GIRLCHILD BECAME A VICTIM OF SEX TRAFFICKING)

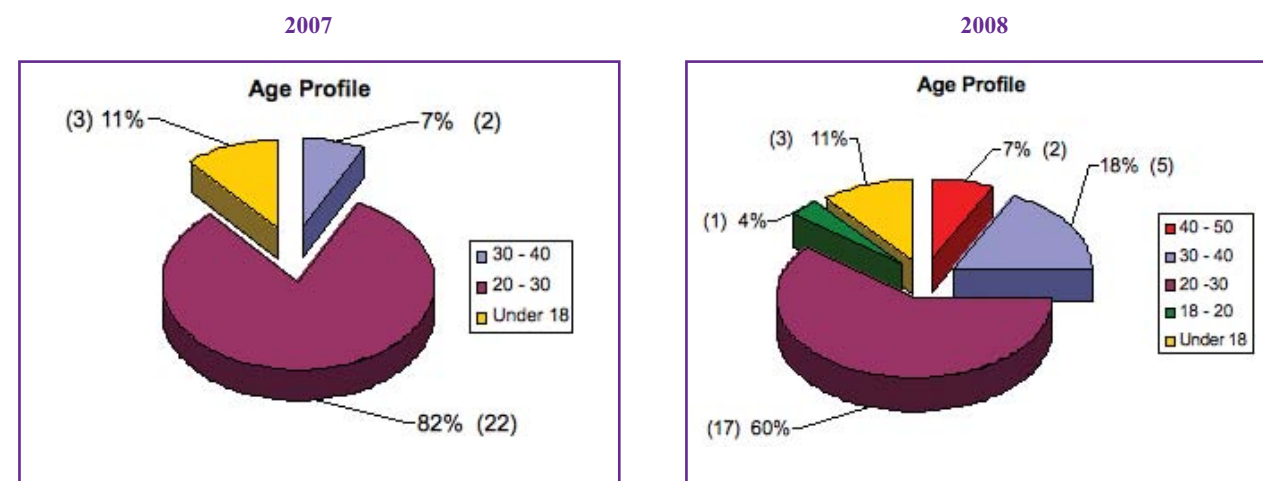
The 'country of destination' is the country where the woman/girlchild was trafficked into or within for sexual exploitation. Ruhama has worked with a number of new women (5 in 2007 and 7 in 2008) who were presumed victims of sex trafficking in countries such as England, Greece, Italy and France but who escaped to Ireland.

However the largest percentage of NEW presumed victims of sex trafficking that Ruhama worked in 2007/08 with were trafficked into and around Ireland; - 27 in 2007 and 28 in 2008.

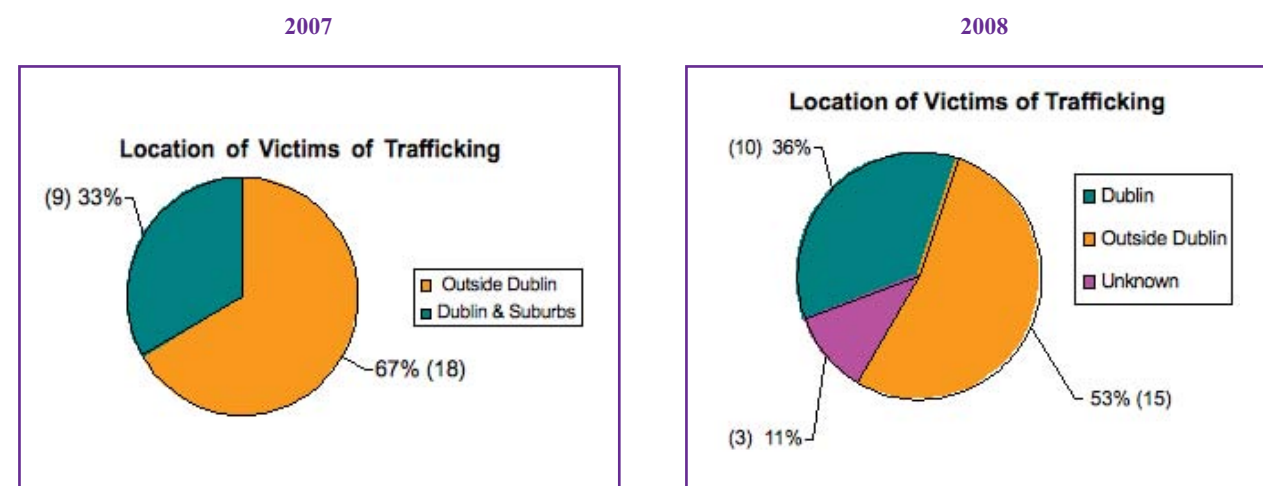


### PROFILE OF WOMEN WHO WERE NEW PRESUMED VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING INTO AND AROUND IRELAND IN 2007/2008 (27 WOMEN IN 2007 AND 28 WOMEN IN 2008)

**AGE:** Most women in both years were between 20 and 30 years of age, however Ruhama also worked with 6 minors in 2007/2008.



### THE LOCATION IN IRELAND where the NEW referrals of presumed victims of trafficking were involved in prostitution;



The majority of women met as new referrals in 2007 and 2008 were located in prostitution **outside of the Dublin** area and some women were in multiple locations around the country.

Further evidence that the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation is a cross border crime on the island of Ireland; Ruhama worked with **three** women in 2007 and **four** women in 2008 who were trafficked into or through **Northern Ireland**.



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Development Programmes

## Development Programmes

**Ruhama addresses the effects of prostitution on women's lives by providing a range of therapeutic activities and development programmes.**

The Development programmes aim to

- build self esteem and confidence
- foster independence and integration
- encourage self care

Development programmes have a special emphasis on education and training as a means of empowering women.

The Development Programmes fall into 3 categories;

### 1. Exiting Programmes for Women who are Currently Involved in Prostitution

Most of the women we meet who are currently involved in prostitution would like to leave the life but don't know how to or don't have the supports necessary to help them exit.

Ruhama's Development programmes are a critical component in helping women leave prostitution and reintegrate into mainstream society.

All programmes in Development are tailored to match the individual woman's needs and abilities. Women can avail of Personal Development, Counselling, Education and Skills Training.

Women can choose to attend classes at Ruhama's Centre or with our support can access education and training in their local area.

One to one support is provided to participants in the Development programme.

We arrange mentoring support where women are engaging in new areas of study. We also support women who wish to take up third level studies.

Many participants have entered mainstream employment following success in their studies.

### 2. Ongoing Exiting Support for Women with a History of Prostitution

Ruhama also provides support to women who have a history of prostitution and who do not want to return to the life. One to one key-worker support is provided along with counselling and skills training. Because of the stigma of prostitution women often feel they have no where to go to talk about the issues relating to their experience in prostitution. Ruhama provides an experienced, non-judgemental, confidential support service to women with a history of prostitution.

### 3. Integration and Resettlement programmes

Ruhama helps women to rebuild their lives after leaving prostitution; this includes Irish women and women who have been trafficked across international borders into prostitution.

Programme elements to assist integration and resettlement:

- *Personal development*
- *Life Skills*
- *Counselling and alternative therapies*
- Woman can avail of *key-worker one to one support*
- *Advocacy*; we advocate on behalf of women to relevant services i.e. Gardai, courts, welfare, social and residency services
- Support in accessing private *accommodation*
- Help with *claiming benefits*
- *Budgeting*
- *Education* provided by Ruhama or support in accessing education locally (nationwide)
- *Skills training*
- *Cookery & nutrition*
- Support in *CV writing and job seeking*
- *Social integration*; A one-to-one befriending service is offered to women to address the social isolation resulting from prostitution. The Development team also organize social outings and events.

### STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN 2007/2008

No of Women Linked with Development:

	2007	2008
No. of Women	21	37

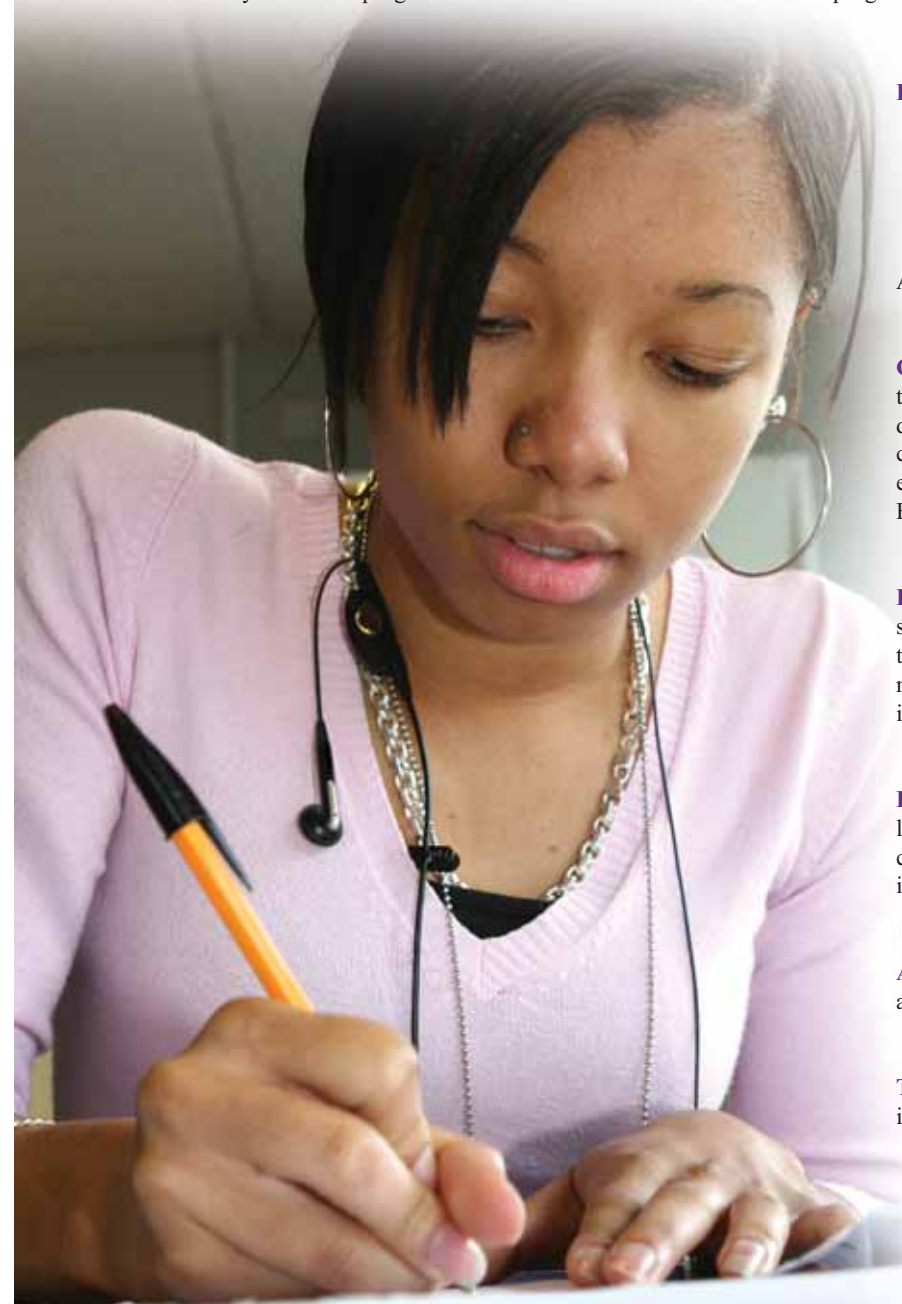
Most women took part in Ruhama's in-house programmes, with a small number receiving financial support to participate in external courses at private colleges, partnership courses and VEC schools/colleges in Dublin and other locations; -including Cork, Tipperary, Sligo, Kildare and Galway.

### CLASS HOURS FOR 2007/2008

English & Literacy	640	Computers	178
Art	26	Study support	10
Reflexology	182	Stress management & Relaxation	62
Drumming	40	Counselling	93
Art therapy	140	Steps Programme	18
Driving test theory	4		

### SOME OF THE PROGRAMMES OFFERED TO WOMEN IN 2007/2008

**Personal Development (STEPS)** – Nine women took part in the STEPS personal development programme which took place over the course of 8 weeks. Normally Ruhama's programmes are one-to-one however the STEPS programme offered an opportunity for peer support.



**Holistic Therapies:** Ruhama offers a variety of therapies to women

- Counselling
- Art therapy
- Reflexology
- Stress Management
- Relaxation

All therapies are provided free of charge to the service user.

**Computers** – With the business world becoming increasingly technology-reliant, computers and IT skills classes are always in demand by women trying to enter the workforce. Often computer classes are chosen by women as part of their pre-entry into education. Women have gone on to complete several levels of FETAC Word Processing Modules.

**English** – An increasing number of women accessing Ruhama's service over the last decade do not have English as their mother tongue and some have no English at all. Ruhama empowers migrant women by providing English classes to help them integrate into mainstream society and further their educational opportunities.

**Literacy** – Some women accessing Ruhama were early school leavers and benefit from attending literacy classes. These classes contribute towards rebuilding their self esteem and help them move into further education.

**Art** – The art classes help women develop their creative abilities and can be an opportunity for relaxation.

**Third Level Education** – Study support has been given to women in third level education.



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Testimonies

### Testimonies

I was introduced to Ruhama nearly 10 years ago when I was working on the streets.

I used to go into the van for a cup of tea and a chat. I eventually went into treatment for drug abuse. Ruhama always gave me support and kept in touch with me throughout the treatment.

When I went back to education they helped me with my projects by allowing me to use their computers and giving me guidance. Ruhama also helped me with my crèche fees and still do to this day. I would not be able to do anything without having the kids at crèche.

I've also got a lot of support over the years with counselling and outreach. I owe a lot to the staff of Ruhama for the support and friendship I've been given over the years. I would never have the words to thank them, they are a big part in my life.

Anne

[Anne is Irish – was involved in street-based prostitution - she left prostitution nine years ago - is drug free and in part time employment. Anne now has her own home and family]

When I came to this country I was in hell, day and night. I cried for help because my situation was very bad.

I have no family, no relative, no friends to shelter me.

Then one day, a miracle happened. What I had been waiting for; - I find shelter through people I did not know; - which was Ruhama. They help me as if they were my family. They did what my parents can not do for me. They give me a place to stay, food to eat, love and care..... so many things, now I am the happiest person in the world. I now have peace in my life because of Ruhama.

In Ruhama you will find whatever you wanted and dreamt of doing in life. I am now doing a course and this is what I never thought would happen me because of how I came to this country and my situation.

Thanks,  
Katie

[Katie is from Africa – became a victim of sex trafficking in Ireland's indoor sex trade – is now free from the traffickers, away from prostitution and is recovering from the trauma. She is currently a student]

I was forced into prostitution at an early age and did not know what sex was until the clients showed me. It was terrifying but I knew I had to do sexual things or they would have killed me.

Ruhama helped me to look at what I had to do and showed me I was not to blame. They helped me to feel like a human being because I had never felt human. Since going to Ruhama I feel I am living a better life. I have found that being involved with Ruhama has helped a great deal, for example I have stopped trying to scrub my skin off to get rid of the men because I always had felt dirty. They helped me to realise that I did it to survive, because for years I couldn't get rid of the guilt.

When I got away from prostitution I thought there would be no more pain and no more sadness. But when one has worked as a prostitute, one finds that it affects your mind and how one feels for the rest of one's life. It was not something you can do for a while and then carry on as normal. It is not possible.

It was some 20 years later when I found out about Ruhama. At first I did not trust them but over time I found them to be a great help to my life and when I have a bad day they are always there to help me.

I would say to any woman considering prostitution, do not do it, because it affects your whole life and the sadness never goes away. If one feels they are being made go into prostitution by a family member or a boyfriend, go to the police, they will help you and protect you from harm. It will never be glamorous and you will never make loads of money. You will spend the rest of your life being affected by it. You will always feel dirty and unwanted and you will also not be able to trust anyone, you will always believe you're to blame. It's cold and miserable life.

Christine

[Christine is Irish and was forced into street prostitution when she was a teenager by a family member. Christine did not know Ruhama when she was involved in prostitution but went to Ruhama for help 10 years after she had left prostitution because she still suffered from its effects. Christine is in her final year of university studies and is engaged to be married]

To protect their identities all names have been changed in these testimonies

I came to Ireland for a better life trusting my helper. Few days later I became a prisoner, I was locked in a room, they were using me to make money. I was forced to have sex with different men which was organised by them. After sleeping with the men they paid money and my organisers would come and collect it from me.

I became useless, meaningless, helpless and hopeless. No person to speak to, my world was turned upside down, no freedom. I have to do what they say to do not what I want to do; - it was like hell. I was dying in silence.

The place was new to me I don't know what to do, I don't know police station not to talk of running away. I began to cry.

I was left with one person which was my God. I was always with my bible which was my last hope. I cried and prayed to God to help me out of this problem. I was not a happy woman, I was feeling bad.

Next day the Garda came to my room and brought me to Ruhama in the middle of the night.

Beginning of my joy! I was taken to a safe house where I met 2 women who worked for Ruhama. They showed me love and care in the house. I was hungry that night and they gave me food to eat. They showed me to a room. I was crying and the woman encouraged me and advised me that I will be okay.

The next day the worker took me shopping for some nice things. I then met another worker and told her my story, she gave me hope and courage. I feel like life again, I became free.

I enjoyed staying in this accommodation, I really miss them now but life has to move on. I was told that I have a new place to stay.

On the day that happened to be my birthday I moved into my new apartment. Get key to the door.

Ruhama workers help me every week, they make me realise that I can make it again. They organize classes for me which bring me back to my education; - my lost glory was found! I became positive in my life.

I trust Ruhama, they gave me hope, courage, helpful, useful, reliable; - my family. They give me all that I need and I am free to go as I like. I have also learned to trust people again.

I am free like a bird with Ruhama at my side.

Thank you. God bless, **Obioma**

[Obioma is from Nigeria – she was trafficked into Ireland for the purpose of prostitution when she was 17 years old. She is now free from the traffickers and out of prostitution. She is recovery from the trauma and is currently a student]

My name is Sade. I am from Nigeria. I came into this country a few years ago by a man called Mr Weke who brought me from Nigeria. He promised to send me to school and help me because of the problem that I had with my father.

I was happy to escape from this trouble, thinking it was all over, little did I know that it is another nightmare. Mr Weke put me in a room, I met 4 other ladies there. Mr Weke raped me and slapped me that night. He brought in other men and turned me into a prostitute; - that I would never think or dream of for my life.

One of the men who came to me noticed that I was not happy, he promised to help me. He took me out of the house and to a place he said they would help me. He left me there and drove off. I didn't know where I was and I started crying, a worker in the building came to me and asked me what happened, I told him and he took me into an office.

A young man working in the office gave me a card of Ruhama; that they help women involved in prostitution. He told me that he would call Ruhama and that they would visit me. I was so scared.

I thank Almighty God that when I met Ruhama it's a different story. Just like a dream come true they show me love, support, encourage me.

My key worker is now like a sister to me, that if I didn't speak with her for 1 week I wouldn't be comfortable.

I don't know where to start expressing my feelings. It was a bad experience at the first place but I thank God for today.

With the love and kindness and support they show to me. I cant thank Ruhama enough; - was it the surprise birthday or the encouragement for my pregnancy of unknown father, the words of encouragement to me to keep going on in life. They put me in school. It was like a dream come true to me.

They care for me and my baby, they shower me with a lot of love. My class teacher was like a mother to me. I got a lot of love from the whole staff

Thanks a lot, you are more than a family.

Happy 20th Anniversary! **Sade**

[Sade was a victim of sex trafficking in Ireland's indoor sex trade – she became pregnant while enslaved in the sex trade but is now free from the traffickers, away from prostitution and is recovering from the trauma. Sade's baby was born during the year and she is adjusting to motherhood. Ruhama continues to support her and her baby.]



**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Testimonies

J first came in contact with Ruhama through the Womens Health Project, when J was having a check up.

J was young, naive and had trusted the wrong people, leading me into a life of prostitution for their own personal gain.

The staff at Ruhama have been amazing over the years; there was always a sense of being listened to, without the fear of judgement, which is so prevalent in society, and particularly so in the rural Irish community which J come from.

As well as offering a listening ear, and lunch on several occasions, one staff member also helped me re-write my CV, and even suitable clothing, to help me on my way to more fulfilling employment.

Whilst I'm not completely where J want to be in my life, J can say that it would have taken me longer to make the progress J have made without Ruhama. My inner life is so much better, and the depression is gone.

J will be eternally grateful for the support Ruhama has given me, through non-judgemental empathy and practical guidance.

Love and Best Wishes, Michelle

[Michelle is from Ireland – was coerced into the indoor sector of the Irish sex trade – first made contact with Ruhama in early 2002 – is now out of prostitution and in employment. She continues to recover from the experience of prostitution and admits she finds it a struggle at times not to return but her ultimate goal is to be free from prostitution.]

J probable would be six feet under only for Ruhama!

J was abused as a child by a family member. When J was 16 a cousin introduced me to street prostitution. J didn't know what to do but she showed me everything. J took drink to blank the men out of my head and take away the fear.

J had no education, nothing behind me; no way of looking for a job....J was only street wise. J went through the war on the street, being arrested, assaulted by punters and pimps.

J first met Ruhama in 1989 when they came on the street in the van, J would sit and chat with them, they also visited me in my home.

One night while on the streets, a man picked me up and drove me up the mountains. He held me captive and sexually assaulted me. J escaped and ran help. J was battered from him and J knew J couldn't go through that again. J experience a lot of violence; terrible violence while in prostitution.

J knew about Ruhama's education programmes and J started to get involved in them. J started with an English course, then J got a job as a waitress, J then went on to do a course as a chef.

Later J went to a personal development course in Ruhama and that made me realise J had to give up the drink, that was one area J hadn't dealt with. The course also helped me to be able to say no to people.

Ruhama gave me confidence to be a better woman and get a better life. J remember going on Ruhama's day trips years ago, they were the start of the good life, J enjoyed meeting people at these social events.

J have no fear now, J have a good life. J got where J am today by getting my education. J worked hard to get where J am today.

There was no life on the streets, that life is gone behind years ago and J have a good life now!

Sandra

[Sandra is Irish – She is now in employment and also volunteers with a number of charity organisations. Ruhama continues to give Sandra ongoing support.]

## Awareness Raising, Lobbying and Research

### Campaigns:

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

##### FEBRUARY 2007: Freedom Key Campaign

Ruhama launched the Freedom Key campaign in February 2007. The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness of the vast number of women around the world who have been enslaved in prostitution through trafficking.

The Freedom Key campaign entailed a specially designed keyring which went on sale nationwide. The public were asked to purchase the keyring to help raise awareness of the issue. This campaign was in coalition with the international Stop the Traffik campaign which was launched in Brussels in 2006 by then MEP, Simon Coveney.

##### MARCH 2007: Petition calling for Anti-Trafficking legislation in Ireland

On Sunday the 25th March, 2007 Ruhama decided to mark the bicentenary anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade by going onto the Streets of Dublin to raise awareness of a contemporary form of slavery, namely trafficking in persons.

The general public was asked to sign a petition calling on the Irish Government to enact Anti-Trafficking legislation in Ireland and to sign the Council of Europe Convention to Combat Human Trafficking.

Volunteers helping Ruhama on the day received a great reception from the general public, with many people showing their concern for the issue and signing our petition.

Freedom Key keyrings were also distributed by Ruhama workers during the day.



Pictured Above: People in Grafton Street signing the petition, asking the Irish Government for legislation to protect victims of trafficking on the Bicentenary Anniversary of the Abolition of Transnational Slavery.

##### OCTOBER 2007: INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WITH MULTI-LINGUAL LEAFLET IN CO-OPERATION WITH AN GARDA SIOCHANA

In October 2007, to mark the first every European Anti Trafficking day, Ruhama launched a new initiative to encourage women who are victims of sex trafficking to seek help. This awareness campaign was ran in conjunction with the Garda to make the public more aware of sex trafficking and to help women find information about the help available. Leaflets and posters were created to explain how women could get in contact with Ruhama. The leaflets and posters explain the support and assistance the organisation can offer and Gardai distributed the information in Garda stations across the country. The literature was in several languages, including Russian, Romanian, Nigerian, French, Portuguese and Chinese.



##### JANUARY 2008: ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF THE LAP DANCING CLUB INDUSTRY

In January 2008, Ruhama spoke at a conference 'Human Trafficking and the Sex Industry' in Kilkenny. This conference was organised by the city's Mayor, Marie Fitzpatrick, and Labour Women, the women's section of the Labour Party.

##### Lap dance bars 'lead to rise in sex trafficking'

"And those who start out working in the legal end of the sex trade -- such as lap dancers -- often end up selling their bodies for sex", Gerardine Rowley of Ruhama, the organisation that works with women caught up in prostitution, told the public meeting in Kilkenny city yesterday.

"This industry is about the grooming and normalization of prostitution".

"The competitive element of lap dancing, where one girl has to give a better dance than the next, means boundaries are lowered and women find themselves sliding into prostitution."

Ms Rowley said few people saw the link between trafficking and sex clubs and if they were more aware, it would discourage their use'.

By Larissa Nolan – 27th January, 2008 - Sunday Independent.





**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Awareness Raising, Lobbying and Research

## Awareness Raising, Lobbying and Research

### JANUARY 2008: CAMPAIGN TO CRIMINALIZE THE PURCHASE OF SEXUAL SERVICES IN IRELAND

Ruhama invited the Agneta Bucknell, the former head of the Prostitution Centre, Social Services, Sweden to Dublin in January 2008 to tell of their experience of the affects of the new law which was enacted in Sweden in 1999 which criminalizes the purchase of sexual services. Ms. Bucknell met with Ruhama, government officials and politicians while she was in Ireland.



*Pictured Left: Kathleen Fahy, Director, Ruhama, Agneta Bucknell, Social Services, Sweden and Gerardine Rowley, Ruhama.*

*"Our legislation in Sweden has significantly reduced the impact of organized crime as it relates to trafficking and the knock on affect has been a positive impact on the numbers of women being trafficked into our country"* stated Ms. Bucknell in her presentation.

In addressing the responsibilities of Irish legislators Agneta Bucknell said, *"They have a responsibility to protect these vulnerable and abused women. The Irish government will fail in its efforts to combat international criminals involved in trafficking if it does not criminalize the service users and traffickers.*

*Unless we challenge the demand side of prostitution (that is the purchasers of sexual services) it will always continue to be a blight on our society. To combat organized crime we need to send out a clear message that Ireland does not tolerate traffickers of women and children."*

During Ms Bucknell's visit Ruhama stated *"We still have concerns about the emerging Trafficking legislation and we believe that Ireland needs to send out a clear message that the purchasing of women for sexual services is a crime. We in Ireland need to follow the Swedish model where the purchaser of sexual services is criminalized. After drugs and arms, human trafficking is the third largest area of criminal activity in the world. Ireland needs to take a stand against organized crime and having the correct legislation in place is crucial to achieving this."*

### JUNE 2008: MTV EXIT CAMPAIGN AND RADIOHEAD

The band Radiohead supported the MTV EXIT campaign against human trafficking ([www.mtvexit.org](http://www.mtvexit.org)) and during their concerts in Dublin in June 2008, Ruhama volunteers distributed MTV EXIT campaign information packs to concert goers. The packs contained a DVD and information about the phenomenon of human trafficking.

*Pictured Right: Joan Adams, a volunteer with Ruhama distributing MTV EXIT campaign awareness packs on Human Trafficking at the Radiohead concert in Malahide Castle, Dublin.*



### NOVEMBER 2008: LAUNCH OF NEW TV ADVERTISEMENT CAMPAIGN



In November 2008, Mary O'Rourke, TD and patron of Ruhama, launched Ruhama's TV advertisement campaign, targeted at men who purchase sexual services from women in the sex trade. This was the first time ever an advertisement of this kind was broadcast on national TV. The advertisement captured the scenario of how a woman becomes a victim of sex trafficking and how the men who use the women contribute to this growing crime in Ireland. The advertisement concluded with the clear message that under Ireland's new anti trafficking legislation it was now a criminal offence to purchase sexual services from a victim of sex trafficking. The advertisement was shown on RTE, TV 3 and Setanta Sports TV channels.

Kathleen Fahy, director of Ruhama said: *"This campaign focuses on the users of trafficked women, those who buy sexual services and without whom the trade in human flesh would not be so lucrative". "It was time to bring the buyers to prominence in the evil crime of sex trafficking"*, she added.

**The Irish Times, 11th November, 2008**

*Pictured Left: Scene from Advertisement*

*Pictured Right: Kathleen Fahy, Director of Ruhama; Mary O'Rourke TD and Patron of Ruhama and Marion Walsh, Executive Director of the Anti Human Trafficking Unit in the Department of Justice*



The TV advertisement and a short film called 'The New Recruit' (both can be found on Ruhama's web site) were produced by Stoney Road films and were funded by the Anti Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice, under the Gender Equality Unit.

Both the TV advertisement and short film is being used as a resource for trainers, including the Department of Education in their development of a module to students on the issue of human trafficking.

### TRAINING/SEMINARS/RESEARCH

Ruhama provides training on how to work with women affected by prostitution and the issue of sex trafficking to other professionals, including; An Garda Siochana, PSNI, DRCC, midwifery and nursing students in the Sexual Assault Unit of the Rotunda Hospital and Cork Partnership Asylum Seekers group.

Talks at Seminars included: Labour Women's Party Conferences – Kilkenny and Sligo, Women's Aid AGM– Carlow, Human Rights Centre – Queen's University, Belfast. Awareness Raising seminar on human trafficking to professionals in Galway.

Ruhama gave talks to secondary school students and invested a substantial amount of resources in supporting academics in their research dealing with different areas of the sex trade. In 2007, Ruhama contributed information to the research published by NUI Galway 'The nature and extent of human trafficking in Ireland'.

### Lobbying:

#### THE CRIMINAL LAW (HUMAN TRAFFICKING) ACT 2008

The publication of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Bill in October 2007 was welcomed by Ruhama and we followed the legislative process closely as the Bill went through the houses of the Oireachtas. Submissions were given to politicians and Ruhama lobbied for the protection and assistance of victims to be included in this Bill.

The Government did not accept any amendments to provide victim protection in the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Bill and decided to place all protection measures for victims within the Immigration Residency and Protection Bill which was published in January 2008.

Ruhama believed that the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Bill was not complete in combating the crime of human trafficking if it did not deal with the demand which is fueling the market in sex trafficking. Ruhama lobbied for this amendment to the Bill by sending submissions and letters to politicians. The Minister of Justice accepted an amendment put forward to criminalize those who solicit sexual services from victims of human trafficking.

Another significant development in Ireland's fight against human trafficking was the establishment of a new Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in the Department of Justice in January 2008. The AHTU set up various working groups and Ruhama participate in a number of these groups.

#### THE IMMIGRATION RESIDENCY AND PROTECTION BILL 2008

The Immigration Residency and Protection Bill was published in January 2008, it contains measures to protect the victims of human trafficking. Ruhama has continued its lobby for adequate protection for victims and sent further submissions to politicians for amendments to this Bill, particularly highlighting the need for a longer recovery and reflection period and the use of discretion to give victims leave to remain on humanitarian grounds after a number of temporary residence permits. Ruhama has also lobbied that the protection of victims must not be conditional on cooperation with criminal investigations but must be based on the human rights of the victim.

The protection measures outlined for victims of human trafficking in the Immigration Residency & Protection Bill, are reflected in the Department of Justice's administrative procedures, which went into force in June 2008, with the enactment of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008. Since then, Ruhama has expressed concerns at how some of those procedures are applied, in particular the granting of the recovery and reflection period to suspected victims of trafficking.

#### US STATE DEPARTMENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT

Each year Ruhama contributes to the collation of data on human trafficking in Ireland for the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. When the 2007 US TIP report was issued it caused concern for Ruhama and other Irish NGO's working in the area of human trafficking. A meeting was held by the NGO groups to discuss how the issue of human trafficking in Ireland was presented in the report and how Ireland was placed in the top rank (Tier 1) in the report. This did not seem an adequate representation, since Ireland had not yet enacted any anti trafficking legislation. A press release was issued from the Irish NGO groups and a follow up meeting was held with US embassy officials in Dublin. The following year Ireland was ranked Tier 2 in the TIP Report and some groups felt this was a more realistic representation of the situation in Ireland.

### Ruhama in the Media:

- 'I was kidnapped and forced in prostitution'**  
17th February 2008; Sunday Tribune by Ali Bracken
- Launch of the first ever Irish media campaign directly targeting people who buy sex**  
10th November 2008, RTE News on Two, Laura Fletcher
- Country in grip of 'huge prostitution trafficking'**  
13th September, 2007, Irish Examiner by Evelyn Ring
- 200 trafficked sex workers who sought help 'just tip of the iceberg'**  
13th February, 2007, Irish Independent by Breda Heffernan
- Tackling the trafficking**  
21st November, 2007, Dublin Informer by Suzanne Altman
- Ads targets men who use trafficked women**  
11th November 2008, Irish Examiner by Caroline O' Doherty
- Drug habits force women to keep working the streets**  
23rd January, 2007, Irish Examiner by Stephen Rogers
- Ruhama asks the Question; 'Should lapdancing clubs be banned in Ireland?'**  
4 February 2008; RTE Questions And Answers



**RUHAMAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Awareness Raising, Lobbying and Research

**Held captive with drugs, degradation and abuse**  
16th November 2008, The Sunday Independent by Carol Hunt

**Call to amend Bill to protect trafficking victims**  
12th December 2008, The Irish Times by Ruadhan Mac Cormaic

**Call to free jailed sex trafficking victim**  
20th December 2008, The Irish Times by Tom Shiel

**Nigerian girl trafficked for sex trade goes missing from HSE**  
10th September 2008; Irish Times by Dara De Faoite and Ruadhan Mac Cormaic

**Rural hell for Ireland's sex slaves**  
1st July 2008, Irish Independent by Louise Hogan

**'Significant increase' in trafficking of women**  
1st July 2008; Irish Times by Kitty Holland

**Voodoo fears keep Nigerians from naming traffickers**  
2nd October 2008, Irish Examiner by Cormac O'Keefe

"We are concerned that a woman who has been identified as a possible victim of human trafficking is continued to be incarcerated by the State".

Irish Times, December, 2008

### QUOTES FROM RUHAMAMA

"Drug habits force women to keep working the streets; A survey carried out on behalf of Ruhama by TSA Consultancy found some women reported being 'out every night' to support a drug habit and a pimp".

Irish Examiner, January, 2007

"Most women find themselves in prostitution as a result of debt, coercion by a pimp or partner even, low self esteem or some underlying background issue." Many planned only to do it for a short time in order to 'get the money I need and get out,' but getting out is then very difficult"

Sunday Independent, July 2008

'Women have told us they have cried in front of punters and have been picked for sex while they are obviously terrified. We welcome the fact it will now be a criminal offence for someone to 'purchase' these women. Men must know these women are vulnerable.'

Sunday World, October, 2008

"The trafficking of women and girls into the sex industry is a serious problem in Ireland, and while we welcome the recent legislation which makes human trafficking a criminal offence, we still need to ensure that adequate protection for the victims of this hideous crime is enshrined in law and fully resourced."

Irish Times, September 2008

"It (sex trafficking) has now gone nationwide and into rural areas. We need a specialized Garda unit to carry out intelligence and surveillance work because this is a crime that is growing in Ireland but its victims are voiceless and hidden,"

Irish Independent, February, 2007

"We come across women who are not Irish and they don't know what services are available, where to go and they have no family or friends to support them. They are sometimes reliant on their trafficker and it is very difficult for them to get help".

Dublin Informer, November, 2007

Income through fundraising initiatives in 2007 and 2008 came from various sources; this mirrored fundraising patterns over previous years.

### SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We continued to receive support from our local community, including All Hallows College and the EBS Community Investment Group. We also received a very generous donation of €20,000 from a local business person.

### RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

Improvements in Ruhama Education and Development services were afforded through the support of the religious congregations. Most notable of these was the investment in additional computers and IT equipment financed by the **Brigidene Sisters**. Grants totaling £20,000 (STG) from the **Society of the Holy Child Jesus** were invaluable in widening the education services.

### EVENTS

Ruhama's staff and volunteers organized and took part in fundraising initiatives including; the Women's Mini Marathon, Christmas carol singing and table quizzes.

The Marino Variety Group held a concert in April 2008 and raised €9,058 toward our work.

St Mary's Justice & Peace Group in Lucan chose Ruhama as one of their beneficiaries in its Giving Tree Initiative and associated fundraising efforts in 2007.

The UCD Women Graduates' Association held bridge evenings and raised a total of €3,610 for Ruhama.

### THE FUNDING FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

The marketing initiative to produce a range of multi-lingual leaflets was made possible through fundraising efforts and monies from the One51 Foundation and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

### BENEFICIARY OF AWARDS CEREMONY

In November 2007, Ruhama was chosen as the beneficiary of the Irish Tatler Women of the Year Awards ceremony. We are most grateful to the judges who selected Ruhama and the total received from the event was €9,000. An article outlining our services was included in the December issue of the publication.

A further development in the area of fundraising was the development of an online system where donors can pay money directly to Ruhama. Donors have verified that this new system is a safe, quick and easy to use method of donating to Ruhama or sponsoring friends who are organizing events. We plan to continue to use this facility for the foreseeable future. (Please go to [www.mycharity.ie](http://www.mycharity.ie) or to the Ruhama website for further details [www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie)).

Our thanks to everyone who helped us in our fundraising work during 2007/2008. We urge all our readers to continue to support our work.

Once again, thank you all.





**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## Fundraising

### Fundraising Events

Women's Mini-marathon, June 2007	€7,344.59
Irish Tatler Women of the Year Award, November 2007	€9,000.00
Bridge Evening, UCD Women Graduates' Association, November 2007	€1,000.00
Carol singing, O'Connell Street, December 2007	€1,036.00
International Women's Day event, EBS Community Investment Group, February 2008	€650.00
Table Quiz, The Duke February 2008 – organized by Joan Flanagan	€1,530.00
Coffee Morning, March 2008	€250.00
Marino Variety Concert, April 2008	€9,058.00
Women's Mini-marathon, June 2008	€3,800.00 (an average of €425 per person)

### FREEDOM KEYS CAMPAIGN

Income of €5403.25 was received in 2007, the year during which the campaign started and continued into 2008, during which €335.49 was received.

### GRANTS/CORPORATE DONATIONS

St Mary's Justice & Peace Group donated €3,280 in March 2008

Brigidene Sisters provided a grant of €2,000 in Autumn 2008 for computers in the classrooms

One51 Foundation provided a grant of €15,000 for design, print and distribution of brochures

Society of the Holy Child Jesus provided a grant of £10,000 in September 2007 - this figure converted to €14,539 and made two projects possible: the production of multi-lingual literature to increase access by the women and an exploration of additional education initiatives. The Society also provided an additional £10,000 in 2008 towards continuing the education initiatives.

### DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

We also received country wide financial support for our work via donations, (some anonymous), which realized a total of €88,019 over the two years.

## Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

### Detailed Income and Expenditure Account Year Ended 31st December 2008

	2008 €	2007 €
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Grants</b>		
HSE - East Coast Area Health	146,873	143,858
HSE-South Inner City Local Drugs Task Force	57,484	2,282
HSE-South Inner City Local Drugs TF-Emerging Needs	30,721	30,721
Probation & Welfare Service	275,000	275,000
Commission for Support of Victims of Crime	70,000	50,000
Dept of Justice Equality & Law-Human Trafficking	45,980	-
Dept of Social & Family Affairs	2,800	4,601
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>628,858</b>	<b>556,462</b>
Donations	65,888	145,676
Deposit Interest	3,905	1,363
	<b>698,651</b>	<b>703,501</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff Salaries & Pension Costs	448,033	419,239
Staff Training Costs	12,111	9,235
Women's Related Expenses	41,044	51,243
Awareness Raising-Video Production & Advertising	97,134	-
Rent & Insurance	93,046	88,271
Cleaning	3,158	2,984
Repairs, Renewals & Equipment	1,875	241
IT Systems	23,516	15,953
Printing, Postage & Stationery	8,601	23,541
Telephone	15,438	13,858
Motor, Travel & Leasing	18,174	9,592
Professional Fees	5,539	13,992
Audit & Accountancy	6,292	6,050
Bank Charges	350	599
Sundry	1,613	1,487
	<b>775,924</b>	<b>656,285</b>
<b>Operating (Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>	<b>(77,273)</b>	<b>47,216</b>





**RUHAMA**

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

## *Other Information*

### **DIRECTORS**

Mr. Diarmaid O'Corrbui (Chairperson)  
Ms. Maura Cullen  
Dr. Kate Ganter  
Ms. Louise Hendrick  
Sr. Clare Kenny (2008)  
Mr. John Lonergan  
Sr. Bernie McNally (2008)  
Sr. Sheila Murphy  
Ms. Jennie O'Reilly  
Sr. Noreen O'Shea (2007)  
Sr. Frances Robinson  
Dr. Mary Scully  
Ms. Gerri Skeehan

### **FUNDERS**

Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime  
Anti Human Trafficking Unit in conjunction with the NDP Gender Equality Unit  
Probation & Welfare Service, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform  
South Inner City Local Drugs Task Force, Health Service Executive  
East Coast Area Health, Health Service Executive  
Corporate and voluntary donations

### **FRIENDS/SUPPORTERS**

We wish to thank all our friends/supporters, in particular the following, who provided ongoing support to Ruhama during 2007 and 2008:

All Hallows College  
Young Communications  
Fuel Design & Web solutions  
Otis Creative  
Patrick Dent  
Stoney Road Films  
Sophia Housing

All our providers of safe/crisis accommodation around the country (who cannot be mentioned individually for security reasons).

### **PATRONS**

Ms. Mary Banotti  
Mr. Trevor Sargent TD  
Mr. Art Cosgrove  
Sen. Frances Fitzgerald  
Dr. Mary Henry  
Ms. Mary O'Rourke TD  
Mr. Dick Spring  
Ms. Liz O'Donnell

### **TRUSTEES**

Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and Good Shepherd Sisters.