



RUHAMA

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

Annual Report 2013



25 years supporting women affected by prostitution

Ruhama's Services to Women	2
Chairperson's Welcome	3
Foreword by Sarah Benson, Chief Executive Officer of Ruhama	4
About Ruhama	6
Services 2013	7
Statistics 2013	16
Advocacy, Campaigning and Training	21
Volunteering in Ruhama	24
The Way Forward: Strategic Planning for 2014 - 2018	27
Financial Summary	29
Notes	32

Ruhama's Services to Women

Needs assessment

Individual casework support and advocacy

Care planning and case management

Out of hours
emergency response

One to one and group
training and development
opportunities

Crisis accommodation in
emergency situations to women

Support into mainstream training and education

Support around
pathways into
employment

Housing and social welfare

Mobile street outreach to
Dublin's 'red light' areas

Outreach service to Dochas Centre
(Women's prison)

Outreach service to Women's Health Services (sexual health clinic)

Emotional and psychological supports including access to counselling

Interpretive support

Practical support (material
needs) in certain circumstances

Referral to other key agencies that can offer support



1987 – A need for a support service to women involved in prostitution was identified.
Good Shepherd and Our Lady of Charity Sisters begin to explore how best to respond.

Chairperson's Welcome

I am very pleased to present Ruhama's Annual Report 2013 which is published during our 25th anniversary year.

As an organisation, we have been providing a unique service in Ireland to women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking. While there have been some key moments in our work and in the existence of the sex trade during those 25 years, some of which are highlighted in this report, many of the issues surrounding the commercial sexual exploitation of women in Ireland still remain.

In Ruhama, we provide a safe place for women who are marginalised and often rendered invisible. This report contains many statistics, but behind each statistic is an individual woman's story with her personal experience of prostitution. When women access our service they know they have no need to hide their experiences of prostitution; they will not be judged and will receive support to gain autonomy and make real choices.

Research tells us that over 90% of those in prostitution wish to leave, but believe themselves to be trapped and without options. For those who do wish to leave, Ruhama offers a range of supports which assist women in the often challenging journey of exiting prostitution.

Ruhama advocates for the reflection in legislation of societal compassion towards those who are now, or who may be in the future, trapped in this life. Ruhama supports the development of statutory provision which will remove the market for, and profitability of the prostitution of women. We welcome and support the recommendations of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice's Report on the Review of Legislation on Prostitution which unanimously recommended the criminalisation of sex buyers.

Provision of our services depends on the continued help from statutory funds and charitable donations. In the current challenging economic times, we thank our funders and donors for their recognition of the value of our work. It will be critical to the continuity of the service that funding is sustained in the coming years, in line with other voluntary service providers who partner statutory provision.

Although times are hard, it is in hard times that organisations such as Ruhama, who focus on frontline service delivery and social justice, are most needed.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to each member of the Ruhama team, led by CEO Sarah Benson, including, in particular, the growing number of volunteers who are carrying out exceptional work. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors for their support and significant contribution and commitment during the year.

Valerie Judge

Chairperson



Foreword by Sarah Benson Chief Executive Officer of Ruhama

It is a real pleasure to welcome readers to this 2013 Annual Report, published in Ruhama's 25th year of service delivery to women affected by prostitution and trafficking. 2014 will mark not only our 25th year but also the start of Ruhama's new Strategic Plan phase 2014-2018.

Looking back at our output for 2013 we had an extremely busy year. Three hundred and five (305) women were given direct support and assistance through our comprehensive range of supports and services. Ruhama caseworkers delivered care and case management to 219 women, of whom 83 were victims of sex trafficking. 70 were supported through our dedicated Street Outreach (with 10 women supported in both Casework and Outreach). A further 26 women received assistance from Ruhama but didn't engage in full Casework.



Reflecting back over the last two and a half decades, I am struck by the developments in the organisation of the sex trade and the increasingly complex needs of those who access our services. However, I am also deeply aware that some things have not changed fundamentally. There is the persistence of harm, exploitation and risk which has always, and which continues to pervade the commercial sex trade.

The commercial sex trade in this country has over time become increasingly organised and adapted to the use of mobile phone and internet technology to operate. There are numerous criminal gangs, of many nationalities, organising and profiting from the prostitution of vulnerable women and girls right across the island of Ireland in urban and rural settings. While Ruhama continue to work with significant numbers of Irish women, the majority of those exploited in the indoor sex trade are migrant women and this is reflected by the fact that in 2013, Ruhama supported women of thirty six (36) different nationalities. This small island remains a destination for traffickers, pimps and procurers from all corners of the globe.

In 2013 we conducted a rigorous strategic planning process to inform our work for the coming years and a key part of this was to hear from our service users to ensure we develop and strive to remain relevant and supportive to their changing needs into the future.

Ruhama's services have always developed on the basis of changing needs and demands of service users. From a simple street outreach team 25 years ago, the organisation has grown and evolved in response to what women have told us they need.

Today, Ruhama offers a holistic and non-judgemental service that responds to women's needs ranging from practical education courses and career planning to crisis intervention, immigration, health, family, housing and legal issues. Women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking engage with Ruhama for a broad variety of supports and services: some big and complex some small and simpler. In the course of working collaboratively we share not only their serious challenges but also their hopes, dreams, plans and successes.

We are excited to embark in 2014 on a new phase of strategic development (from 2014-2018) that encompasses not only frontline service delivery but also critically important advocacy work.



A particular challenge is to overcome what are often systemic issues that are beyond the powers of one organisation to change, therefore; a key pillar of Ruhama's work continues to be our awareness raising and advocacy work. Details of our developments in this area in 2013 are outlined in the report. Taking direction from the challenges women present with at the frontline, Ruhama advocates on a number of fronts to try to improve both national and international responses to those exploited in the commercial sex trade; to enhance prevention work and raise public awareness of the challenges women face, particularly when trying to exit the trade.

Collaborative working remains a key component of Ruhama's work both at the frontline and in our advocacy work. This is especially important given the highly diverse and complex needs that women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking present with. Positive working relationships with Gardaí, HSE services, housing, legal and migrant support agencies, charities, addiction services - and many others (both in Ireland and overseas) make it possible for Ruhama to offer creative advocacy and support to women using our services. I would like to express our thanks to all and look forward to continuing partnership at a time when collective, joined up responses are more important than ever to try to prevent highly vulnerable women and girls from slipping through the cracks in our social systems.

Internally we have a highly motivated and dedicated staff and volunteer team, including the voluntary Board of Directors. I would like to express my own personal thanks to each and every person for their time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm which sustains the work of the organisation.

Ruhama is also exceptionally thankful for the generosity of its supporters and donors without whom this service, unique on the island of Ireland, could not survive. The relationship with our statutory funders is very important to us and we hope that they will continue to recognise and value Ruhama's frontline work.

As always though, my final words go to those extraordinary women with whom we engaged. I want to mark all of the women we have known, not only in 2013, but throughout the last 25 years. Thousands of women who have walked through Ruhama's doors. Many have gone on to lead amazing and inspiring lives. Others have tragically passed away too soon and we honour their memories. This is the nature of prostitution and trafficking and the toll it exacts. With terrible hardships and adversity there are also tales of amazing tenacity, bravery and creativity from women, each of whom it is a privilege for us to know

Sarah Benson

CEO

About Ruhama

Vision and Mission

Ruhama's **vision** is of a more just society, in which prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation do not exist.

Ruhama's **mission** is to:

- Reach out to and provide support services to women affected by prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Based on individual need, to offer assistance and opportunities to explore alternatives to prostitution.
- Work to change public attitudes, practices and policies which allow the exploitation of women through trafficking and prostitution.

Guiding Principles

The **guiding principles** which inform Ruhama's work are:

- Providing a non-judgmental service.
- Placing a high value on equality, inclusivity, cultural diversity, dignity and respect.
- Affirming every woman's right to society's protection and respect.
- Commitment to learning and to continual service improvement.
- Accountability to funders and to the women we work with.

Ruhama Functions

Ruhama is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and a registered charity founded in 1989, which works on a nationwide basis with women affected by prostitution. Ruhama offers support and assistance to women:

- who are currently active in prostitution
- who have a history of prostitution
- victims of sex trafficking.

Directors for 2013:

Chairperson: Ms. Valerie Judge

Company Secretary: Mr. Colm O' Dwyer

Sr. Bernadette McNally

Ms. Breda Flood

Mr. Colm Dempsey

Ms. Catherine Joyce

Sr. Sheila Murphy

Ms. Catherine Nolan

Mr. John O'Reilly

Dr. Mary Scully

Sr. Frances Robinson

Ms. Zuilmah Wallis

Mr Peter O'Neill



Headline Statistics 2013

Support to 305 Women
219 Women in Casework
88 Women in Casework – Suspected Victims of Trafficking
136 Women in General Casework
846 Face to Face contacts
11,636 Verbal Telephone Contacts*
4,361 SMS Supports*
Education & Development support to 68 Women
Housing & Welfare Support to 42 Women
130 nights/1,079.5 Hours Street Outreach to 70 Women

*phone contacts to and on behalf of women

What Ruhama do: Direct Services to Women

Ruhama provides direct support services to women who are affected by prostitution and/or sex trafficking. Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of women and they are free of charge. A wide range of supports are offered; from initial needs assessment to person-centred case work, education and development programmes and housing and social welfare assistance.

Each and every woman who presents to Ruhama is supported through their individual journey at their pace and it is the woman who dictates the type of engagement and service she requires.

In 2013, Ruhama supported a total of **305** women, **70** were supported in **Street Outreach** and **219** women were supported in **Casework**. (10 women were supported in both Casework and Outreach). A further 26 women received support from Ruhama but didn't engage in Casework support.

	Street Outreach	Casework	Less number in both	Received support - did not go into Casework	Total number of women in 2013
No. Of Women	70	219	-10	26	305



1996 – By this stage, Ruhama had worked with over 500 women since its foundation.

Initial Support, Outreach and Assessment

In 2013, **96** women accessed Ruhama's services for the first time;

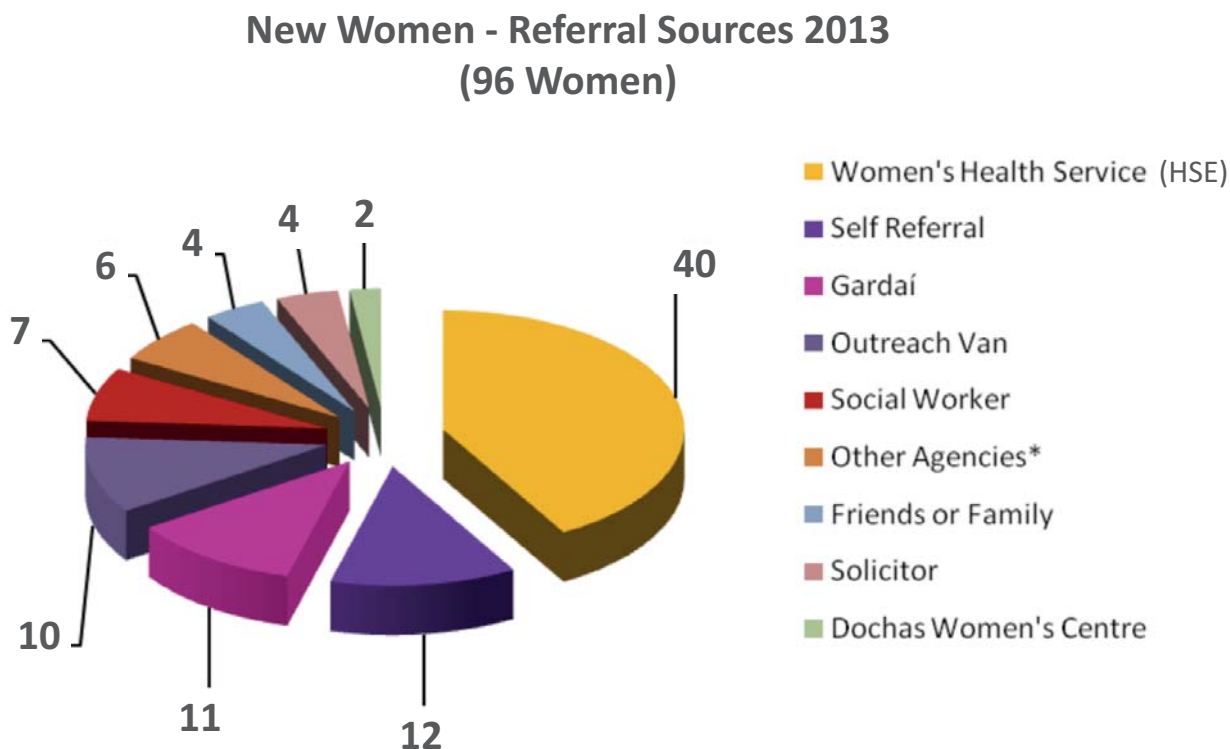
- **4** of these women were referred to Ruhama by another agency or referral.
- **12** women were self referrals.

All women who engage with Ruhama are offered an initial assessment. Women will seek out a support service by themselves or through another agency or services such as their clinic, solicitor or social worker.

"I knew about Ruhama over the years because of the van, I used to see the van and would sometimes sit and have a chat, they were very nice...I was a physical and emotional wreck...I met a social worker who could see pain in my eyes and she said to me one day...I want to know what life is like for you. You don't trust anyone out there and it takes time. The social worker rang Ruhama for me, she helped me to make the contact" (Service User Evaluation 2013)

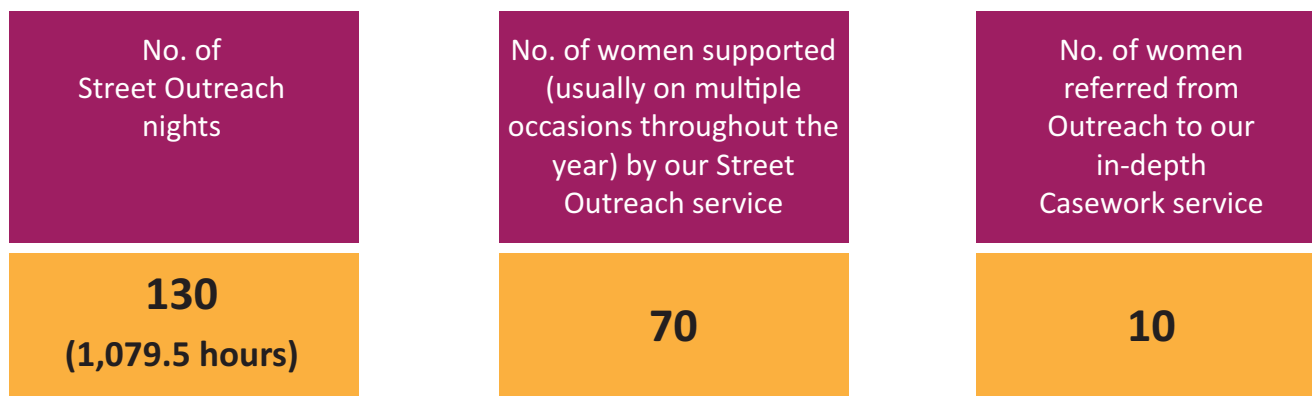
It is vital that when we meet a woman for the first time that her experience of that encounter is one of being treated with respect and dignity so that she can make her own decision about accessing any further services.

Chart 1. Breakdown of Referral Sources to Ruhama in 2013



Street Outreach

While the majority of women who access Ruhama's services are involved in the indoor sex trade, there still is a significant number of women in street-based prostitution and Ruhama offers them support through its Street Outreach service which operates up to 4 nights a week.



This service provides women with practical support and information about Ruhama's services as well as vital information about other services and agencies; including sexual health, accommodation, harm reduction, health care and education.

Women who engage with our street outreach service are presenting with a range of issues which they need support in addressing, these issues include: addiction, debt, homelessness, poor health, suicide ideation, domestic violence and poor mental health. For others, the outreach van is simply a safe place to get away from the streets temporarily and meet a friendly face.

Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol is one of the main presenting issues for women in street prostitution. In 2013, we continued to work closely with The South Inner City Local Drugs Task Force (SICLDTF) to address the problem of drug and alcohol use amongst our service users. A Service User Satisfaction Survey was released in 2013 by the SICLDTF and women who accessed our outreach van took part in the survey. We were also part of the SICLDTF's Care and Case Management Steering Group throughout 2013 which culminated in the publication of a directory designed to assist interagency cooperation on an agreed care plan, for service users with complex needs.

Casework and Care Planning

After initial assessment women are offered an in-depth personalised casework service which involves designing a person-centred care plan to respond holistically to a woman's individual needs. Each woman is different and each care plan is tailor made to reflect this.

In 2013, there were **219** women in Casework, of these;

- **79** were new in General Casework
- **17** were new cases in Victims of Trafficking (VoT) Casework

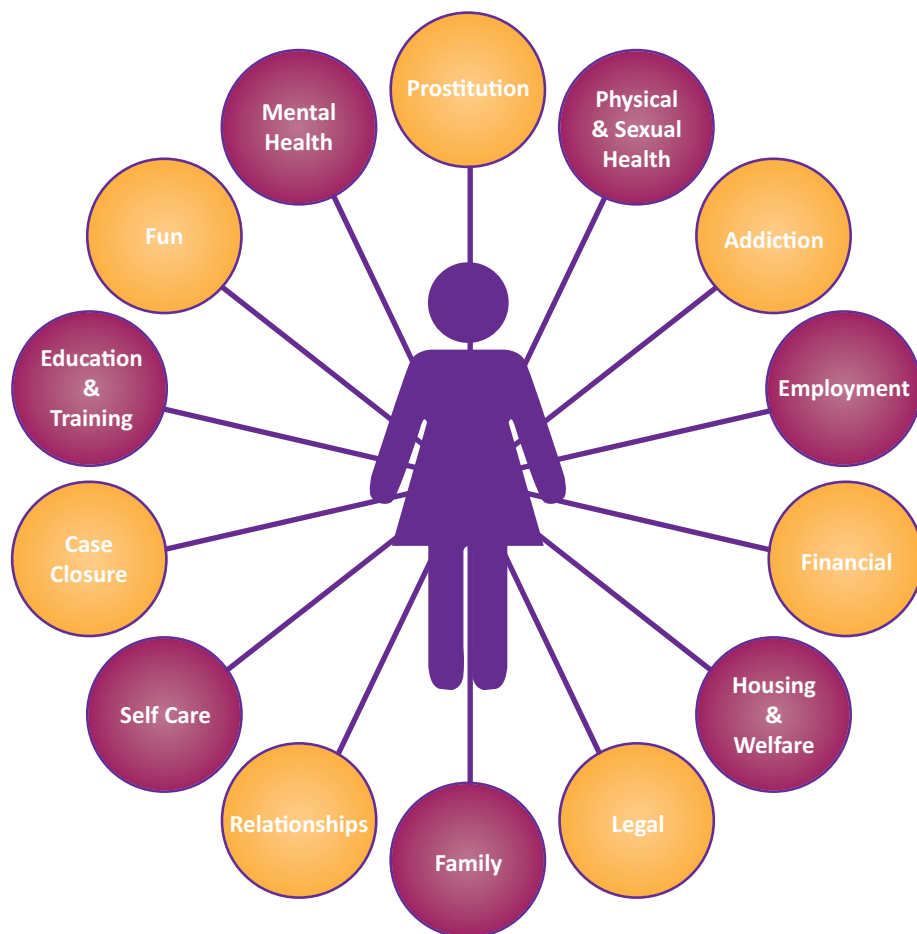
In some instances our first contact with women were responded to during our out-of-hours services and many were referred by An Garda Síochána.

Ruhama delivered casework to 96 women who were new to our service in 2013. In addition, caseworkers continued to support a further 123 women who remained engaged with Ruhama having started prior to January 2013.

“The care plan was great, it’s like a map covering lots of areas. I didn’t have lots of core things to deal with like debt or housing. For me it was about emotional support and really education is what I wanted.”
(Service User Evaluation 2013)

The main focus of the care planning process is empowerment. This process assists women in taking control of their lives, providing them with the confidence and skills necessary to meet their goals. This process also endeavors to ensure that women make informed choices out of the options available to them. It supports women in identifying new skills and knowledge to enable them to take positive steps for the future. The case worker has a non-directive role in the woman’s decision making process but is available to provide the necessary support in helping her to explore and achieve her identified goals.

Chart 2. Care Planning Tool to assist conversation around needs and goals



Moving On from Ruhama

An important part of Ruhama’s model of work is supporting women to independence and this means reaching a point on a woman’s journey where she no longer needs our services. The length of time women engage with Ruhama varies greatly and can entail weeks, months or years, depending on the individual woman’s needs and the complexity of her case.

As women achieved the goals set out in their care plans, not only had their confidence and strength increased but also their range of options, resulting with many moving on to new opportunities.

By the end of 2013, 63 women had completed their care plans.

Chart 3. Cases that were closed in 2013



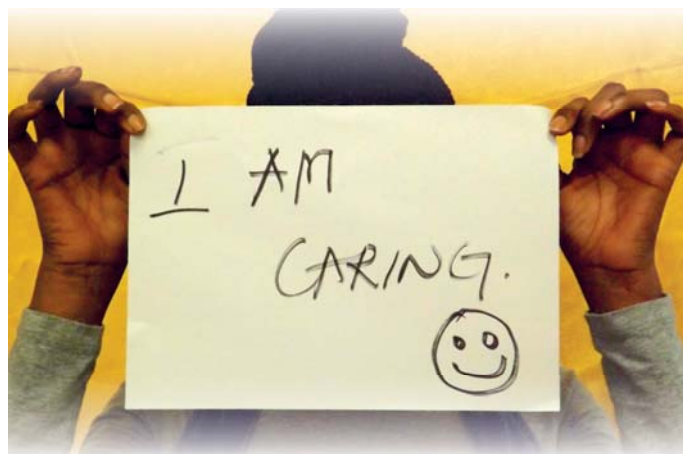
Education and Development

"I did lots of courses in Ruhama and enjoyed them all. I found them very useful... they made me happy and I got to meet other women... and yes they made me feel more confident"
 (Service User Evaluation 2013)

Many of the women who access Ruhama's services do not initially have the confidence for, or face barriers that restrict their uptake of mainstream education and development opportunities. Involvement in prostitution can mean that a woman finds herself alienated or excluded from these opportunities in her own community. Therefore, our Education and Development programme plays a vital role in building a woman's confidence and self-esteem. It offers practical supports which equip women with the skills they need to proceed to further education or the employment market.



The Sarah Bird Programme



Participant in one of the personal development courses

In 2013, 68 women engaged with Education and Development.

In-house programmes offered by Ruhama in 2013 were:

GROUP

- STEPS (Steps to Excellence for Personal Success)
- Shaping Your Future (Job Ready Course)
- Information Technology
- The Sarah Bird Programme (Trauma Healing)
- Sewing Skills Course
- Creative Writing
- Arts & Crafts

ONE – TO – ONE

- Counselling
- Career Guidance
- English Language
- Maths
- Study Support
- Art Therapy
- C.V. Design & Development
- English Literacy
- Holistic Therapies



Pilot Programme 2013 – The Sarah Bird Programme (Trauma and Healing Techniques)

In 2013, the Sarah Bird programme ran a pilot programme with women in our service. The overall aim of the programme was to assist women who had experienced post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by reducing their levels of stress and anxiety. The programme offered a non-invasive approach to healing and body trauma which Ruhama felt would be of particular benefit to those who feel unable to engage in talking therapies.

“I want to be able to have control of my life again, by not being anxious, being hopeful. I feel so helpless sometimes and I want to be able to accept that whatever happened it was the past and I have a present and a future which could be brighter...”
(Ruhama/Sarah Bird Evaluation 2013 – Final Out-turn Report)

Evaluating the pilot programme confirmed that all the women who took part experienced a reduction in their stress and anxiety levels. Furthermore participants continued to use the programme techniques to keep high stress levels at bay after the programme had ended.

“The Course helped me a lot – I feel I have more freedom, I have part of my life back, it’s been really uplifting and empowering...” (Ruhama/Sarah Bird Evaluation 2013 – Final Out-turn Report)

The two most consistent results of the programme were that women reported a substantial increase in feelings of self-worth and they stated that they had regained control of their lives.



Creative Display

The work of a Career Guidance Counsellor in Ruhama

By Mary Lally

‘When I first meet somebody who is looking for a career I see this as a challenge to discover for them the best possible version of themselves. We chat about their interests. We look at their previous experience of education and their feelings around that.

If a student is worried about the prospect of going to college, some work needs to be done at this stage to convince them that with hard work, the motivation they are now showing and support from staff in Ruhama, they can achieve their career goals.

At what level they start in the education system will depend on their levels of literacy and/or numeracy. If necessary they may need to get help from our dedicated tutors in Ruhama and also from some outside agencies to bring them up to a working knowledge of English and/or Maths as soon as possible so that they can start on the course of their choice.

Occasionally a person may do FETAC Level 4, or the Leaving Cert, but the majority will access the system at FETAC Level 5, Post Leaving Cert Courses. There is a variety of very interesting, one year courses, at this level which our students do, such as Healthcare, Travel and Tourism, Pre-Nursing, Childcare, Computers and Business, Hairdressing, and Accounting Technician which is a two year course. On receipt of FETAC 5 they can get work immediately or progress to 3rd level - FETAC Levels 6, 7 or 8. Our students have been accepted into degrees in Nursing, Marketing and Hotel Management for example.

Some students have been accepted on the Trinity Access Programme from which students can access all TCD’s courses. Others apply to the Springboard Courses, which are free to the unemployed.

Money, or lack of it, can be a problem. If women are on Jobseekers they can apply for Back to Education Allowance. If the course that best suits them is in a private college, then funding needs to be found: a difficult problem. If the student is in Direct Provision: a nightmare!

Students often need references for courses or jobs, or help with personal statements, CVs and cover letters. Some might need assistance with assignments on their FETAC Level 5 courses. All of which is part of the guidance counsellor’s remit.

I work as part of a larger team of staff in Ruhama whom I consult and work with to provide the best possible outcome for our people.

It is a privilege to be in a position to mediate the educational system for each student, to walk alongside them and give them the support and encouragement on their unique journey to independence.’



2000 – Ruhama receives funding from the Department of Justice for the first time, this replaces the European NOW funding.

– The owner of In Dublin magazine, Mike Hogan is convicted and fined £50,000 for advertising prostitution.

Housing and Social Welfare

Ruhama has a dedicated support programme to assist women to secure suitable, safe and affordable accommodation. Women are also supported in accessing social welfare benefits and negotiating the many application forms that are required during this process.

42 Women supported with Housing

35 Women assisted with paperwork/form completion

32 Women developed budgeting skills for managing their households

Supports offered through the Housing and Social Welfare Programme include:

- Workers advocating successfully on behalf of women to their local social welfare office so that they can be supported towards independent living.
- Support while searching for suitable accommodation.
- Assistance in completing all relevant paper work.
- Support women in opening bank/credit union or post office accounts and providing one-to-one guidance around budgeting.
- Limited financial support is given to women who are moving into accommodation

“They helped me to find the house and they go with you to social services to register everything and sort out the financial stuff. They go with you to look at the house. And they give you help in settling down and getting started. I’m settled in my house now” Service User Evaluation 2013

Challenges

In 2013, landlords were looking for significant increases in rent while at the same time, the allocated rent allowance decreased. Women found it increasingly difficult to secure one month deposit and one month rent in advance for private rented accommodation, particularly those women who had been in Direct Provision (asylum seekers process) on €19.10 per week. In addition, 2013 saw a marked increase in the number of Irish women accessing emergency or homeless accommodation in Dublin. For some the combination of homelessness and chaotic drug use further complicates women’s positions of vulnerability and drove them further into street prostitution.

Further problems have arisen, in addition to the barrier of needing a deposit and month’s rent in advance, these include:

- Women who are not yet 21 years old receive a reduced jobseekers’ rate of €100 per week, which seriously restricts their opportunity for finding suitable rental accommodation.
- There is currently a dearth of rental properties in Dublin with many landlords stating that they will not take social welfare payments. This too means that women cannot access suitable and affordable housing.

Ruhama’s Housing and Welfare Team overcome some of these challenges by developing good interagency relationships with several housing providers and private landlords.

Chart 4. Breakdown of ALL Casework into General Casework and Victims of Trafficking Casework (219 Women)

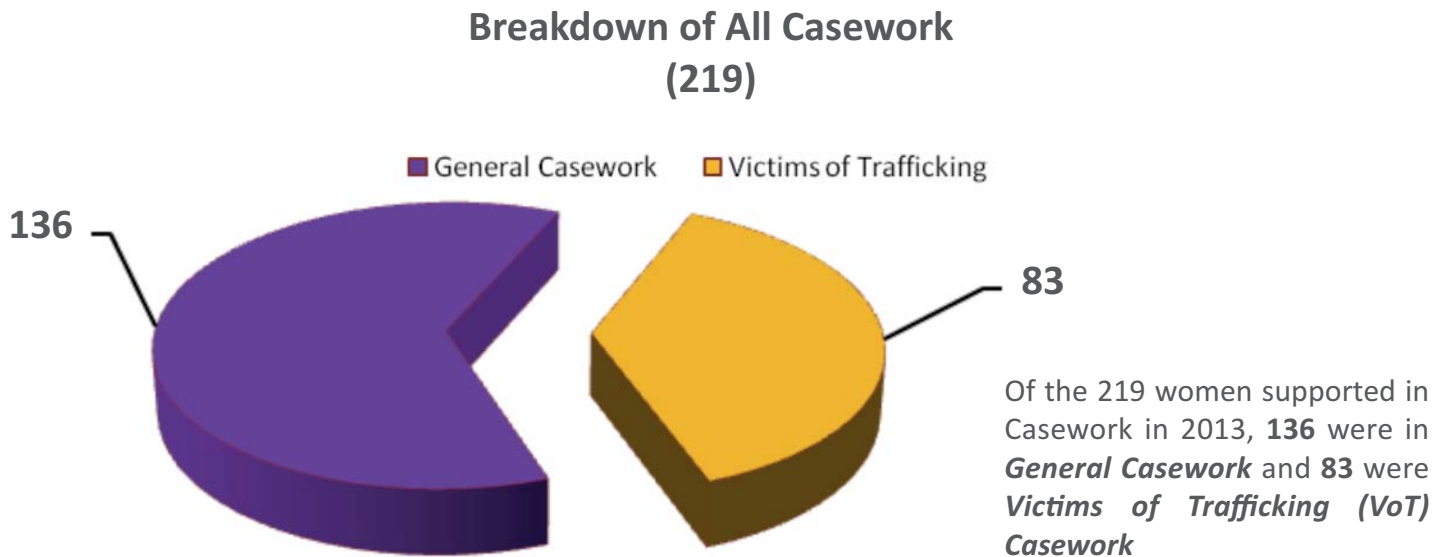


Chart 5. Breakdown of ALL Casework into Ongoing and New Cases (219 Women)

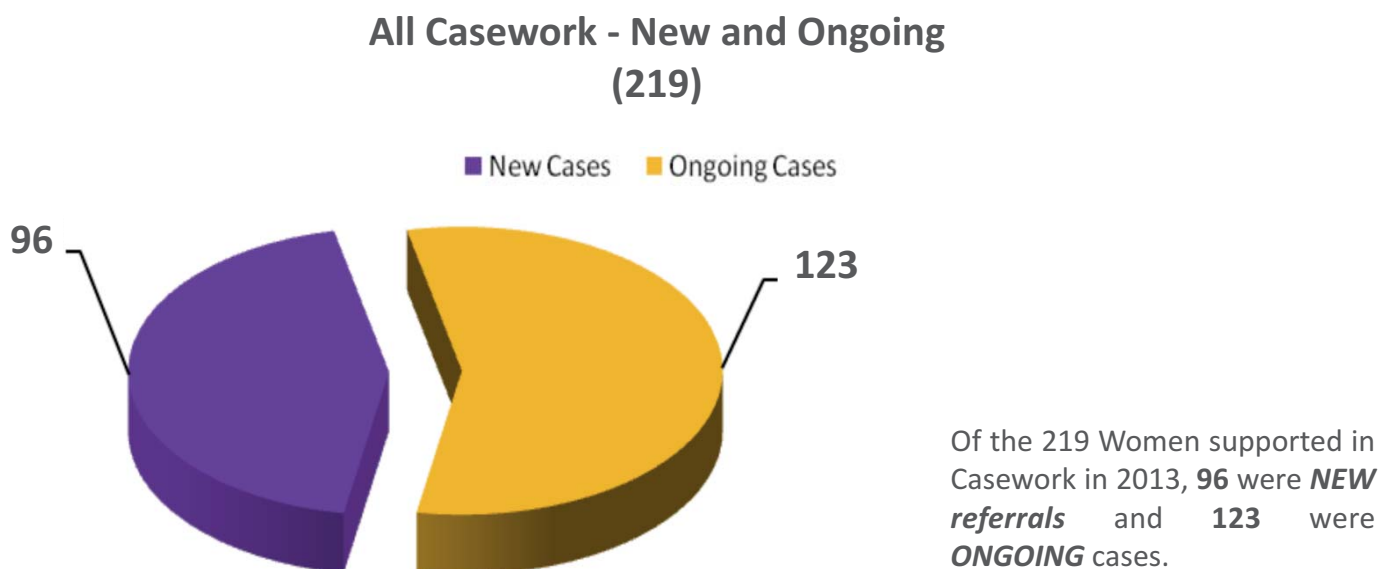
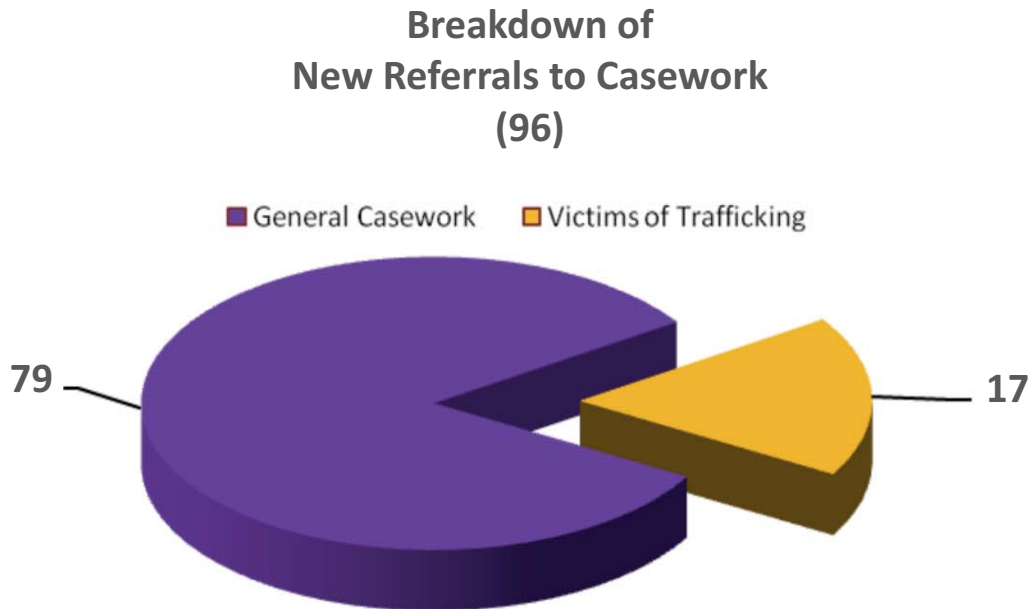
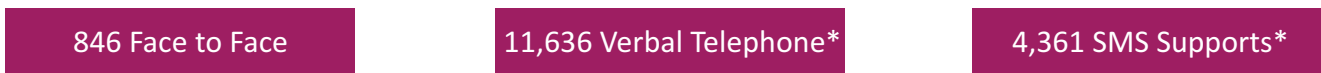


Chart 6. Breakdown of New Referrals into General Casework and Victims of Trafficking Casework (96 Women)



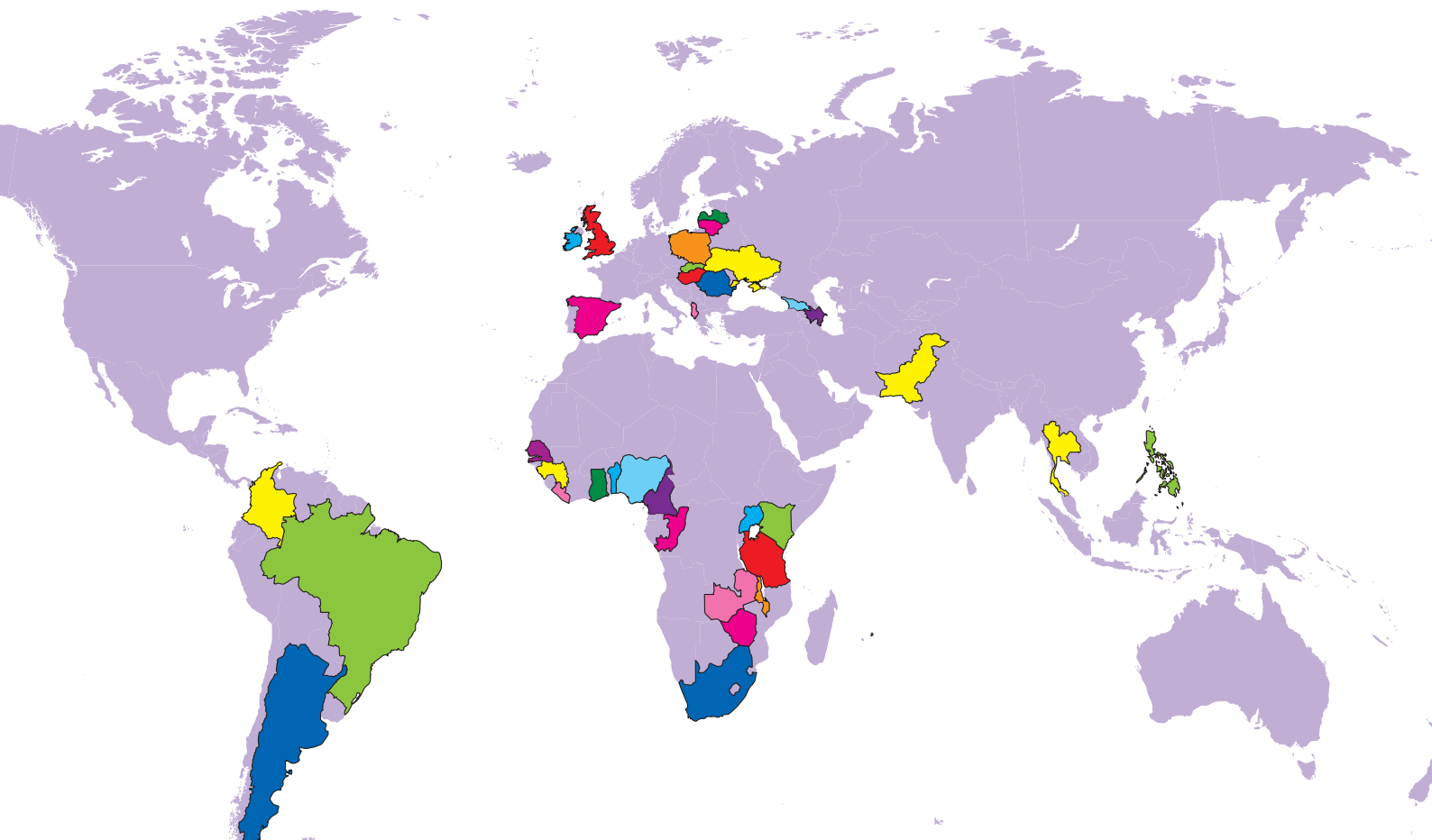
In 2013, Ruhama received a total of **96** new referrals to ALL Casework (Chart 3).
79 Women were affected by prostitution and were supported in general Casework.
17 Women were suspected victims of sex trafficking and were supported in the Victims of Trafficking Casework

**Type of Contact with Women in Casework
(219 Women)**



*Contacts directly with or advocating on behalf of women

Countries of Origin – 219 Women supported in All Casework during 2013 came from 36 different countries



Nationalities of 219 Ruhama Women

Rep of Congo	2	Nigeria	60	Unknown	2
Ghana	3	French Guinea	1	Romania	9
Brazil	28	Senegal	1	Ireland	57
Albania	4	Zimbabwe	2	Colombia	6
England	2	Cameroon	6	Latvia	2
Argentina	1	Georgia	1	Zambia	1
Pakistan	2	Malawi	1	Benin	2
Slovakia	1	Spain	6	Hungary	1
Poland	4	Kurdistan	1	Thailand	1
South Africa	3	Philippines	1	Mauritius	1
Liberia	1	Lithuania	1	Uganda	1
Kenya	2	Tanzania	1	Ukraine	1

Chart 7. Countries of Origin – Women in General Casework (136 Women)

Countries of Origin - Women in General Casework (136 Women)

The 136 women supported in General Casework came from 29 different countries. (Chart 4)

The majority came from Ireland (57 women), with Brazil, Nigeria, Spain, Colombia and Romania the next highest representation

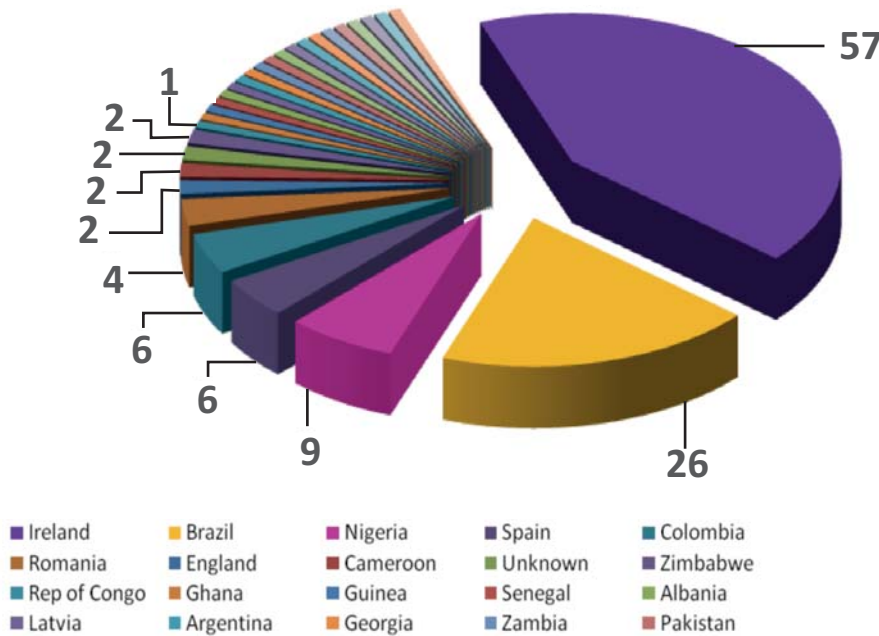


Chart 8. Countries of Origin – Women in Victims of Trafficking (VoT) Casework (83 Women)

Countries of Origin - All Victims of Trafficking (83 Women)

The 83 women supported in Victims of Trafficking Casework came from 18 different countries. (Chart 5)

The majority came from Nigeria (51 women), with Romania and Cameroon next highest representation

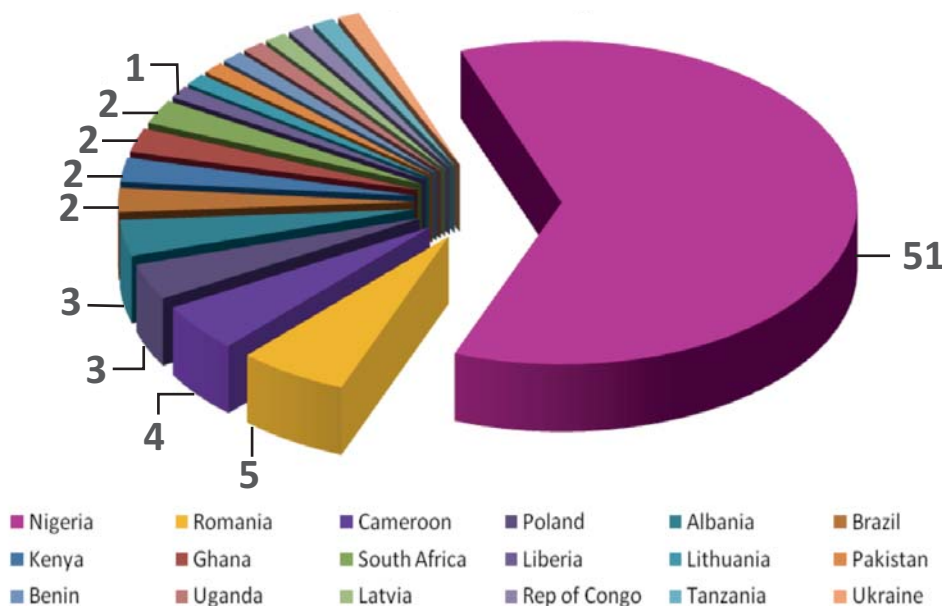
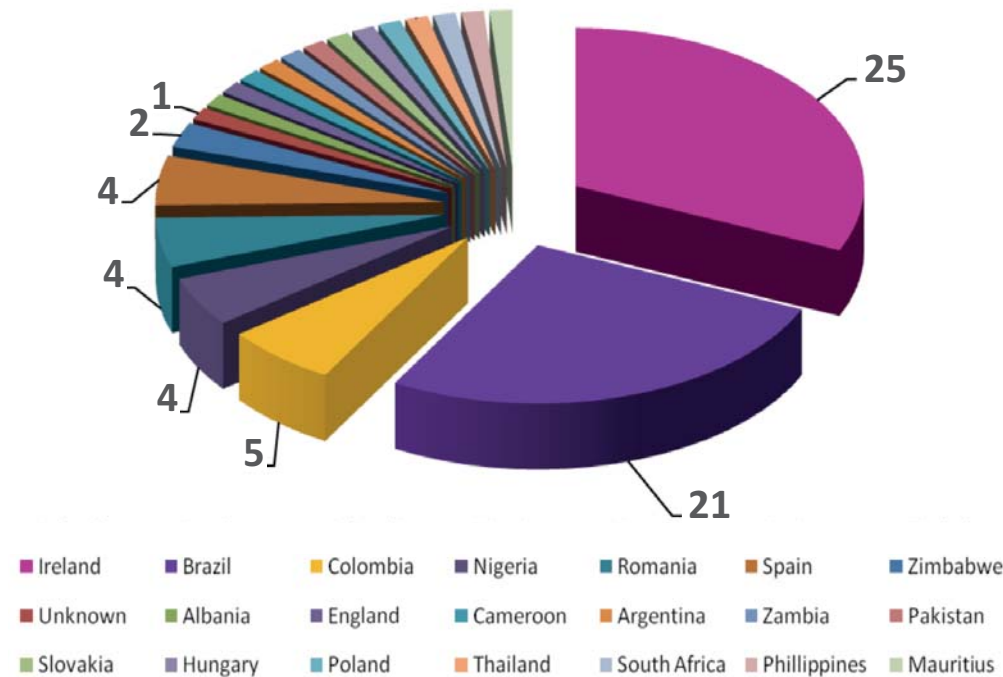


Chart 9. Countries of Origin – NEW Women in General Casework (79 Women)

Countries of Origin - NEW Women in General Casework (79)

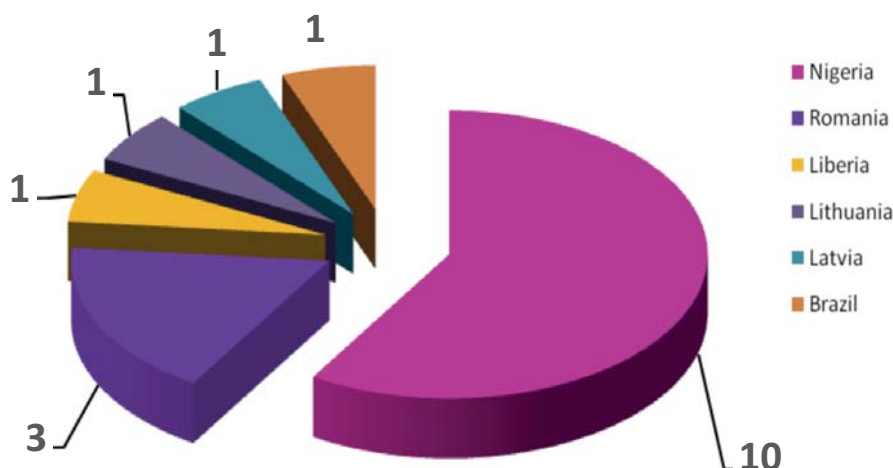


The **79** NEW women in General Casework came from **21** different countries. (Chart 6)

The majority came from Ireland (**25 women**), with Brazil the next highest representation

Chart 10. Countries of Origin – NEW Women in Victims of Trafficking (VOT) Casework (17 Women)

Countries of Origin - NEW Women in Victims of Trafficking Casework (17 Women)



The **17** NEW women in Victims of Trafficking Casework came from **6** different countries (Chart 7)

The majority came from Nigeria (**10 women**), with Romania the next highest representation



2006 – Ruhama supports the residents of the Parnell Street area, in their protest against the opening of Stringfellow's lap dancing club. The protest is successful with the club closing down just 5 months after opening.

Advocacy, Campaigning and Training

Ruhama works to reduce the exploitation and harm of prostitution and sex trafficking by advocating, campaigning and collaborating for legislative and policy change at domestic and international levels.

Ruhama engages in campaigning, advocacy and training work to inform the public and key stakeholders at national and international level of the harm of prostitution; gives a voice to women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking; highlights demand from sex buyers as a key factor fuelling the proliferation of the sex trade, including sex trafficking; advocates for updated legislation to tackle the changed nature of criminal operations organising prostitution.



Some of the panel of speakers at Ruhama's 'Pathways Through Prostitution' seminar: Catherine Joyce – Barnados, Mia DeFaoite – Prostitution survivor/activist, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD and Sarah Benson – CEO, Ruhama

Our objective are to:

- Increase public awareness of prostitution as a human rights issue that is harmful and incompatible with equality between men and women.
- Successfully advocate for legislative change to reduce demand for sex for sale by criminalising the sex buyer.
- Improve supports and services to women abused through the sex trade.
- Successfully advocate for legislative change that supports more effective targeting of organised crime in prostitution; reflecting the current reality of mechanisms used by those profiting from the prostitution of others.
- Ensure greater cohesion, communications and collaboration between Ruhama and international organisations working towards the same policy objectives at European and UN level to effect policy and legislative change at this level.
- Increase good practice responses from key stakeholders, such as the Gardaí, to women affected by prostitution and trafficking.
- Advocate for the inclusion of prostitution as a recognised form of violence against women at a domestic and international (EU, UN) level.

Advocacy, Campaigning and Training - Continued

We achieve these objectives by:

The Pathways Through Prostitution seminar: organised by Ruhama in the Autumn of 2013 which highlighted; through international research, survivor's stories and Ruhama's experience; the challenges, trends and models of best practice responses to assisting women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking.

Turn Off the Red Light: Participating as core members of the Turn Off the Red Light (TORL) campaign; actively organising and promoting the objectives of the campaign - calling for the criminalisation of the purchase of sexual services, with the decriminalisation of those prostituted.



The Joint Oireachtas Justice Committee published, in June 2013, its report following an extensive consultation process on the future direction of prostitution legislation in Ireland and the campaign strongly welcomed its unanimous recommendation that the purchase of sexual services should be a criminal offence in Ireland.

Improving access to services for women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking:

In 2013, we ran an advertising campaign in the major migrant newspapers sold in Ireland. The advertisements highlighted the services available from Ruhama and our contact details. Leaflets translated in different languages were also distributed in key locations to target migrant women in need of our services.



Contributing at national and international policy fora:

- In 2013, Ruhama was successfully nominated as a member of the **EU Civil Society Platform on Human Trafficking**.
- Participating in the development and launch of an **International Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International)**: an international coalition of frontline service providers working with those affected by prostitution.
- Ruhama is represented on the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (Department of Justice & Equality) Roundtable on Trafficking; Sexual exploitation & Awareness Raising Working groups.
- We met with representatives from the **Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)** which is the monitoring body of the Council of Europe when they visited Ireland to assess its response to providing protection to victims of human trafficking.
- Briefing with **OSCE** representatives visiting Ireland to monitor the Irish Government response to human trafficking.
- We were called to present to the **British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA)**.
- Ruhama meets annually with representatives from the United States to input into the annual **'Trafficking in Persons' (TIP) Report**.



2008 – The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 is enacted in June. Ruhama was actively involved in lobbying for this legislation since 2000.

Training: Providing training on the issue of prostitution and sex trafficking to a range of voluntary and statutory organisations. Priority is given to requests from front-line professionals who may encounter women affected by prostitution in their work. Over the past 7 years, Ruhama has provided input at the Anti-Human Trafficking in-service training, organised by An Garda Síochána. In partnership with the Gardaí, Ruhama has developed further training in the area of policing prostitution and has designed a special one day training which is delivered twice a year to members of An Garda Síochána and the PSNI. The newly appointed Garda Prostitution Liaison Officers in the Dublin Metropolitan Division were participants at this year's training.



Training law enforcement personnel

Combating Violence and discrimination against Women: Ruhama is also an active member of The Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women (Ruhama's CEO is the current Irish Expert on Violence Against Women to the European Women's Lobby), The National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women (NSCVAW), National Women's Council of Ireland (Board Member) & The Women's Human Rights Alliance (WHRA).

Istanbul convention: In 2013, Ruhama made a representation to the Irish Government, calling for the signing and ratifying of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention. We participated in a number of awareness initiatives to highlight the importance of this convention for the protection of women and girls from violence.

Participating in strategically important research opportunities: Submissions and reports, highlighting the experiences of women affected by prostitution and trafficking. Ruhama sent a submission to the Northern Ireland Assembly during the Committee Stage of Lord Morrow's 'Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation' Bill. Our submission focused specifically on Clause 6 of the Bill which contained proposals to criminalise the purchase of sexual services.

Other submissions included our Pre-Budget Submission 2013 which highlighted poverty as a serious 'push' factor in leading women into prostitution and appealed to the Government to ensure that the 2014 Budget is gender and poverty proofed. A submission was also sent to the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade.

Public Awareness through media: Increasing public awareness of the reality and harm of prostitution and its connection to human trafficking, through effective communications strategies comprising of campaigns, press releases, and engaging in public debate. Ruhama was very active in print media, radio and TV discussion and debate during 2013. Ruhama also has an active presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



Volunteering in Ruhama

The publication of our 2013 Annual Report during the 25th anniversary of our foundation, is an opportunity to celebrate and look back on the vital part volunteering has played in shaping Ruhama into the organisation it is today.

Ruhama, like a vast number of NGOs and charities in Ireland, was established in a volunteering capacity.

When Ruhama started in 1989, street based prostitution was prominent in Dublin yet there was limited work being done to help the women involved. The initial work of Ruhama meant reaching out to make contact with the women to identify what supports were needed and to build trust.

As the clear need for the services grew but with little funding available, the initial workers sought out further help with the first volunteer recruitment in 1993. This allowed the organisation to develop and grow marking the beginning of a voluntary education programme in 1994 as well as continuing with the work of street outreach.



Outreach Van

To protect the confidentiality of our clients, the women in this photo are not service users

As the result of a successful partnering with an EU funding stream the first very limited number of salaried positions came into the organisation in the mid 90's but up until 2000 the organisation was mostly staffed by volunteers.

In 2000, the part time post of Volunteer Coordinator was funded increasing Ruhama's capacity to support and resource the volunteer programme.

The importance of volunteering has not diminished within Ruhama with the advent of salaried positions. It has if anything improved the way volunteers can meaningfully engage with Ruhama, use their skills to innovate and provide a broader range of quality services for women in prostitution without being hampered with a lot of the necessary administrative tasks involved in the delivery of a service.



2009 – The Immigrant Council of Ireland, in partnership with Ruhama and the Women's Health Service publishes research 'Globalisation, Sex trafficking and Prostitution: The experience of migrant women' which confirms the extent of the sex trade and the exploitation within it.

In 2013, Ruhama was supported by **48** dedicated volunteers who gave **3,626 hours** of their time to offer a broad range of supports to our service users:

- Outreach Van
- Computer classes
- Guidance counselling
- One to one English and literacy courses
- Study support for 3rd level students
- Psychotherapy and Art Therapy
- Housing and social welfare support
- Awareness raising and fundraising
- Photography
- Befriending
- Holistic therapies
- Sewing classes
- Art classes



Lorraine volunteers teaching study skills



Jo volunteers as a sewing instructor

What volunteers say about working with Ruhama...

"I volunteer because I believe women can be extremely vulnerable in situations where they find themselves at a disadvantage. I believe education is a great enabler and is an important tool for a woman to build her self-esteem. I particularly like to work with women who have had little or no opportunity for schooling and help them realise they are intelligent women and can overcome their disadvantage." - Maureen, who volunteers in Education

"Why I volunteer with Ruhama: I want to add my voice to the fight against prostitution and sex trafficking and to keep informed of updates etc. regarding this issue in the media and with the government." - Naomi, volunteers in Communications and Events

Volunteering in Ruhama - Continued



Naomi and Laura working at a Ruhama event

What volunteers say about working with Ruhama...

"The power of healing touch can, I believe, help to ease the psychological scars as well as the physical ones." - Susan volunteers as a Holistic therapist

"I work at Ruhama to support and empower the women who access its services so that the quality of their daily lives is enriched." - Chris volunteers as a Holistic therapist



Chris in the Therapy Room



The way forward: Strategic planning for 2014-2018

In Ruhama, the Board of Directors are mindful always of learning from past and current experiences in order to plan forward strategically, and to best effect for the women we serve.

In 2013, the organisation engaged in a strategic planning process. This included an in-depth review of the work of the previous 5 years and consultations with the Board, staff and volunteer teams. Ruhama also contracted an independent evaluator to interview a range of former service users to gauge their experiences of Ruhama and take feedback to inform the future direction of operations.

We would like to convey our thanks to those who contributed to this process which culminated in Ruhama's new Strategic Plan 2014-2018, which will guide and focus the organisation through the coming 5 years.

Strategic priorities 2014-2018

The organisation's focus for the coming 5 years is distilled into five strategic priorities. The first two comprise the core objectives of the organisation, and are supported by the three subsequent priorities.

1. Provide a range of high quality emotional and practical services to women affected by prostitution and trafficking that are appropriate and relevant to their needs.

- By connecting, responding and delivering our Services to a high standard.

2. Work to reduce the exploitation and harm of prostitution and sex trafficking.

- By advocating, campaigning and collaborating for legislative and policy change at domestic and international levels.

3. Implement and enhance an integrated service delivery model that puts women in and at risk of prostitution and trafficking at the centre.

- By planning and organising to ensure delivery of flexible, effective services.

4. Ensure that Ruhama has an effective management and governance framework in place and adheres to best practice and statutory requirements.

- By proactive accountability.

5. Measure the efficiency and effectiveness of our service delivery approach.

- By demonstrating outcomes through feedback from users and other stakeholders, and measurable policy developments.



Good Governance

A key and recognised component for a successful and accountable organisation is good governance. In 2013, the Board of Directors enhanced and signed off on a comprehensive Governance Policy. Ruhama is 'on the journey' to fully sign up to the Governance Code in 2014.

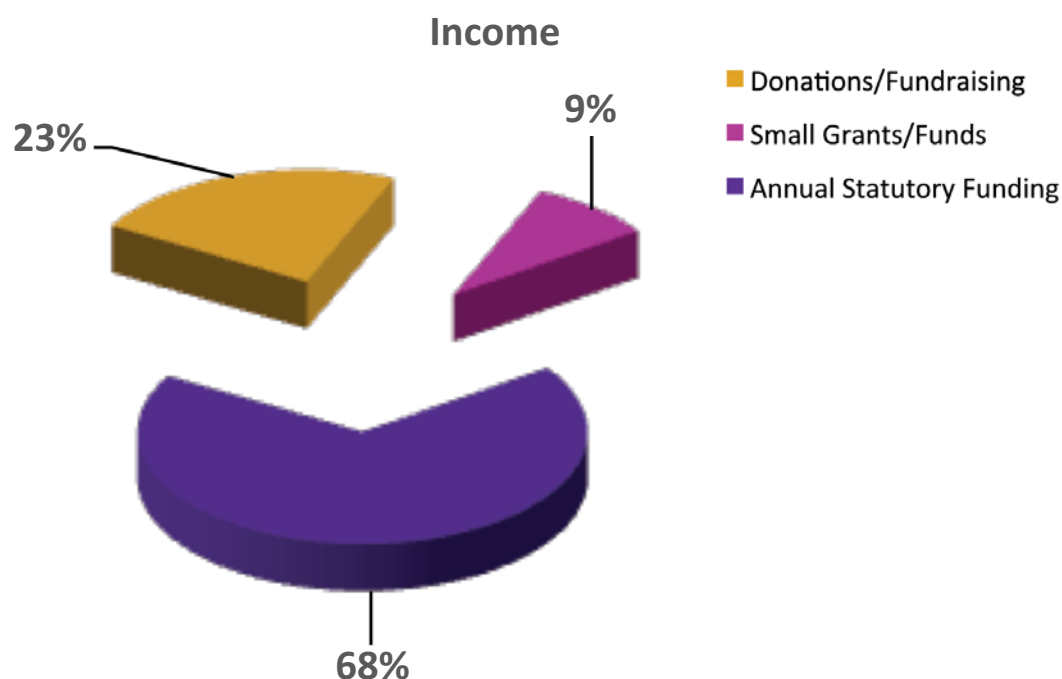


2011 – In partnership with An Garda Síochána, Ruhama develops a pilot training course for law enforcement members on the issue of policing prostitution. Following the success of the pilot course, it is endorsed by An Garda Síochána and rolled out twice a year to members of the Gardaí and PSNI.

Ruhama is a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital.

Income and Expenditure 2013

	2013 €	2012 €
Annual Statutory Funding		
Anti Human Trafficking Unit Dept of Justice & Equality	172,000	195,000
HSE	118,825	122,500
SICLDTF	100,824	49,876
SICLDTF EMERGING NEEDS		50,948
Other Small Grant Income	54,584	37,551
Donations/Fundraising	135,434	146,409
Total Income:	581,667	602,284
Administrative Expenses	(578,324)	(599,560)
Operating surplus/(Deficit)	4,615	2,724
Other income and expenses		
Interest receivable	53	60
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	4,668	2,784



Financial Summary - Continued

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2013

	2013 €	2012 €
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	2,394	1,063
Debtors	16,706	16,744
Cash at bank and in hand	278,852	284,991
	295,558	301,735
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(126,553)	(136,067)
Net Current Assets	169,005	165,668
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	171,399	166,731
Capital and Reserves		
Income and Expenditure Accounts	171,399	166,731
Deferred Reserves	0	0
Funds	171,399	166,731

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 14th May 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

Catherine Joyce
Director

Zuilmah Wallis
Director



Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Ruhama

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2013 and its surplus for the year then ended: and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

Signed by: Liam McQuaid
Duignan Carthy O'Neill
Chartered Accountants
18th June 2014

Financial supporters

Ruhama has a lengthy, positive and productive history with its statutory funders and values the continuing relationship with them – particularly in the current challenging economic climate. The organisation has, in response to reductions in statutory funding in recent years affected rigorous cost saving initiatives to try to maximize frontline service provision while making savings on outgoings. Ruhama operates in a highly streamlined fashion and as the shortfall between our statutory funding and our outgoings will remain for the foreseeable future, we must continue to actively protect our service through application for small grants and of course fundraising. We would like to pay tribute to all our generous donors and fundraising supporters. There are individuals and organisations that have been stalwart in their contribution to Ruhama's success, in some cases over many years. Our donors and supporters range (to name a few) from corporate bodies, international funders, community foundations, women's groups, religious congregations and individuals who have held events and raised sponsorship. Every euro raised, granted or donated is hugely appreciated and we hope that this warm support will continue into the future when it will be more important than ever.

To explore the many ways in which you can support Ruhama, including making a donation, please visit our website www.ruhama.ie and click the "SUPPORT RUHAMA" button on the home page, (if reading this in soft copy you can click on this link to access the "SUPPORT RUHAMA" page directly: <http://www.ruhama.ie/page.php?intPageID=235>) or phone Linda on 01 8360292.

Ruhama is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Notes



2014 – A new van is purchased for Street Outreach service.

