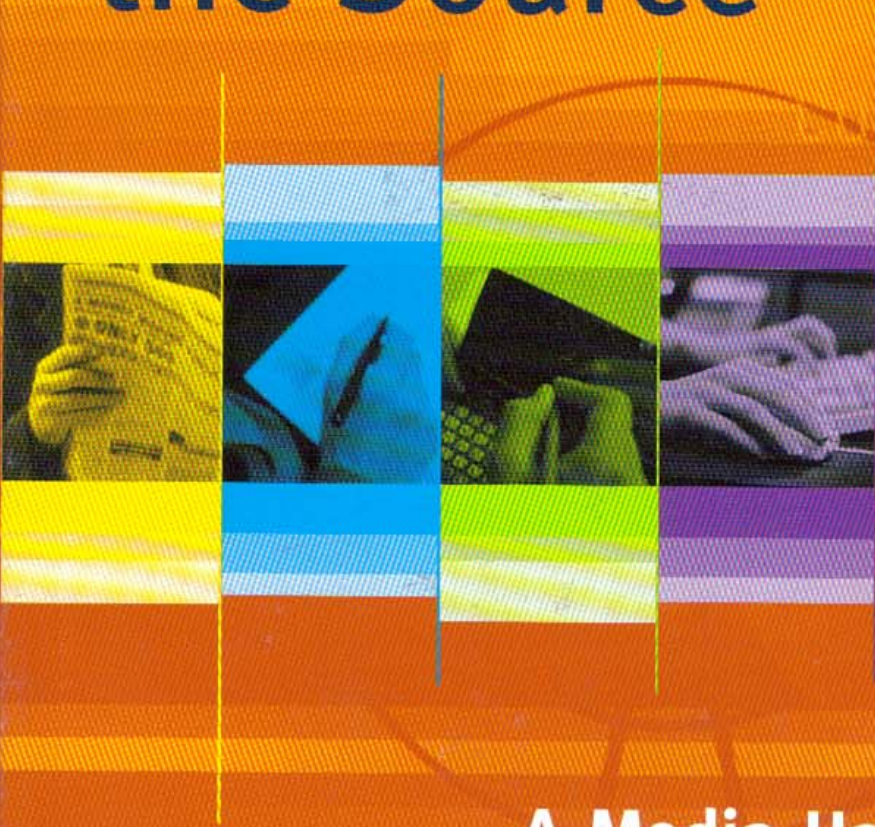


# Getting to the Source



## A Media Handbook on Poverty in Ireland

Jude Bowles, Meitheal

Combat Poverty Agency  
working for the prevention  
and elimination of poverty



# GETTING TO THE SOURCE

## POVERTY IN IRELAND

A Media Handbook

Jude Bowles, Meitheal

With the assistance of Audrey Lawler, Meitheal and Peigin Doyle

Combat Poverty Agency  
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In Section 1 and Section 2, the views expressed in this publication are the author's and not necessarily those of the Combat Poverty Agency.

In Section 3, while every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this handbook is accurate, no legal responsibility is accepted by the author or the Combat Poverty Agency for any errors or omissions.



## Foreword

The Combat Poverty Agency Act (1986) identifies one of the Agency's four key functions as,

*"the promotion of greater public understanding of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in the state, and the measures necessary to overcome such poverty".*

Creating greater awareness and understanding of poverty throughout society is fundamental to successful action to combat poverty. Regular and informative media coverage of poverty is a crucial and powerful way of undertaking this duty. The Agency has a strong interest in fostering common values that uphold social justice principles. The media has a central role to play in facilitating a knowledge and understanding of these values. Our new-found wealth, immigration and the developing peace process all impact significantly on the extent of social change in Ireland. This context suggests that regular and informed media coverage of poverty issues is ever more important if the creation of a fairer and more equal society is to be kept to the fore as an issue of public concern and relevance.

The purpose of this publication, *Getting to the Source: Poverty in Ireland, A Media Handbook*, is to provide a resource on poverty in Ireland for those who work in the media. It will be of interest to editors, sub-editors, radio and television producers, general reporters, specialist correspondents, student journalists at national, regional and local level, international media based in Ireland and those involved in the training and education of journalists.

The handbook is designed to be a practical resource for the working journalist. It is not a blueprint. It is hoped it will make a useful contribution to assisting media practitioners in their day-to-day work and to strengthening interest in and consciousness of poverty issues.

The handbook has three sections. Section One provides an overview of key data and information on the extent and nature of poverty in Ireland. Section Two offers suggestions on approaches to consider when covering poverty issues in the media. Section Three provides a short overview of data on poverty-related issues and provides a directory of contacts and sources on poverty in government departments, community and voluntary organisations and research bodies.

The Agency would very much like to acknowledge the expertise of Seamus Dooley, Irish Organiser, National Union of Journalists; Peadar Kirby, Dublin City University; Brian Trench, Dublin City University; and Pat Montague, Montague Communications, and thank them for their advice and assistance in this initiative. We would like to extend a special word of thanks to Jude Bowles and Audrey Lawler, Meitheal, for their expertise and to Peigin Doyle for her editorial skill.

November 2000.

COMMUNICATE

PARISH

**SECTION ONE**

Poverty in Ireland:  
Some Key Facts



This section gives an overview of poverty in Ireland and sets out some key facts. It explains how poverty is defined and measured; who is affected by it; income and poverty trends and people and places most at risk of poverty.

*"There have been a number of important developments in the struggle against poverty and social exclusion over the past year. Together, these created an enhanced framework, at local, national and European levels, for intensifying efforts to end poverty and social exclusion .... While the policy direction exemplified by the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF), National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) and the National Development Plan (NDP) is encouraging, there is no room for complacency. A booming economy does not guarantee an end to poverty and an inclusive and just society. That depends on how the additional resources available are used and how much priority is given in public policy to ensuring that the underlying structural causes of poverty and social exclusion are addressed."*

*A number of aspects of the current economic boom cause concern, viewed from the perspective of combating poverty and promoting social inclusion. These relate to income adequacy and inequality, the quality of basic public services and the needs of minority groups.<sup>1</sup>*

In most instances, the most recent figures available have been published between 1997 and 1999. There is clear evidence that the gap between those who are in relative income poverty and the rest of society is growing.

New strategies and programmes to tackle aspects of poverty and disadvantage are coming on stream all the time. The information contained here is the most up-to-date at time of publication but readers should check the websites of relevant organisations and of the Combat Poverty Agency – <http://www.cpa.ie> – to discover the latest developments.

The Living in Ireland survey was conducted in 1997 and 1998 by the Economic and Social Research Institute and sponsored by the Combat Poverty Agency and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. The Living in Ireland survey has been carried out every year since 1994. New poverty data will emerge from the survey on a continuous basis. Updated information is published as it becomes available on the Combat Poverty Agency website: <http://www.cpa.ie>. Two other useful websites are the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs at [www.dscfa.ie](http://www.dscfa.ie) and the ESRI at [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie).

<sup>1</sup> Combat Poverty Agency (1999). *Annual Report*. Dublin.



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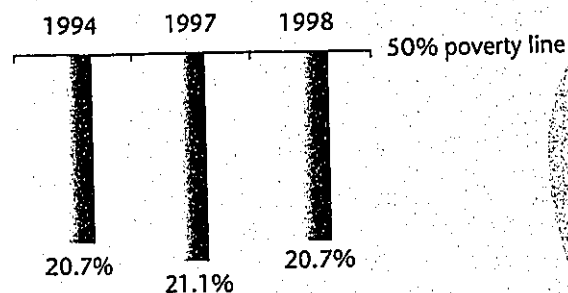
<sup>1</sup> Combat Poverty Agency (1999). *Annual Report*. Dublin.

## Economic Growth

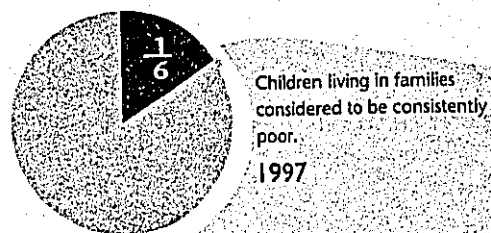
Ireland has experienced successive and historically high economic growth since the mid-1990s. Average wages have grown significantly and the Government has been working with an increased budget surplus. In 1997, the ESRI *Medium Term Review* suggested that "the next decade or so will be a period of exceptionally rapid growth and improving living standards, the benefits of which can be widely shared."<sup>2</sup> In the 1999 *Medium Term Review*, it was noted that, because of this buoyant economic growth, "if the country acts wisely and prudently, living standards and wealth levels could rise above the EU average by the end of the next decade."<sup>3</sup>

Despite Ireland's unprecedented prosperity statistics show that:

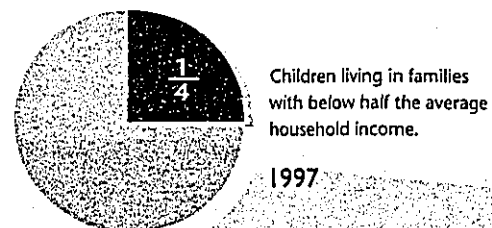
- In 1998 between 6.5 and 8.3 per cent of households lived in consistent poverty.<sup>4</sup> In 1997, the corresponding figure was between 7 per cent and 10 per cent. Consistent poverty means that not only are people's income and living standards lower than the average in society but they also lack such basics as a warm winter coat or a substantial meal in the day;
- 20.7 per cent of households fell below the 50 per cent poverty line in 1998.<sup>5</sup> This compared to 21.1 per cent in 1997 and 20.7 per cent in 1994.



- In 1997 one in six children lived in families considered to be consistently poor. Recent data shows that this dropped to one in eight children in 1998;



- In 1997 one in four children lived in families with below half the average household income (£182 or less per week for 2 adults and 2 children).



*"You don't come up in society - no, you don't - not where we are anyway. We're second class. I'd class myself as second class."*

(Workshop involving teenagers and parents on living in poverty, June 2000)

## What is Poverty?

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy<sup>6</sup> (NAPS) was launched by the Irish Government in April 1997. NAPS is a 10-year plan of action to reduce poverty levels that sets down targets for the Government to achieve by 2007. It defined poverty as follows:

*"People are living in poverty if their income and resources (material, cultural and social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living that is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally. As a result of inadequate income and resources, people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities that are considered the norm for other people."*

Income poverty is having an income that is less than what is regarded as acceptable by society generally, giving a standard of living and a level of participation that is lower than normal. It is a relative term, defined by assessing a person's income in relation to what the majority of people enjoy. Relative income poverty can be measured by the degree to which a person's income falls short of, for example, the 60 per cent poverty line. The 60 per cent poverty line is 60 per cent of average household disposable income.

Consistent poverty is relative income poverty combined with deprivation of basic items such as a warm coat or adequate heating.

<sup>6</sup> See *Sharing in Progress*, 1997 National Anti-Poverty Strategy, p3. Dublin: Government Publications.

<sup>2</sup> Duffy et al, (April 1997) *Medium Term Review 1997-2003*, No 6, p159, Dublin: ESRI.

<sup>3</sup> Duffy et al (1999) *Medium Term Review 1999-2005*, No. 7, p66, Dublin: ESRI.

<sup>4</sup> 1999/2000 Annual Report of the NAPS Interdepartmental Policy Committee.

<sup>5</sup> ESRI (1998) *Living in Ireland survey* (preliminary results).



## Deprivation

Deprivation refers to the extent to which someone is denied the opportunity to do something that is regarded as normally accessible or achievable by the majority of the population or to have basic requirements. Indicators of deprivation include lack of adequate heating, a day without a substantial meal, and the lack of a warm winter coat. When the numbers that are below a poverty line are combined with deprivation levels, we get an indication of those who are in consistent poverty.

*“People are living in poverty if their income and resources (material, cultural and social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living that is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally. As a result of inadequate income and resources, people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities that are considered the norm for other people.”*

(National Anti-Poverty Strategy, 1997)

## What Poverty Means for People

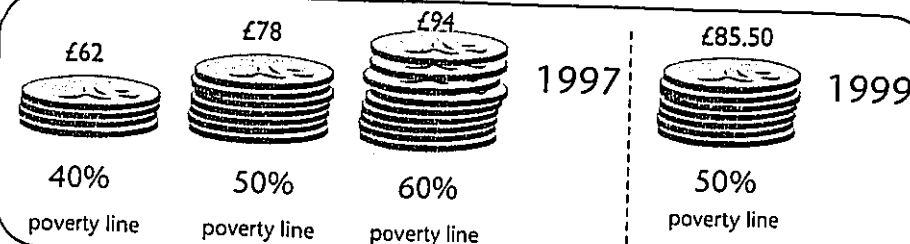
People living in poverty are distanced from the chance of a job or an adequate income, from social and educational opportunities, from social and community networks, and from power and decision-making. Poverty means not being able to look after and make decisions for yourself or your family and having to rely and depend on others. It means not having choices about which school to send your children to, which hospital to go to, which shops to shop in or where to live. Being poor means having to cope with problems such as debt, and the costs of clothing, food and housing.

People who live in consistent poverty experience multiple disadvantage: not simply unemployment and a lack of income but also poorer housing, diminished health and barriers to education.

The consequence of poverty is that many people, households and communities are alienated, marginalised, powerless and socially excluded. The multi-dimensional nature of poverty limits the opportunities for individuals and households most at risk of poverty to break out of poverty.

## Household Income Levels

Relative income poverty is measured by the use of poverty lines that are based on percentages of average household income. They show how many people and households at a given time fall below the average household income (the extent of poverty) and how far below each line they fall (the depth of poverty).



Three relative income poverty lines are used generally, set at 40 per cent, 50 per cent and 60 per cent of average household income. The ESRI estimated that, for a single person, the 40 per cent line in 1997 was equivalent to £62 (79 euros); the 50 per cent line represented £78 (99 euros); and the 60 per cent line was equivalent to £94 (119 euros). The 50 per cent line generally is accepted as reflecting the reality of poverty. Updating the 50 per cent poverty line figure to 1999 levels to take account of increases in average industrial earnings produces a 50 per cent relative income poverty line of £85.50 for a single person. Most social assistance rates are £12 less than the poverty line.

## Public Perceptions of Poverty in Ireland

Despite the standard definition of income poverty as having a lower income than the socially accepted norm, public perceptions of poverty do not recognise this. In a survey by the Combat Poverty Agency on public attitudes to poverty, a majority of respondents (54 per cent) defined poverty as “having absolutely no money or other resources (e.g. food, clothes and housing)”. Only a quarter understood poverty as being relative to normal living standards in society and that inadequate income or resources resulted in exclusion or lack of participation in society. However, the survey indicated strong support for government action on poverty. Over 80 per cent of survey respondents said that poverty was a problem in Ireland despite the economic boom and over half stressed that it was a serious problem.

Long-term unemployment, alcoholism/drug use and being brought up in disadvantaged conditions were perceived as the three most common causes of poverty by those surveyed. The survey revealed mixed views on the reasons why people were living in poverty. Almost one-third cited “injustice in our society” and 28 per cent identified “bad luck”.



When asked to identify who should have most responsibility for solving poverty, 67 per cent cited the individual, 60 per cent cited the Government/State and 51 per cent identified social services.

When asked what measures were most appropriate to solving poverty, the top three responses were:

- increasing employment;
- increasing the supply of training for the unemployed and early school-leavers;
- redistribution of resources through the tax system.

Most respondents believed that the rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer. Only one-third of respondents believed that it was possible to escape from poverty.

### Measuring Poverty – Monitoring Poverty Trends

A primary source of detailed information on income poverty in Ireland is a report called *Monitoring Poverty Trends* that contains the results of a major longitudinal analysis of poverty in Ireland.<sup>8</sup> This study measured poverty at household level by looking at relative household income levels based on poverty lines and at the experience of deprivation as shown by the indicators of deprivation. The study was based on the Living in Ireland survey conducted in 1997.<sup>9</sup> *Monitoring Poverty Trends* was published in June 1999 and contained the results from the fourth year of the study. Data from the 1998 survey has not been published in detail at the time of going to press, but some headline figures are outlined below. The Annual Report of the Inter-Departmental Policy Committee on NAPS available from the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs will provide more detail.

### How Many Are Poor?

Overall, the results of the Living in Ireland survey revealed that the numbers of people experiencing relative income poverty dropped slightly between 1997 and 1998 although they were generally higher in 1997 than in 1994. However, there was a significant drop in the numbers of people experiencing long-term or consistent poverty, that is, income poverty combined with deprivation, between 1998 and 1997 and between 1997 and 1994.

In terms of households, in 1998 between 6.5 and 8.3 per cent of households were living in consistent poverty.<sup>10</sup> In 1997, the corresponding figure was between 7 per cent and 10 per cent. This represents a significant reduction in the numbers of people living in consistent poverty.

The 1998 Living in Ireland survey found that 20.7 per cent of people fell below the 50 per cent relative income poverty line and the 1997 survey found that 21.1 per cent fell below the same line.

However, approximately one-quarter of Irish children were living in households below the 50 per cent poverty line. Ireland has one of the worst rates of child poverty in the EU.

*['What makes you angry? It's your children comparing with other children and can't play with them other children because they're called names because they're not the same as them - they haven't got what they have.']*

(Workshop involving teenagers and parents on living in poverty, June 2000)

### Where are Poor Households?

Poverty is not concentrated, to any significant degree, in any geographic area.<sup>11</sup> The highest risk of poverty is in villages and towns with populations of less than 3,000. Housing tenure is a significant factor in explaining the distribution and concentration of poverty. High risks of poverty are associated with local authority tenancy. A recent study indicated that people living in local authority housing in both rural and urban areas were at a high risk of poverty, and that this risk rose sharply between 1987 and 1994.<sup>12</sup>

More than half the population of Ireland lives in urban areas and many of the divisions in Irish society are reflected in the structure of these urban areas. Concentrations of high-risk poverty groups in particular urban areas have led to concentrations of poverty, deprivation and social exclusion in those areas. Social segregation ensures that neighbourhoods are divided according to social class and status. Urban local authority housing estates are often characterised by a lack of facilities that creates extreme hardship for residents.

<sup>8</sup> Callan, T. et al (1999) *Monitoring Poverty Trends: Data from the 1997 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin: Combat Poverty Agency.

<sup>9</sup> The results of the 1998 Living in Ireland survey were not published at the time of publication of this document.

<sup>10</sup> 1998 Annual Report of the NAPS Interdepartmental Policy Committee.

<sup>11</sup> Nolan, B., Whelan, C., Williams, J., (1998) *Where Are Poor Households: The Spatial Distribution of Poverty and Deprivation in Ireland*. Dublin: Oak Tree Press/Combat Poverty Agency.

<sup>12</sup> Nolan, B., Whelan, C., (1999) *Loading the Dice? A Study of Cumulative Disadvantage*. Dublin: Oak Tree/Press Combat Poverty Agency.

[An estate in west Dublin with a population of 5,500 does not have a primary school, a post primary school, a health centre, a doctor or dentist surgery, a post office or post box, a bank, a shopping centre, a public telephone, an employment exchange, a playground, an all-weather playing pitch, a stables or a public house. The bus service in the area stops at 6.30 in the evening.]

(From *Social Exclusion and Local Responses: An Ethnographic and Spatial Analysis of People Community and Institutions in Two Economically Peripheral Neighbourhoods*, 1998)

### Rural Poverty

In contrast to urban areas, one of the main characteristics of rural poverty is its seemingly invisible nature. Rural areas are characterised by relatively low population densities, depopulation and an ageing population. Small villages and towns have been found to have high risks of poverty, particularly in public housing estates. People living in remote rural areas share a number of common characteristics whatever their social class or economic status such as, distance from services and amenities and isolation. These characteristics compound the experience of poverty.

### Risk and Incidence

The study *Monitoring Poverty Trends* also assessed the risk and incidence of poverty among particular groups in society.

- The risk of poverty experienced by a particular group, such as lone parents or Travellers, is based on what proportion of that group actually falls below a poverty line.
- The incidence of poverty experienced by a group in society tells us what proportion of all those below a poverty line belong to a particular group.

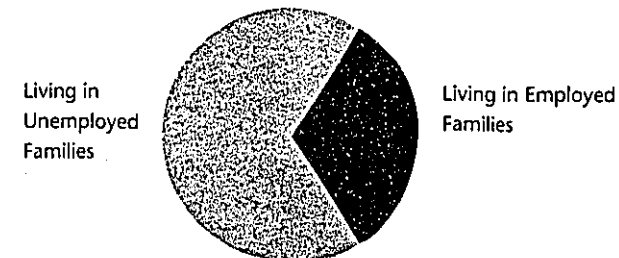
### Child Poverty

Children are 1.25 times more likely than adults to live in income poverty. Poverty has particularly severe effects on children who are homeless, have a disability or are members of the Travelling community.<sup>13</sup>

One-quarter of Irish children live in homes below the poverty line (50 per cent of average household income). One in six children live in income

poverty and deprivation measured by combining income poverty and deprivation indicators such as having to do without a warm meal or ordinary school trips. This is a reduction of severe child poverty levels since the 1970s and reflects the recent fall in unemployment levels.

Two-thirds of all poor children are in unemployed families and 30 per cent are in working families.



Poor Children

A recent study by UNICEF of child poverty ranked Ireland sixth worst out of 23 OECD countries measured by the percentage of children living in households below 50 per cent of the national average. The proportion of Irish children living below the poverty line was more than twice that in the Netherlands and France and more than six times that in some Scandinavian countries.<sup>14</sup>

The *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative* comprises eight organisations working to raise public awareness of what life is like for children who live in poverty and their families. By raising public awareness of child poverty, the organisers hope to promote change in public policy that contributes to its prevention, reduction and elimination. The initiative comprises: Barnardos; Combat Poverty Agency; Children's Rights Alliance; Focus Ireland; National Youth Council of Ireland; Pavee Point; People with Disabilities in Ireland and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

According to Owen Keenan, chief executive of Barnardos, a participating group in the *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative*, "One in four Irish children can't participate in everyday activities others take for granted because of lack of money. They live in homes with less than half the average Irish income. In effect, they are denied the basic right to an adequate standard of living and so are excluded from society."



*["In a recent survey on public attitudes to poverty, most respondents believed that the rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer. Only one-third of respondents believed that it was possible to escape from poverty."]*

(A survey of Public Perceptions of Poverty in Ireland in 1998 carried out for the Combat Poverty Agency by the Research and Evaluation Service)

### Not Included

Because *Monitoring Poverty Trends* was based on a survey of households, it did not provide information on the homeless, many Traveller families, people in care and living in institutions, or women and children in refuges. Sources of information for these groups can be found in Section Three of this report.

### Who is Affected by Poverty – Who is at Risk of Poverty?

Poverty is not a static condition and individuals and groups may move in and out of the poverty net at different times. However, while many people experience poverty in some degree, whether short or long-term, direct or indirect, research has shown that some groups in society have a higher incidence of poverty and are at greater risk of poverty than others. People most at risk of poverty include:

- Households headed by an unemployed person. These are most at risk and have the highest incidence of poverty.
- Households headed by someone with a disability make up a significant number of those in poverty.
- Households headed by someone working full-time in the home form a large proportion of the population who live in poverty. Most of these are women and many are elderly women living alone.
- Older people face a growing risk of poverty and numbers living in poverty have increased between 1994 and 1997.
- Children are 1:25 times more likely than adults to live in income poverty although this gap was considerably reduced between 1994 and 1997.

- Travellers; homeless people; early school-leavers; people living in decaying inner-city communities; in suburban public housing estates and remote rural areas; low-paid people and households that are reliant on low pay; and households where there are children are all at risk of poverty.<sup>15</sup>

The following factors influence the likelihood of being in poverty:

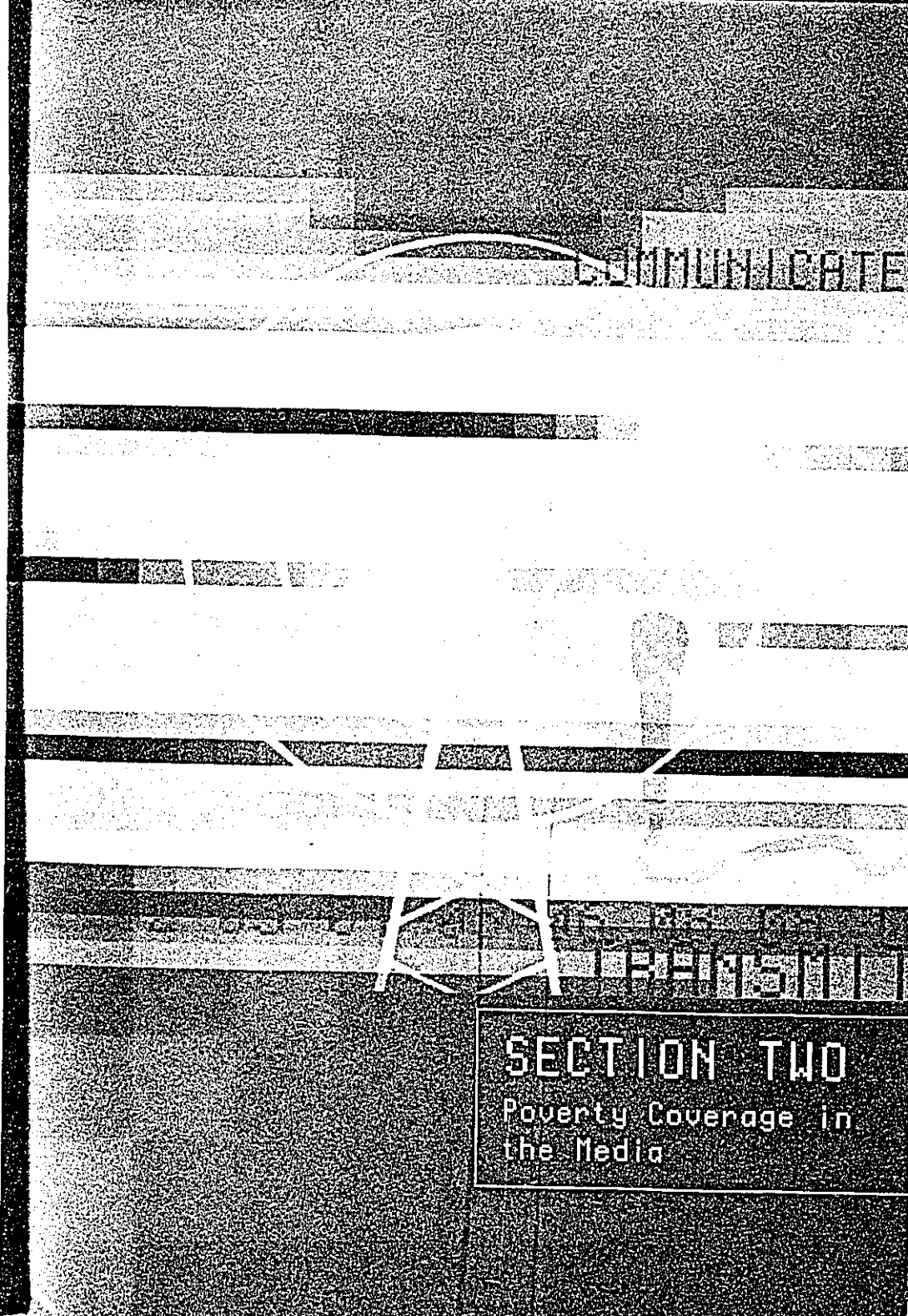
- social class
- employment status
- educational experience
- family size and type
- ill-health
- disability
- age
- gender
- ethnicity
- household tenure
- sexual orientation<sup>16</sup>

*["Increasingly, poverty of expectation and poverty of opportunity are being recognised as forces to be reckoned with in their own right rather than as mere camp followers of low income."]*

(UNICEF commentary accompanying *Innocenti Report Card on child poverty*)

<sup>15</sup> Nolan, B., Hughes, G., (June 1997) *Working Paper No. 84, 'Low Pay: The Earnings Distribution and Poverty in Ireland 1987-1994'*. Dublin: ESRI.

<sup>16</sup> GLEN/Nexus (1995) *Poverty: Lesbian and Gay Men: The Economic and Social Effects of Discrimination*. Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin.



COMMUNICATE

**SECTION TWO**  
Poverty Coverage in  
the Media



This section examines the role of the media in covering poverty and some of the factors that influence present coverage, such as social attitudes, the balance of power in society and practical constraints of time, resources and editorial expectations. It raises some issues that journalists might consider when deciding how to approach a poverty-related story and refers to relevant sections of the NUJ code of conduct. The potential of using community-based and voluntary organisations as sources of information is discussed.

## The Right to Fair Coverage

Every person and group has a right to be represented and portrayed fairly and justly in the media. If balanced coverage of society is to be given, it is important that poverty becomes a key issue in the media and that the media continue to find ways of including poverty issues.

Reporting poverty issues is not easy given the constraints and pressures under which journalists operate. Media workers have to keep deadlines, abide by house style and are subject to editorial requirements. Media production is a team effort, involving reporters, sub-editors, editors and, in broadcast media, producers and production staff. There is a tension between balancing practical job requirements with the needs of those who are trying to raise public awareness of poverty through the media.

Media stories often focus on the sensational, the controversial and the crisis. The powerful and the better off in society tend to dominate media coverage. Few conventional news stories emanate from either the organisations tackling or individuals experiencing poverty. These organisations work with limited resources in difficult circumstances and may not prioritise informing the media.

If under-representation of poverty in the media needs to be addressed, so also does the danger of misrepresentation. Poverty is sensitive and difficult for those experiencing poverty, for those reporting it, and for people who hear and read about it. Few professional journalists will have direct experience of poverty. For people who are poor, a lifetime on the margins or coming from generations of people who were disadvantaged may cause feelings of low self-esteem. In addition, people who experience social exclusion often will have no direct experience of how the media work. Interviewing people in vulnerable situations about living in poverty and being socially excluded may be delicate and difficult.



Poverty is an experience of many dimensions, economic, social, cultural and political, rather than a once-off event or activity. It is not appropriate soundbite material. Yet the need to put a story into context so that readers can readily understand the situation or shortage of space or time in which to tell the story may almost compel the journalist to present an over-simplistic or one-dimensional version of events.

All these factors may create a dilemma for the journalist who is trying sincerely to present an accurate story within the context of all these other constraints.

### Role of Media Coverage

The media play a crucial role in influencing the way in which people view poverty and in which policymakers address poverty. Journalist Colm Rapple has proposed that, "the twin functions of newspapers" are to inform "the public at large of the activities of those in power, while also informing those in power of public opinion"<sup>17</sup> Media analyst Stuart Hall has said, "it matters profoundly what and who regularly and routinely gets left out; and how things, people, events, relationships are represented. What we know of society depends on how things are represented to us and that knowledge, in turn, informs what we do and what policies we are prepared to accept."<sup>18</sup>

*[...People experiencing exclusion, whether from employment or from society, are predominantly viewed, and portrayed in the media and in policy, as excluding themselves. The reality, however, is that people experiencing social exclusion are provided neither with the opportunity nor the resources required to participate in the economic, social, cultural and, crucially, the political life of society.]*

(Tom Roynane, Integra National Support Structure, WRC Social and Economic Consultants, from *Perception is Power, Social Exclusion and the Media*)

### Studies of Poverty Coverage

Coverage of poverty issues in the media has been analysed recently in two studies, by Eoin Devereux<sup>19</sup> and Kevin Doyle.<sup>20</sup> Both studies acknowledged the difficulties

<sup>17</sup> Rapple, Colm, (1995), 'Hidden Agenda', *Fairnight* No. 341, p12. July/August 1995.

<sup>18</sup> Hall, Stuart, (1986) *Media Power and Class Power*. p8.

<sup>19</sup> Devereux, Eoin, (1998) *Devils and Angels: Television, Ideology and the Coverage of Poverty*. University of Luton Press.

<sup>20</sup> Doyle, Kevin, (1998) *A Paper Tiger: Poverty in the Press*. Submitted in part fulfilment for the MA in Journalism, Dublin City University.

associated with covering poverty issues, particularly under-representation, misrepresentation and the potential for the media to be simplistic.

Apart from stories based on the human interest angle, most stories about poverty and about the poor are told by those who work on their behalf. "In the main, poverty news is really news about how those who are in positions of power are responding to aspects of the problem of poverty ... and rarely questions their activities in any way,"<sup>21</sup> Devereux claimed.

Because coverage often focuses on individual human interest stories, or on single issue topics such as unemployment and educational disadvantage, media coverage of poverty can give a message that responsibility for combating poverty and inequality lies with individuals or with individual responses.

'Changing Images' was a conference hosted in November 1999 by the Integra Policy Working Group on Media and Social Exclusion. The conference was held to analyse the role of the media in its coverage of exclusion and related issues such as unemployment, drugs and poverty.<sup>22</sup>

The conference concluded that mainstream media had "huge power in influencing policy at various levels of society and therefore the portrayal of negative images and limited responses to the issues of social exclusion in the media can, in turn, produce negative and limited responses, particularly at public policy level. The effect of this can be harmful and lead to discrimination against those who are experiencing social exclusion".<sup>23</sup>

The media, and in particular the broadcast media, were urged to "take more care in how they report issues of social exclusion and take responsibility for the consequences of their coverage as well as engaging in a more in-depth look at the structural causes of social exclusion".

### Some Responses to Media Coverage

In his research, Doyle asked a focus group of people living in disadvantaged areas if they thought Irish newspaper coverage of poverty in Ireland might be criticised, and, if so, on what grounds such criticism might be based. The group was most concerned about the superficial and over-simplistic coverage that had "little analysis of reality" and showed a "reluctance to accept the depth and extent of poverty as ... life for many hundreds of thousands of citizens" and that labelled those on social welfare as "spongers".<sup>24</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Devereux, Eoin, (1998) *Devils and Angels: Television, Ideology and the Coverage of Poverty*. p96. University of Luton Press.

<sup>22</sup> Integra was part of an EU initiative that aimed to devise and set up pilot actions to combat social exclusion. The Policy Working Group comprised five organisations working with disadvantaged and excluded groups.

<sup>23</sup> *Changing Images: Media and Social Exclusion*. Report of 'Changing Images' conference, November 1999, Dublin: Community Media Network.

<sup>24</sup> Doyle, Kevin, (1998) *A Paper Tiger: Poverty in the Press*. p115.

A community group told Doyle that journalists were not welcome and that they had a policy of not talking to the media. Past experiences had taught them "a bitter lesson". Journalists, when they did come, came to talk about "blood on the landing" of the flats complex, the group said.<sup>25</sup>

In another response, members of KLEAR, a community-led women's education project in north Dublin, described the approaches they received from the media.

*"Often we get telephone calls into KLEAR from RTE and other community stations; they will want someone to talk about poverty or unemployment or being deserted, but they will not accept someone who is articulate. I have been turned down as a speaker on those issues because I am too articulate and not representative of the working class. I have that in writing. They want women who will expose themselves, who will tell their personal details because this makes for good broadcasting. They do not want women who are going to question the structures. They will say 'that has already been covered' but it has not been covered by us, it has been covered for us."<sup>26</sup>*

### Working with Sources on Poverty

There are many sources of information on poverty. These include government departments, state agencies, researchers, national voluntary organisations and local community groups working on issues of disadvantage.

Many people who experience poverty and social exclusion are active in their communities, working in community development projects, self-help groups or action groups. Many of these groups seek to build good relations with the media and can provide interesting, reflective and authentic evidence and analysis.

Good relations between the media and groups working on poverty depend on each acknowledging the constraints and conditions under which the other works. For example, community development groups are run by elected voluntary management committees that are accountable to their own communities. Thus, soundbites are not readily available and potential interviewees will need time to prepare. For the media there are other pressures, for example, competition and deadlines. Nonetheless, there are examples of well-informed coverage of anti-poverty issues.

<sup>25</sup> Idem, p1.

<sup>26</sup> O'Neill, K., (1993) *Let in the Light, Censorship, Secrecy and Democracy*. Ed by Smyth, P. and Hazelkorn, E. Brandon Books.

*["When placed in the context of the sustained and systematic coverage of other issues of public concern, particularly the economy, employment, industrial relations, transport, the environment, crime and political events, there is comparatively little coverage of social exclusion."]*

(Tom Roynane, *Integra National Support Structure, WRC Social and Economic Consultants from Perception is Power, Social Exclusion and the Media*)

### Considerations in Covering Poverty

Media workers may need to examine the industry and see what pressures act to prevent poorer people and their concerns from receiving the same coverage as those who are economically and socially more secure and powerful.

Some questions are presented here for media workers to consider when approaching poverty-related stories, in order to suggest ways in which:

- ✓ balanced representation and coverage may be assured;
- ✓ the pitfalls and difficulties involved in the coverage of poverty can be negotiated;
- ✓ media coverage might better reflect the sensitivities and complexities of poverty and social exclusion;
- ✓ media practitioners might be helped to write and make better stories.

When producing reports on poverty issues, media practitioners might consider:

- ✓ Who benefits from the story being told, the subject, the person or group presenting the story, or society as a whole?
- ✓ What point of view is being covered and whose point of view is it?
- ✓ Has space been given to other points of view or other analyses within the anti-poverty sector?
- ✓ Is the report accurate and balanced?
- ✓ Does the language used suggest a judgement on the story or its subject, e.g. using the word 'admitted' instead of 'said'?
- ✓ When assessing the newsworthiness of a story or issue, who do you understand your audience to be? Are they middle-class, working-class, working and with good incomes or are they the 'public' in a broader sense of the word?<sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> *Changing Images: Media and Social Exclusion*. From 'Introductory Presentation' by Eoin Devereux, p12.



### National Union of Journalists Code of Conduct

The National Union of Journalists has a code of conduct that includes some relevant material for covering poverty issues. Under the union's code of conduct members are expected to:

- strive to eliminate distortion, news suppression and censorship;
- strive to ensure that the information he/she disseminates is fair and accurate, avoid the expression of comment and conjecture as established fact, and falsification by distortion, selection or misrepresentation;
- do nothing which entails intrusion into private grief and distress (subject to justification by overriding considerations of the public interest);
- not lend himself/herself to the distortion or suppression of the truth because of advertising or other considerations;
- mention a person's age, sex, race, colour, creed, illegitimacy, disability, marital status, or lack of it, gender and sexual orientation only if this information is strictly relevant;
- neither originate nor process material which encourages discrimination, ridicule, prejudice or hatred on any of the above-mentioned grounds.

### Coverage of Travellers

The NUJ has issued the following guidelines on reporting issues that involve members of the Travelling community. Many of these guidelines are also appropriate for other socially marginalised groups:

- In line with current general practice, the term Traveller(s) should be used. Other terms, whether popular (i.e. 'tinker' or 'knacker') or 'objective' ('itinerant' or 'trader'), are regarded as offensive by the Traveller community and should be avoided.
- Traveller(s) is a proper noun and should be capitalised.
- Reference to an individual's ethnic origin should only be made where relevant and appropriate.
- Journalists should at all times be aware of the potential to exacerbate intercommunity tensions and endeavour to minimise that risk.
- Journalists should strive to ensure that nothing they write could lead people to the view that Travellers are less than full citizens of the State with all attendant rights and privileges.



- When reporting on Traveller issues, journalists should seek the views of Travellers and Traveller organisations, while respecting the individual's right to privacy and the right to nominate a spokesperson to articulate the views of the group.

### Some Further Suggestions

Other suggestions that might be useful to media practitioners in achieving fairness and accuracy while maintaining newsworthiness include:

- ✓ Avoid attributing blame to an individual or social group when using personal stories about poverty issues. Check if the story has links to or has been exacerbated by public policy;
- ✓ Include diverse and, where necessary, conflicting perspectives on poverty and its causes;
- ✓ Don't assume that the lives of the poor are neither of interest nor suitable subject matter;
- ✓ Enrich coverage of reports on poverty and social policy by including the views of those experiencing poverty or of those working with them;
- ✓ Try to ensure that nothing is produced that could lead the audience to the view that poor and socially-excluded people are less than full citizens of the State with all the rights and privileges this confers;
- ✓ Respect the individual's right to privacy and the right to nominate a spokesperson to articulate his or her views (accepting that, at times, the public interest may require the media to reject this);
- ✓ Try to avoid sensationalism, that is, avoid trying to cause intense feelings of curiosity and horror;
- ✓ Avoid stereotyping and labelling. Instead, go beyond what is presented and seek out different perspectives;
- ✓ Don't make assumptions or generalise about a whole social group based on the behaviour of individuals;
- ✓ Be conscious of personal prejudices and the way in which these can distort reports;
- ✓ Seek to reflect the fully-rounded lives of people who are poor and not just define them solely in terms of their poverty.

### Developing a Fairer System

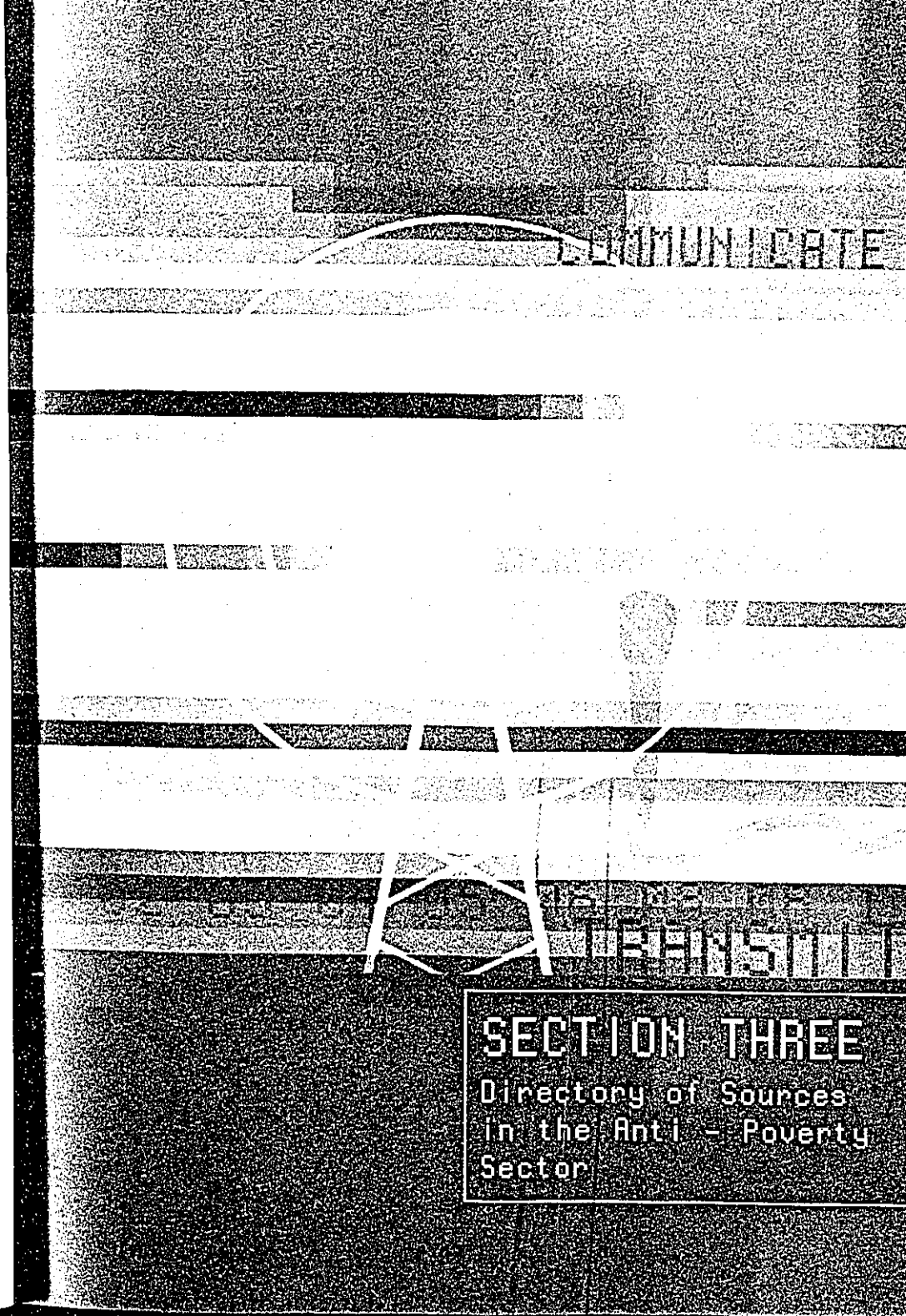
Knowledge of how news is constructed allows for the development of checks and balances that will deliver a fairer and more equal news reporting system. Within individual publications or media, journalists, sub-editors and editors may need to liaise more to ensure that the journalist's original story is not unwittingly distorted further along in the publication process, such as in editing or headline writing.

In addition, the media industry should seek to provide:

- specialised training for journalists and student journalists in reporting on poverty and related issues;
- greater consultation with and participation from socially excluded groups in media production.

*['It is only when people have some understanding of what living in poverty today means that we will create a momentum for change.']*

*(Dónall Geoghegan, National Youth Council of Ireland; a participant in the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative, June 2000)*



## SECTION THREE

Directory of Sources  
in the Anti - Poverty  
Sector



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## Introduction

This directory lists all the major interest groups involved in the anti-poverty sector for the media. Inevitably, some organisations and some contact addresses may change over time. Also, throughout the sector, new programmes and initiatives are coming on stream all the time. The following information is the most up-to-date at time of publication. However, readers should consult the websites of individual organisations and the Combat Poverty Agency's website: [www.cpa.ie](http://www.cpa.ie) to check on latest developments.<sup>29</sup>

## Overview of the Anti-Poverty Sector

Historically, the State has been slow in putting in place a structured response to poverty. It relied on voluntary bodies, particularly the Churches, large charitable institutions and self-help groups, to provide essential services. Without an organised and structured policy framework, anti-poverty action developed in a reactive ad hoc fashion.

More recently, the influence of the European Union has encouraged a more structured and active state approach to tackling poverty. This, combined with Ireland's increasing prosperity, has caused rapid change, development and growth in the sector tackling poverty in recent years. Some of these changes can be described as:<sup>30</sup>

- increasing acknowledgement at political level of the problems of structural poverty, unemployment, inequality and social exclusion;
- growth in the numbers of grassroots community and voluntary groups seeking to tackle disadvantage;
- growing sophistication and professionalism among anti-poverty groups with a move away from traditional, charity-based approaches towards more fundamental strategies based on self-help, community development, empowerment and political activism;
- emergence of new models of partnership and participation arising from the social dialogue between the State and other sectors in society;
- increased lobbying by the community and voluntary sector for policy changes and for a voice at policy-making levels;

<sup>29</sup> Information for the directory was gathered mainly through questionnaire or direct telephone contact with the organisations. The recent Combat Poverty Agency publication by Brian Harvey, *A Guide to Influencing Policy in Ireland*, provided some information. A small number of organisations did not reply to the questionnaire or telephone calls and therefore have been omitted.

<sup>30</sup> Taken from summary and discussion questions from the Combat Poverty Agency conference for anti-poverty and community development groups on the Green Paper, *Supporting Voluntary Activity*, 1998.

- greater resources for community and voluntary sector initiatives to combat poverty, unemployment and social exclusion through a range of EU and national programmes;
- new policy development structures at local and national levels. These include area-based partnerships, National Economic and Social Forum (NESF), National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS), and involvement of the community and voluntary sector in national agreement and social partnership negotiations such as the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

The anti-poverty sector includes groups and organisations that take a range of approaches (from charitable to community development) in tackling a range of issues (such as unemployment and homelessness) at a range of levels (from neighbourhood self-help, to voluntary national network, to statutory advisory body, to EU policy). While each group, organisation, project or action might stand alone, anti-poverty programmes often incorporate a range of organisations and actions taking different approaches at different levels.

## GOVERNMENT

Under the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, all government departments, state agencies and local authorities are obliged to consider the impact of their policies on poverty and to devise policy responses to poverty and social exclusion as part of their work. Each government department has a NAPS liaison officer to co-ordinate the implementation of the strategy.

Some government departments, in addition, are responsible for initiatives with a specific anti-poverty function. Certain departments operate a network of regional offices. Within departments, there are specific sections or teams that deal with aspects of poverty or social exclusion. Each department has a press officer who may be consulted in the first instance and a website that may provide detailed information at short notice.

**Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6624888; Fax: 01-6789791;**  
**Email: [webmaster@taoiseach.irigov.ie](mailto:webmaster@taoiseach.irigov.ie);**  
**Website: <http://www.irigov.ie/taoiseach>**  
**NAPS Information/Queries: Tel: 01-6194012/6194025**  
**Press Office: Tel: 01-6194098; Fax: 01-6763302**

The Department of the Taoiseach is responsible for a number of functions that have an anti-poverty association. They include the following:

- Programme for Prosperity and Fairness
- National Anti Poverty Strategy
- National Economic and Social Council
- National Economic and Social Forum
- Central Statistics Office
- Information Society Commission
- Cabinet Sub-Committee on Social Inclusion, Drugs and Local Development

The Taoiseach chairs a cabinet sub-committee on social inclusion, drugs and local development the purpose of which is to ensure the implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, the co-ordination of state initiatives against drugs and the promotion of local development.

Within the department there is an Economic and Social Policy Division. The department co-ordinates relations with the social partners under the national partnership agreements and has responsibility for the National Centre for Partnership.

It has lead responsibility for the Strategic Management Initiative for modernisation of the public service and local government. This is co-ordinated through the Strategic Management Initiative Team in the department.

**Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.**  
**Tel: 01-6072000; Fax: 01-6616263; Email: infodaff@indigo.ie;**  
**Website: <http://www.irlgov.ie/daff>**  
**Press Office: 01-6072190; Fax: 01-6621165**

This department's responsibility currently includes the remaining part of the LEADER II Programme, the Area-Based LEADER Programme (see below), and administration of both Area Aid, that includes headage and premia payments, and the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS). Both of these provide payments to farmers, including those on lower income or poorer quality land.

LEADER II aimed to bring about social and economic development in rural areas by encouraging and funding communities to tackle their areas' development needs through innovative local business plans. The programme was run by the department through 37 LEADER groups around the country. LEADER II ran from 1994 to mid-2000.



Two new programmes are to replace LEADER II. These are:

- LEADER+;
- Area-Based LEADER Programme.

**Contact: Liam Fitzgerald, Principal Officer. Tel: 01-6072035;**  
**Fax: 01 6764555; Email: [liam.fitzgerald@daff.irlgov.ie](mailto:liam.fitzgerald@daff.irlgov.ie)**

## LEADER+

LEADER+ is an EU-driven programme that will continue to aid innovative approaches to promoting rural development that may serve as models for other regions. The programme will run under the remit of the European Union through a European Commission agency, the European Observatory for LEADER+. The European Observatory for LEADER+ will provide information to the national and locally-based groups. It will appoint national agencies in the member states as its representatives to oversee the programme.

## Area-Based LEADER Programme

This is a nationally-driven programme established by the Government to continue existing LEADER activity. Following reduction of the national area that qualified for continued EU Objective 1 status, the EU allocation was significantly reduced. However, the Government decided that LEADER activities were important enough to warrant continued support and the Area-Based LEADER Programme was set up. As part of this process, locally-based groups to implement the programme will be selected. Existing LEADER groups and new groups may apply for selection. While the future of individual LEADER groups is unsure, a similar locally-based structure and a bottom-up approach to development will be fundamental to the new arrangements. An independent group maintains networking links among existing LEADER II groups, Comhar LEADER na hÉireann. This may continue to operate or may be replaced by a similar body. For latest information, check the department's website or contact person.

The department, in September 1999, published a White Paper on rural development, entitled *Ensuring the Future: A Strategy for Rural Development*. A policy for rural development was subsequently based on the White Paper, one strand of which focuses on poverty and social exclusion. The National Development Plan is the primary medium for implementing the strategies in the White Paper through practical actions. Following a commitment in the White Paper, a National Rural Development Forum was set up, with membership drawn from central and local government, state agencies, social partners, local development bodies and the community and voluntary sector. It plans to examine issues of spatial development, rural poverty, part-time farming for low-income



farmers and rural transport. A Rural Development Fund has been set up to finance research, evaluations and pilot actions.

**Department of Education and Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.**  
**Tel: 01-8734700; Fax: 01-8729553; Email: webmaster@educ.irlgov.ie;**  
**Website: <http://www.irlgov.ie/educ>**  
**Press Office: 01-8095005; Fax: 01-8787932**

The department's function is to administer public education in Ireland. Educational disadvantage is a key strand of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. The department's responsibilities include administration of a number of European Social Fund and other EU programmes; school transport; higher education grants; adult education; programmes for early school-leavers; home/school/community liaison schemes; education equality initiatives; and substance abuse education programmes. It has specific responsibility for special schools for children in care and initiatives against educational deprivation. It has a social inclusion unit and a division on youth affairs and it provides support to the Commission on Childhood Abuse. The Vocational Education Committees operate under the Department's aegis. In December, 1999, the 'New Deal - A Plan for Educational Opportunity' was announced as an initiative to tackle educational disadvantage.

The Schools IT 2000 initiative aims to ensure access to computer literacy skills for all pupils, with early support for schools in disadvantaged areas.

The department also has a social inclusion unit.

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.**  
**Tel: 01-6312121; Fax: 01-6762654; Email: webmaster@entemp.ie**  
**65 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6765861; Fax: 01-6769047;**  
**Website: <http://www.irlgov.ie/entemp>**  
**Press Office: Tel: 01-6312221; Fax: 01-6312222**

The department has overall responsibility for industrial policy and the labour market including, through FÁS, vocational training, re-training, community employment and work experience programmes. It is responsible, among other things, for the Local Employment Service that organises assistance for unemployed people, particularly the long-term unemployed, throughout the country. It jointly managed, with the Department of Education and Science, the YOUTHREACH programme. It administers employment measures for people with disability.

It has a labour force development unit that includes a policy unit on unemployment.

**Department of the Environment and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8882000; Fax: 01-8882888;**  
**Email: [press-office@environ.irlgov.ie](mailto:press-office@environ.irlgov.ie); Website: <http://www.environ.ie>**  
**Press Office: Tel: 01-8882510/8882586; Fax: 01-8748402**

The department's responsibilities include all aspects of housing policy and provision including planning, local authority housing, rent policy, accommodation grants and urban and village renewal. In addition, it provides accommodation for Travellers and for homeless people; support for social housing projects; and housing support for special category needs such as the disabled. It has a unit on rent assistance.

It is responsible for co-ordinating the work of local government. An enhanced role is envisaged for local government in tackling disadvantage and promoting social inclusion and the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness contains a commitment to extend the National Anti-Poverty Strategy to local government. With the Combat Poverty Agency and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, the Department supports a Local Government Anti Poverty Learning Network.

In May 2000, a government strategy on homelessness, 'Homelessness - an Integrated Strategy', was launched, based on the report of the Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness. This had been set up by the cabinet sub-committee on social inclusion, drugs and local development to examine the issue. The strategy requires local authorities and health boards to draw up actions plans on homelessness; county-based homeless fora to be set up; integration of housing action with health board-provided support and care services, including settlement and outreach programmes; capital spending on provision of accommodation, outreach services and hostel accommodation, and adoption of prevention strategies.

**Department of Finance, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6767571; Fax: 01-6789936;**  
**Email: [webmaster@finance.irlgov.ie](mailto:webmaster@finance.irlgov.ie); Website: <http://www.irlgov.ie/finance>**  
**Press Office: Tel: 01-6045875; Fax: 01-6762285**

The department has responsibility for national economic policy, income policy, taxation, co-ordination of economic and social planning, public spending and the operation of the public service. It formulates the overall budgetary parameters within which budgetary policy is framed. It is the lead department for negotiations with the European Commission on the structural funds and hosts the overall information and evaluation unit for the EU structural funds and other programmes in the National Development Plan. It monitors the operation of the National Lottery.

**Department of Health and Children, Hawkins House, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6354000; Fax: 01-6354001;**  
**Email: [queries@health.irigov.ie](mailto:queries@health.irigov.ie); Website: <http://www.doh.ie>**  
**Press Office: 01-6354160; Fax: 01-6714508**

This department has overall responsibility for health care provision, including health services for children and older people. With the regional health boards, it is the largest funder of community and voluntary organisations in the country.

The department includes divisions that deal with children's needs; disabilities; mental health and services for older people; HIV/Aids and drugs misuse. There are specific units for childcare services and for women's health policy. An interdepartmental group is formulating a National Children's Strategy that is to be published in late 2000. A Travellers' Health Advisory Committee was established in May 1999 and a policy on Traveller health is to be drawn up by end 2000 (check department's website for latest information).

The department's advisory bodies include:

- National Council for Ageing and Older People (see page 103);
- The Adoption Board;
- Women's Health Council.

**Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, 72-76 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6028202; Fax: 01-6615461;**  
**Email: [pagemaster@justice.ie](mailto:pagemaster@justice.ie); Website: <http://www.irigov.ie/justice>**  
**Press Office: Tel: 01-6028358; Fax: 6616612**

The department's responsibilities include law enforcement; prisons and treatment of offenders; legal aid; safeguarding of human rights; immigration and asylum issues; courts administration and elimination of discrimination. It has a lead role in the promotion of the government's agenda for equality. It is responsible for implementing the Equal Opportunity Childcare Programme, the childcare strand of the National Development Plan 2000-2006. The thrust of this is to increase the quantity and quality of national childcare provision.

In addition, the department participates in the Integrated Services Project (ISP), an initiative to co-ordinate effective service delivery by state agencies in several disadvantaged, high-crime urban areas. The Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation has overall responsibility. Within the department, an ISP Management Group, comprising the equality side of the department, the Garda Síochána and the probation and welfare service, oversees implementation in regard to these groups and liaises with the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation.



A number of disability, information and transportation projects of this department are managed on its behalf by Area Development Management (see page 51). The department also applies the laws governing charities and fundraising.

The following agencies operate under the aegis of the department:

- The Equality Authority, incorporating the former Employment Equality Agency (see page 43);
- the Interim Prisons Authority (this will be replaced when the Irish Prisons Service is set up on a statutory basis);
- the Legal Aid Board (see page 46)
- the Probation and Welfare Service;
- the National Crime Council;
- The Human Rights Commission, when established, will operate under its remit;
- The National Consultative Committee on Interculturalism and Anti-Racism (see page 92).

**Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs (DSCFA), Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8748444.**

**Website: <http://www.dscfa.ie>**

**Press Office: Tel: 01-7043860; Mobile: 087-2547232; Fax: 01-7043870;**

**Email: [press.office@welfare.ie](mailto:press.office@welfare.ie)**

The department is responsible for the delivery of the social welfare system. Its services include social payments; child benefit; back to school grants; Family Income Support; employment supports and second-chance education programmes.

The department has the task of formulating state systems of income support and action against poverty and is the lead department for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (see below). It is also responsible for the work of the Combat Poverty Agency (see page 41). It has a social inclusion unit. It promotes voluntary and community development programmes through the Voluntary and Community Services Section (see below).

There is a network of regional offices and local social welfare information centres. Information on social welfare services is available on the department's website and on Aertel. Comhairle (see page 42) provides independent information and advice

on social services. The Pensions Board advises the Department on the operation of the Pensions Act 1990.

### **Voluntary and Community Services Section.**

**Tel: 01-8748444 ext 3827/2818**

The Voluntary and Community Services section operates a number of programmes of support for community groups and grant schemes to "enable disadvantaged communities to work in a practical way to address the issues that face them, to foster greater self-reliance and community leadership and to support a process of community and personal development in disadvantaged communities". A White Paper on the Community and Voluntary Sector was recently published.

From the mid-1980s, the department began to be a substantial funder of voluntary organisations and community groups supported through a number of programmes and schemes. These include:

- **Community Development Programme;**
- **Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)** – a network of local projects that aim to tackle the problems of moneylending and indebtedness by providing support, advice and affordable credit options through local credit unions;
- **Grants for Voluntary Organisations** – once-off grants to help voluntary organisations working with disadvantaged groups in disadvantaged areas;
- **Grants for Locally-Based Community and Family Support Groups involved in programmes of self-help and personal development.** The scheme is designed to tackle poverty and disadvantage and improve family life;
- **Community Support for Older People** – funding for initiatives to improve the security and social support of vulnerable older people;
- **Community Development Education and Training Grants** – funding for training initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of local community and voluntary groups.

Information on grants available from the department to support voluntary and community activity in the areas of community development and family support can be found in the Voluntary and Community Services Section's publication, *Supports for Community Development and Family Support Groups 1999-2000*. Telephone: 01-8748444, ext 3722/3764.

### **The National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS)**

**Tel: 01-8748444, extension: 3827/ 2818.**

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy was introduced in April 1997. The thrust of the strategy is to oblige government departments, state agencies and local authorities to consider the impact of their policies on poverty and to devise policy responses to poverty and social exclusion as part of their work.

An Interdepartmental Policy Committee jointly chaired by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs (DSCFA) and the Office of the Taoiseach is responsible for NAPS, and a NAPS unit in DSCFA co-ordinates its work and operation. There is also a cabinet sub-committee on social inclusion, NAPS, drugs and local development, through which the Government discusses and makes decisions on the strategy (see Department of the Taoiseach). The Combat Poverty Agency has responsibility for evaluating NAPS.

The central target of NAPS over the period 1997-2007 is to reduce considerably the numbers of those who are consistently poor. The original target was to reduce the percentage of households in poverty from a level that ranges from 9 per cent to 15 per cent of households, down to between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. Other targets were set in relation to employment and education.

However, some of these targets have been overtaken due to economic growth. By 1999, ESRI and Central Statistics Office (CSO) figures showed that the percentage of people living in poverty had dropped to 7-10% and long-term unemployment had dropped substantially. In recognition of this, there is a commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to revise the targets and the Government has set a new target of reducing consistent poverty to 5 per cent by 2004. New social inclusion targets are in the process of being drawn up in consultation with the social partners.

The five key areas for which NAPS targets are set are:

- **Educational disadvantage** – eliminate early school-leaving before the Junior Certificate and reduce early school-leaving at senior cycle so that the percentage of those completing the senior cycle will increase;
- **Unemployment** – reduce the rate of unemployment on the basis of the Labour Force Survey, and reduce long-term unemployment;
- **Income adequacy** – ensure all policies in relation to income support, including employment, tax, social welfare or pensions, provide sufficient income to enable people move out of poverty and live in a manner compatible with human dignity;
- **Disadvantaged urban areas** – reduce the marginalisation of communities living in disadvantaged urban areas by increasing their standard of living and providing opportunities for participation;



- Rural poverty – overcome the distinct elements of rural poverty and isolation through the provision of services, so that the targets for education, unemployment and income are achieved in those areas.

Information on the latest revised NAPS targets will be available from the Department press office or NAPS unit.

**Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.**  
**Tel: 01-6313800; Fax: 6611201; Email: web\_master@tourism-sport.irlgov.ie; Website: http://www.irlgov.ie/tourism-sport**  
**Press Office: 01-6313838/6313807/6313806; Fax: 01-6785906**

This department has responsibility for implementing the social inclusion measures relating to local development of the Regional Operational Programmes of the National Development Plan (this replaced the Local Development Programme – see Regional Operational Programme). The area partnership companies are funded under the local development measure of the National Development Plan with Area Development Management (ADM) acting as intermediary body.

The department implements URBAN II (this replaced the EU URBAN initiative for the social and economic revitalisation of several disadvantaged urban areas). URBAN II will apply to only one disadvantaged urban area with a population of 20,000 or less. (This has not been selected at time of publication and readers should check the department's website for latest information.) Five million euros will be available with matching funding from the Government.

Funding for sports participation in disadvantaged areas is provided through the Sports Capital Programme. This finances the provision of capital and non-personal equipment. The money is allocated on a county basis and favourable weighting is given to applications from disadvantaged areas.

A minister of state at this department has responsibility for co-ordinating the National Drugs Strategy and the locally-based Drugs Task Forces. The Drugs Strategy Unit of the department provides support to the minister and the overall National Drugs Strategy. A National Drugs Strategy Team comprising representatives of government departments, community and voluntary sector and relevant agencies is based in the department. A review of the National Drugs Strategy will take place late in 2000 and changes in the strategy may follow.

The Young People's Facilities and Services Fund deals with the prevention element of the National Drugs Strategy and aids projects and initiatives targeted at young people at risk of drug-taking. It is channelled mainly through the local Drugs Task Forces, VECs and local authorities. The Drugs Management Team sits on the

Assessment Committee for funding applications and this committee makes recommendations to the cabinet sub-committee on drugs, social inclusion and local development.

The department is responsible for leading the Integrated Services Project (ISP), a cross-agency initiative to co-ordinate delivery of state services in disadvantaged, high-crime urban areas. The ISP contains specific proposals for cross-agency co-operation on agreed priority themes including early school-leavers, one-stop-shops, childcare and family support. (See also Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.)

### State Agencies and Advisory Bodies

The following are the key state agencies and public sector bodies involved in anti-poverty work. Other bodies and agencies are listed under their specialist areas.

**Combat Poverty Agency, Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6706746; Fax: 01-6706760;**  
**Email: info@cpa.ie; Website: www.cpa.ie**

#### Contacts:

**Hugh Frazer, Director, frazerh@cpa.ie**

**Joan O'Flynn, Head of Information, oflynnj@cpa.ie**

**Margaret O'Gorman, Information Officer, ogormanm@cpa.ie**  
 (See also Research Bodies)

The Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) is a state agency set up under the Combat Poverty Agency Act of 1986. The Agency's aim is to promote a more just and inclusive society by working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion.

CPA seeks to achieve its aim in four main ways:

- policy advice and preparation of policy proposals to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs and to Government on all aspects of economic and social policy relating to poverty;
- project support and innovation – supporting innovative anti-poverty work using community development principles;
- research – on all aspects of poverty and supporting local and community groups to undertake their own research;
- public education – including media liaison, a schools education programme, a quarterly journal, a library and a wide range of publications.

CPA sees itself as a catalyst for change. It has developed strong links with groups active in the community and voluntary sector against poverty and provides:

- support for seven national anti-poverty networks;
- a range of grants for research, public education and evaluation work by the community and voluntary sector;
- training initiatives for community development groups.

The Agency is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

CPA commissions, supports, produces and publishes research, information, resource books and reports on all aspects of poverty. It produces a quarterly journal entitled *Poverty Today*, an annual pre-budget submission, a publications catalogue and an annual report. The material provided by the Agency is both statistical and analytical. It runs a comprehensive library and information service to the public and the media.

Combat Poverty Agency, along with Area Development Management (ADM) jointly manages the European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the southern border counties. The Programme also involves the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT) on supporting Cross-Border initiatives. For information on the Peace Programme contact ADM/CPA Peace Programme, European House Monaghan. Joint Managers: Ann McGeeney and Paddy McGinn, Tel: 047 71 340, e-mail: monaghan@adm-cpa.com (also see under European Anti Poverty Programs p.47). It supports educational programmes and curricula development on educational disadvantage in the border counties.

**Comhairle, Hume House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-6059000;**  
**Fax: 01-6059099; Email: comhairle@comhairle.ie;**  
**Website: www.comairle.ie**  
**Contact: Geryllyn McGarry, Manager, Information and Research, 01-6059000;**  
**Leonie Lunnie, Chief Executive**  
**Citizens Information Database (CID) website: www.cidb.ie.**

Comhairle is the new national support agency responsible for the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services. It was set up in June 2000 and combines the functions of the former National Social Services Board (NSSB) and the National Rehabilitation Board (NRB), under the remit of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.



Comhairle offers support to individuals, to a national network of Citizens Information Centres (CICs); and to voluntary and statutory organisations that provide services to the public. Part of Comhairle's brief is to ensure that social services for people with disabilities are delivered by the same agencies as serve the whole community (see also NRB).

It operates a number of local offices around the country. Information also is provided through the Citizens' Information Database (CID), a computerised database on all aspects of entitlements and social services that is accessible on the internet at: [www.cidb.ie](http://www.cidb.ie). The database also publishes *Relate*, Comhairle's monthly bulletin, the *Directory of National Voluntary Organisations* and selected reports and news.

Comhairle's main functions include:

- supporting the provision of independent information, advice and advocacy relating to social services;
- assisting and supporting people, particularly those with disabilities, in identifying their needs and options and in accessing their entitlements;
- promoting greater accessibility and public awareness of social services and of Comhairle's role;
- contributing to the development of social policy by advising the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs on the effectiveness of current services;
- designing schemes for social services that address needs identified by the Minister;
- providing training and development support to the community and voluntary sector, including disability groups. Supports include training, a social mentor scheme, a group insurance and a pension scheme for voluntary organisations and education programmes for money advice and budgeting services.

**Equality Authority, Clonmel Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4173333;**  
**Fax: 01-4173366; Email: info@equality.ie; Website: www.equality.ie**  
**Contact: Gerry Hickey and/or Patrick O Leary Communications Section.**

The Equality Authority has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity in employment and implement the Employment Equality Act 1998. This outlaws discrimination on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, disability, race and membership of the Travelling community. It provides advice and legal representation to people who may have a grievance and works to develop equality policies and best practice codes. It incorporates the functions of the former Employment Equality Agency.

**FÁS, Training and Employment Authority, 27-33 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-6070500; Fax: 01-6070600; Email: info@fas.ie; Website: <http://www.fas.ie> Press Office: 01-6070506; Fax: 01-6070608**

FÁS functions include the operation of training and employment programmes particularly for unemployed people; the provision of an employment/recruitment service; an advisory service for industry; and support for co-operative and community-based enterprise. Priority is given to those with most difficulties in the labour market including the long-term unemployed and early school-leavers. It is now responsible for training, job support and placement services for people with disabilities, following the mainstreaming of services for disabled people.

The board is drawn from government departments, trade union and youth interests. FÁS has a regional structure with a network of 54 Local Employment Services Offices and 20 training centres throughout the country.

**International Fund for Ireland, PO Box 2000, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4780655; Fax: 01-4751351; Website: [www.intl\\_fund\\_ireland.org\\_origin.html](http://www.intl_fund_ireland.org_origin.html) PO Box 2000, Belfast BT2 3SA. Tel: 048 90768832**

The International Fund for Ireland is an international body set up by the Irish and British governments with the objectives of promoting economic and social advance and encouraging contact, dialogue and reconciliation between both communities throughout Ireland.

The fund prioritises three key aims:

- regenerating the most deprived areas;
- developing the capacity of local communities;
- stimulating economic development.

The initiative for the regeneration of deprived areas includes the following strands:

- Community Economic Regeneration Scheme (CERS) targeted at areas of disadvantage in towns with a population over 10,000;
- Community Regeneration and Improvement Special Programme (CRISP) for small towns and villages in designated areas of disadvantage with populations under 10,000;
- Border Towns and Villages Scheme (BTV) to bring together communities in the southern border counties around economic projects to regenerate their areas;



- Rural Development Programme (RDP) for the economic and social regeneration of the most disadvantaged rural areas in Northern Ireland and all the rural areas of the southern border counties. The two governments provide matching funding under this strand.

**National Economic and Social Council, Frederick House, South Frederick St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6369298; Fax: 01-6713589; Email: info@nesc.ie; Website: [www.nesc.ie](http://www.nesc.ie) Contact: Dr Síle O'Connor, Director**

The NESC was established in 1973. Its primary function is to advise the Government on the development of the national economy and the achievement of social justice. It also provides a forum in which views can be exchanged between people who have a common interest in the development of the economy and the pursuit of social justice. The council aims to represent the major economic and social interests in society and includes representatives of, among others, employers, trade unions, farmers, the community and voluntary sector and the civil service.

NESC publishes reports, research papers and strategy papers on policy measures necessary for economic development and social inclusion.

Legislation is planned to establish an Office of National Economic and Social Development (ONESD) that would be an umbrella body incorporating the NESC, the NESF and the National Centre for Partnership and Productivity. It will act primarily as a funding body and each organisation will retain its existing functions.

**National Economic and Social Forum, Centre Block, Frederick House, South Frederick St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6369280; Fax: 01-6713526; Email: [nesf@indigo.ie](mailto:nesf@indigo.ie); Website: [www.nesf.ie](http://www.nesf.ie) Contact: Seán Ó hÉigheartaigh, Director; Maureen Gaffney, Chairperson. Tel: 01-6369280; Email: [secretariat@nesf.ie](mailto:secretariat@nesf.ie)**

The forum was established by the Government in 1993 to develop economic and social policy initiatives, particularly on unemployment, and to contribute to a national consensus on social and economic matters. The Forum now focuses on monitoring and analysing the implementation of specific social inclusion measures. It is made up of four strands: Government and Oireachtas; representatives of employer, trade union and farming interests; a wide range of interests in the community and voluntary sector; and central and local government and independents.

It publishes widely on social partnership, local development, social welfare and services, unemployment, equality proofing, youth and education issues, rural renewal and social exclusion.

**Legal Aid Board, St Stephen's Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.**  
**Tel: 01-6615811; Fax: 01-6763426; Email: legalaid@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Seamus Sisk**

The Legal Aid Board has responsibility for the provision of low-cost legal aid and advice in civil cases for "persons of modest means". There are 30 full-time and 14 part-time law centres throughout the country (see Refugee Legal Service below).

**Ombudsman, 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 6785222; Fax: 01-6610570; Website: www.irlgov.ie/ombudsman**  
**Contact: Pat Whelan, Director**

The Ombudsman investigates complaints about people or bodies who may have suffered from the effects of delays, administrative actions or inaction on the part of government departments, local government, health boards and the postal services.

**Refugee Legal Service, 4th Floor, St Stephen's Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-2400946; Fax: 01-2400972;**  
**Email: rls@oceanfree.net; Contact: Marie Quirke, solicitor in charge.**  
**Tel: 01- 6310800; Fax: 01-6616011**

This is a section of the Legal Aid Board (see above) that specialises in providing legal services to people applying for asylum. It is part of the Legal Aid Board's network of 30 law centres around the country. In Dublin, it operates a law centre specifically for asylum-seekers at **Timberlay House, 79/83 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01- 6310800; Fax: 01- 6616011;**  
**Email: rls@oceanfree.net**

**Western Development Commission, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. Tel: 0907-61441; Fax: 0907-61443; Email: wdc@eircom.net**

The Commission has a statutory responsibility for the total, integrated development of the West, including Counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Galway, Mayo and Clare in which there are many areas of economic underdevelopment and social marginalisation.



## EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMMES

**EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, European Union House, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan. Tel: 047-71340; Fax: 047-71341; Email: monaghan@adm-cpa.com**  
**Contact: Ann McGeeny and Paddy McGinn, Joint Managers**

Area Development Management (see Local Development Programme, page 50) and the Combat Poverty Agency are intermediary funding bodies for the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the southern border counties. The Peace II Programme is the successor to the first ADM/CPA Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

The aims of the ADM/CPA programmes are "to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation by increasing economic development and employment, promoting urban and rural regeneration, developing cross border co-operation and extending social inclusion".

The ADM/CPA Programme channels aid and other supports to community-based projects many of which pursue economic and social development, social services and education in disadvantaged areas. Many of the Peace II sub-programmes and measures specifically target social exclusion; unemployment; inclusion of children, young people and other vulnerable groups; and capacity-building at community level. The ADM/CPA Programme has launched a strategic initiative to tackle educational disadvantage in the border region. It works jointly with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust to implement the cross-border community reconciliation measure. This includes support for cross-border community and economic development.

At least 1,500 projects, involving 80,000 people, have been supported by the ADM/CPA Programme up to end 1999. Funding is allocated under five Sub-Programmes or headings. These are:

- Employment;
- Urban and rural regeneration;
- Cross-border development;
- Social inclusion;
- Productive investment and industrial development.

(See also **European Social Fund.**)

**European Social Fund (ESF), Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Davitt House, 65a Adelaide Road, Dublin 2.**

**Tel: 01-6614444 ext. 3334; Fax: 01-6764801;**

or

**Structural Funds Information Unit, Frederick Buildings, South Frederick Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6045333; Fax: 01-6-45334;**

**Email: csfunits@irlgov.ie; Website: www.eustructuralfunds.ie**

**Contact: ESF Information Officer**

The European Social Fund (ESF) has been of particular value to anti-poverty groups. Its purpose is to improve the prospects of those who face the greatest obstacles in finding, keeping or regaining work. The new regulations for the ESF set out five policy fields:

- developing and promoting active labour market policies to combat and prevent unemployment;
- promoting equal opportunities for all in accessing the labour market with particular emphasis on those exposed to social exclusion;
- promoting and improving training, education and counselling as part of lifelong learning policy;
- promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce, innovation and adaptability in work organisation;
- specific measures to improve women's access to and participation in the labour market.

The new round of ESF support will run from 2000 to 2006. Although the final figure is not yet agreed, Ireland will receive approximately 1 billion euros in assistance from the ESF over this period. Under the new round, the ESF will support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy. EU member states are required to produce annual Action Plans setting out national strategies for employment and employment-related human resources development. All ESF funds for Ireland are channelled through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

ESF funds in the period 2000-2006 will assist three operational programmes of the National Development Plan plus the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. The NDP programmes are:

- Operational Programme for Employment and Human Resources Development;



- Regional Operational Programme for the Border, Midlands and Western Region
- Regional Operational Programme for the Southern and Eastern region;

The implementing organisations for carrying out ESF-funded actions, through the operational programmes, a role that was carried out by bodies such as FÁS in the last ESF round, have yet to be agreed. Check the Structural Funds Information Unit or website (above) for details.

Evaluation of all programmes under the next round of ESF funds is to be carried out by an independent evaluation unit, linked to the Department of Finance and housed in:

Frederick Buildings, South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

### **Community Initiatives of the European Social Fund**

Apart from the mainstream programmes, one human resources Community Initiative – EQUAL – will operate in the period 2000-2006 with ESF assistance. This replaces all previous programmes such as EMPLOYMENT, NOW, HORIZON, INTEGRA, YOUTHSTART AND ADAPT.

**EQUAL Initiative, National Administration for Human Resources Community Initiatives, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, ESF Section, 65A Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6614444. Fax: 01-6764852. <http://www.irlgov.ie/entemp>**

EQUAL will aim to develop co-operation in order to promote new means of combating all forms of exclusion, discrimination and inequalities in connection with access to the labour market and those already in employment. Total ESF assistance for EQUAL in Ireland will be approximately 32 million euros.

The other programme with an anti-poverty focus to receive ESF support is:

### **EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME****Introduction**

The integrated development of local areas, particularly those that are marginalised and poor, used to be carried out under the Local Development Programme, overseen by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. The Local Development Programme has been replaced by a range of social inclusion measures under the National Development Plan (NDP), in particular the five operational programmes.

There are operational programmes for:

- Economic and Social Infrastructure; this will allocate funding for housing and health services;
- Employment and Human Resources Development; this will deal with aspects of social inclusion especially educational disadvantage; lifelong learning; work experience and equal access to education, training and employment;
- The Productive Sector;
- Regional Operational Programme for the Border Midlands and Western (BMW) region;
- Regional Operational Programme for the South and East region. Under the NDP, promotion of social inclusion in both regions is to be furthered through the inter-regional and the Regional Operational Programmes.

**Regional Operational Programmes of the National Development Plan,  
c/o Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**Email: [web\\_master@tourism-sport.irigov.ie](mailto:web_master@tourism-sport.irigov.ie); Website:**

**<http://www.irigov.ie>**

**Press Office: 01-6313838/6313807/6313806; Fax: 01-6785906**

The Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation has responsibility for implementing the social inclusion measures relating to local development under the Regional Operational Programmes.

Emphasis will be placed on urban disadvantage in the urbanised East and South region while the more rural BMW region will be the focus of rural development and local infrastructural measures. The Regional Operational Programmes will address, among other things, childcare; developing community and family capacity to escape exclusion; needs of young people to avert involvement in



crime, unemployment and drug abuse; social reintegration of offenders; education and training for disadvantaged people; and outreach services to long-term unemployed people.

At local level, the 38 area partnership companies are funded under the local development measure through Area Development Management (ADM – see below). (See also Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation). Some elements of the Operation Programmes for Employment and Human Resources Development and for the two regions will receive support from the European Social Fund.

**Area Development Management Ltd (ADM), Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6613611/2400700; Fax: 01-6610411;  
Email: [enquiries@adm.ie](mailto:enquiries@adm.ie); Website: [www.adm.ie](http://www.adm.ie)  
Contact: Tony Crooks, Chief Executive**

Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) was established by government in agreement with the European Commission to support local social and economic development in Ireland. ADM's mission is "to support integrated local economic and social development through managing programmes targeted at countering disadvantage and exclusion, and promoting reconciliation and equality".

ADM manages the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme that is state funded through the National Development Plan. Funds are distributed to 38 partnership companies and 33 community groups throughout the country on the basis of strategic local development plans. The lead department for this programme is the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation.

ADM manages also:

- the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme on behalf of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform;
- a number of measures under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation;
- the funds for the local Drugs Task Forces on behalf of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation;
- a number of disability, information and transport projects on behalf of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

ADM's functions are to:

- evaluate local development plans from applicants under the various programmes;
- allocate funding in accordance with that evaluation;
- monitor expenditure and performance of beneficiaries;
- provide support and assistance to funded groups.

### Partnership Companies

There are 38 area-based Partnership Companies whose role is to bring together community, statutory agencies and social partners to act jointly for the benefit of an area. Partnerships are active in the fields of enterprise creation and development, environment and infrastructural work, services for the unemployed, education, training and community development. Partnerships also contribute to the co-ordination at local level of state agency and community and voluntary services to undertake anti-poverty work.

Each partnership company can provide the media with information about its own activities as well as opinion, analysis, research and statistical information about issues of poverty and disadvantage in its local area. In each partnership, the contact person will differ but it will be, in most cases, the manager or chief executive.

Planet is a registered co-operative representing the 38 partnership companies and Pavee Point, a partnership of Travellers and settled people working to improve the quality of life for Travelling people. It operates a joint website for all the partnership companies, with details of aims, services, network, news items and links to other relevant sites. It can be accessed at: [www.planet.ie](http://www.planet.ie). Some partnership companies also operate their own websites.

**Ballyfermot Partnership Company Ltd., 290 Ballyfermot Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10. Tel: 01-6269222; Fax: 01-6263416; Email: [bpact@indigo.ie](mailto:bpact@indigo.ie)**

**Ballymun Partnership, North Mall, Ballymun Town Centre, Dublin 11. Tel: 01-8423612; Fax: 8427004; Email: [bmunpart@indigo.ie](mailto:bmunpart@indigo.ie)**

**Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Deanstown House, Main Street, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Tel: 01-8209550; Fax: 01-8209551; Email: [blancpar@iol.ie](mailto:blancpar@iol.ie)**



**Bray Partnership, 5 Carlton Terrace, Novara Avenue, Bray, Co Wicklow. Tel: 01-2868266; Fax: 01-2868700; Email: [jbath@bray-partnership.ie](mailto:jbath@bray-partnership.ie); Website: [www.clubi.ie/braypartnership](http://www.clubi.ie/braypartnership)**

**Canal Communities Partnership, 197 Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-4732196; Fax: 01-4534857; Email: [canalcp@iol.ie](mailto:canalcp@iol.ie)**

**Clondalkin Partnership, Camac House, Unit 4, Oakfield Industrial Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. Tel: 01-4576433; Fax: 01-4577145; Email: [clonpart@indigo.ie](mailto:clonpart@indigo.ie)**

**Comhar Chathair Chorcaí – Cork City Partnership, Sunbeam Industrial Park, Millfield, Mallow Road, Cork. Tel: 021-302310; Fax: 021-302081; Email: [partnershipcork@eircom.net](mailto:partnershipcork@eircom.net)**

**County Cavan Partnership, 47 Church Street, Cavan. Tel: 049-4331029; Fax: 049-4331117; Email: [cavpart@iol.ie](mailto:cavpart@iol.ie)**

**Donegal Local Development Company, 1 Millennium Court, Pearse Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal. Tel: 074-27056; Fax: 074-21527; Email: [ldpdlc@eircom.net](mailto:ldpdlc@eircom.net)**

As well as being a Partnership Company, Donegal Local Development Company is a LEADER company (see page 18) and is involved in cross-border initiatives. The Company also has offices at:  
**Unit 4, Millcourt Mews, Donegal Town. Tel: 073-23368; Fax: 073-23373; Email: [dldcdgl@iol.ie](mailto:dldcdgl@iol.ie); Website: [www.dldc.org](http://www.dldc.org)**

**Drogheda Partnership, 12A North Quay, Drogheda, Co Louth. Tel: 041-9842088; Fax: 041-9843358; Email: [drogpart@iol.ie](mailto:drogpart@iol.ie); Website: [www.iol.ie/~drogpart](http://www.iol.ie/~drogpart)**

**Dublin Inner City Partnership, Equity House, 16 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8721321; Fax: 01-8721330; Email: [dicp@iol.ie](mailto:dicp@iol.ie); Website: [www.iol.ie/~dicp](http://www.iol.ie/~dicp)**

**Dundalk Employment Partnership Ltd., Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk. Tel: 042-9330288; Fax: 042-9330552; Email: [partnership@dep.ie](mailto:partnership@dep.ie); Website: [www.dep.ie](http://www.dep.ie)**

**Finglas Cabra Partnership, Rosehill House, Finglas Road, Dublin 11. Tel: 01-8361666; Fax: 01-8640211; Email: info@fcp.ie**

**Galway City Partnership, Town Park Centre, Tuam Road, Galway. Tel: 091-773466; Fax: 091-773468; Email: info@gcp.iol.ie**

**Galway Rural Development, Railway Buildings, Station Road, Athenry, Co Galway. Tel: 091-844335; Fax: 091-845465; Email: grdc@iol.ie; Website: www.galway-leader.com**

Galway Rural Development is responsible for the following three programmes in Galway city, County Galway and the Gaeltacht:

- Local Development Programme (until end of current funding period – see Local Development);
- Leader II;
- Area Allowance Scheme – to enable long-term unemployed to start up their own businesses.

**Inishowen Partnership Company, 2 Victoria Villas, St Mary's Road, Buncrana, Co Donegal. Tel: 077-62218; Fax: 077-62990; Email: inishpar@indigo.ie**

**Kimmage/Walkinstown/Crumlin/Drimnagh Partnership, Unit 5, 109 Longmile Road, Dublin 12. Tel: 01-4567450; Fax: 01-4567503; Email: kwcdlmr@eircom.net**

**Co. Leitrim Partnership, Church Street, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim. Tel: 078-41740; Fax: 078-41740; Email: incr0012@indigo.ie**

**Longford Community Resources Ltd., 15 Main Street, Longford. Tel: 043-48554/5; Fax: 043-48675; Email: lcr1@eircom.net**

**Meitheal Mhaigheo, Lower Main Street, Foxford, Co Mayo. Tel: 094-56745; Fax: 094-56749; Email: meithealm@eircom.net**

**Monaghan Partnership Board, Dublin Road, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan. Tel: 042-9749500; Fax: 042-9749504; Email: monpart@iol.ie**



**Northside Partnership, The Coolock Development Centre, Bunratty Drive, Coolock, Dublin 17. Tel: 01-8485630; Fax: 01-8485661; Email: nsp@iol.ie; Website: www.northsidepartnership.ie**

**OAK Partnership (North Offaly and North West Kildare), Edenderry Business Park, Edenderry, Co Offaly. Tel: 0405-32688; Fax: 0405-32690; Email: oakpart@iol.ie**

**Páirtíocht Chonamara, Cumas Teo, Ionad Fiontar, Rosmuc, Co na Gaillimhe, Teil (Tel): 091-574353; Facs (Fax): 091-574047; Ríomhpost (Email): cumas@cumas.ie**

**Páirtíocht Gaeltacht Thír Chonaill, MFG Teo, Aonad Eargail 1, An t-Eastát Tionsclaíoch, Na Doirí Beaga, Tír Chonaill, Co Dún na nGall. Teil (Tel): 075-32017; Facs (Fax): 075-32428; Ríomhpost (Email): mfgtc@eircom.net**

**PAUL Partnership Limerick, Unit 25, The Tait Centre, Dominic Street, Limerick. Tel: 061-419388; Fax: 061-418098; Email: Jackiew@aonad.iol.ie**

**Roscommon Partnership Company, The Square, Castlerea, Co Roscommon. Tel: 0907-21337/8/9; Fax: 0907-21340; Email: roscommonptnship@eircom.net**

**Sligo LEADER Partnership Company, Sligo Development Centre, Cleveragh Road, Sligo. Tel: 071-41138; Fax: 071-41162; Email: slpc@iol.ie; Website: www.sligo.ie**

This organisation administers both the LEADER II (while funding continues) and the Local Development Programmes (until the National Development Plan comes into effect. See **Local Development Programme**).

**South Kerry Development Partnership, Valentia Road, Caherciveen, Co Kerry. Tel: 066-9472724; Fax: 066-9472725; Email: bclifford@skdp.net; Website: www.skdp.net**

**Southside Partnership, 12 Adelaide St., Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. Tel: 01-2301011; fax: 01-20206330; Email: donna.moore@sspship.ie**

**Tallaght Partnership, Unit 19, Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Tel: 01-4597990; Fax: 01-4597991; Email: tallpart@eircom.ie**



**Partnership Trá Lí, 37 Ashe Street, Tralee. Tel: 066-7129544; Fax: 066-7129562; and 7 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co Kerry. Tel: 066-7180190; Fax: 066-7129562; Email: partnership@eircom.net**

**Waterford Area Partnership, Unit 4, Westgate Business Centre, Tramore Road, Waterford. Tel: 051-841740; Fax: 051-843153; Email: areapart@iol.ie**

**Waterford Leader Partnership, Teagasc Centre, Lismore, Co Waterford. Tel: 058-54646; Fax: 058-54126; Email: wdp@iol.ie**

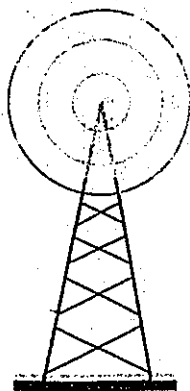
**West Limerick Resources Ltd., The Weigh House, Market Square, Newcastlewest, Co Limerick. Tel: 069-62222; Fax: 069-61870; Email: wlr@tinet.ie**

**Westmeath Community Development, Presentation House, Harbour Street, Mullingar, Co Westmeath. Tel: 044-48571; Fax: 044-48441; Email: westcd@iol.ie**

WCD delivers the Local Development Programme, LEADER (see note Sligo LEADER Partnership) and the Territorial Employment Pact in Westmeath.

**Wexford Area Partnership, Cornmarket, Mallin Street, Wexford. Tel: 053-23994; Fax: 053-21024; Email: paulaw@wap.iol.ie**

**County Wexford Partnership Ltd., Millpark Road, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. Tel: 054-37033; Fax: 054-37026; Email: wexcoprt@iol.ie**



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development is a long-term process through which members of a community, group or society actively and collectively participate in identifying their own needs, analyse and reflect on the causes that give rise to these needs, and work to make changes that build a more inclusive, tolerant and just society. Community development can have a positive impact on many levels, personal, community and society. It has been effective in anti-poverty work in Ireland and internationally.

In anti-poverty work, community development seeks to challenge the causes of disadvantage and poverty and to offer new opportunities for those lacking choice, power and resources. The experience of social exclusion often brings with it feelings of powerlessness, marginalisation, hopelessness and inadequacy. Community development involves the active participation of people in making changes. Through reflection, analysis and action, individuals and groups can begin to rebuild self-confidence, self-esteem, independence and a stake in the community.

Organisations active in community development include the following:

**Combat Poverty Agency** (see page 41)

**Area Development Management** (see page 51)

**The Community Development Programme, Voluntary and Community Services, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8748444; Website: www.dscfa.ie; Press Office: Tel: 01-7043860; Mobile: 087-2547232; Fax: 01-7043870; Email: press.office@welfare.ie**

The aim of the National Community Development Programme (CDP) is to develop a network of community development resource centres and projects in communities affected by high unemployment, poverty and disadvantage. It was established in 1990 in recognition of the role of community development in tackling poverty and disadvantage.

The CDP funds over 80 community development resource centres and projects in communities throughout the country. Projects are based in inner-city areas, rural areas, small towns and suburban housing estates. Activities, aims and target groups vary according to the needs of the area and the groups that they serve.

However, they all share a number of common characteristics. They:

- have an anti-poverty, anti-exclusion focus;
- work from community development principles and methods;
- provide support and act as catalysts for community development activity;
- act as a resource in their communities;
- co-ordinate community, voluntary and statutory groups in their areas;
- involve representatives of poor and socially excluded groups in their management structures.

The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs is responsible for the overall management of the CDP. The Combat Poverty Agency has responsibility for supporting, setting standards and promoting good practice within the programme and for advising the department in relation to its development.

The budget for the programme rose from £350,000 in 1990 to £6.76 million in 1998. Projects are given a three-year funding commitment that provides for core costs such as staff and overheads. Individual projects differ and have different priorities but in the allocation of grants the overriding criterion is the degree to which the group or project addresses disadvantage and social exclusion and assists in community development.

As well as funding local projects in the Community Development Programme, the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs contracts a number of organisations around the country to provide regional-based support to local projects and advice on developing good community development practice (see below).

The department also funds five organisations to act on a national basis to provide support and expertise on specific themes or to groups such as Travellers, people with disabilities or people affected by domestic violence or drugs.

Further information on the Community Development Programme is available in *United Against Poverty*, an information pack published by and available from the department. The pack includes profiles of projects and contact addresses.



A number of other organisations are active in community development work. These include:

**Partners (Training for Transformation), 24 Northbrook Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Tel: 01-6673440; Fax: 01-6673438; Email: partners@eircom.net**

Partners promotes the empowerment of people and communities, especially those experiencing disadvantage, through a participatory educational process. Staff facilitate training courses in the community and voluntary sector. Partners acts as an educational resource within the Community Development Programme, primarily in the delivery of the community education/leadership programme, 'Training for Transformation'.

**Community Action Network (CAN), 24 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8788005/8780196; Fax: 01-8788034; Email: canadmin@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Cecilia Forrestal, Director**

CAN is a small, not-for-profit organisation working for greater equality and justice in Ireland through community development. CAN seeks to promote good practice by developing and applying new ways of working in community development. Activities include:

- supporting 25 community development projects in the Community Development Programme;
- organisational development;
- support and development to partnership companies and Drugs Task Forces;
- training in community development;
- research and evaluation;
- role consultation.

**Cork Community Development Institute (CCDI), Grattan Street, Cork. Tel: 021-4276050; Fax: 021-4276923; Email: ccidi@indigo.ie; Website: <http://indigo.ie/~ccdi>**

Cork Community Development Institute (CCDI) is an independent voluntary organisation that believes that social change is necessary and can be achieved through community development approaches and methods. CCDI promotes community development with groups that are committed to full participation and are working to improve their communities socially, economically or educationally.

CCDI works with both issue/interest-based and geographically-based groups that give priority to the most disadvantaged.

The organisation is a support agency to the Community Development Programme (see above) and works with Cork Corporation in supporting community associations and residents groups. It has provided community training under the URBAN initiative. The provision of pre-schools to help children learn through play is one of CCDI's long-running programmes.

**Meitheal Community Development Ltd., 35 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel/Fax: 01-6719803; Email: meitheal@indigo.ie  
Contact: Éadaoin Ní Chleirigh**

Meitheal is a community development support and training organisation that works with communities throughout Ireland. Meitheal's vision is to support and empower groups and individuals working through community development for change, equality and social justice. Meitheal works with groups experiencing social exclusion and is particularly concerned with challenging inequality as it affects women and ethnic minorities.

Meitheal's activities include:

- organisational consultancy and training;
- facilitation skills courses;
- support agency to the Community Development Programme;
- role consultancy;
- resource materials;
- research and evaluation;
- providing a meeting space and giving referrals, advice and information.

**Mid-West Community Development Support Agency, 1 An Dún, Church Road, Raheen, Limerick. Tel: 061-225711; Fax: 061-225712; Mobile: (co-ordinator) 087-2392704; Email: mwcdsa@iol.ie**

The role of the Mid-West Support Agency is to offer training and advice to community development projects in the mid-west region. Its underlying goal is to work towards equality. The agency works with projects to develop best practice for work in and with marginalised and socially excluded communities. It has a strong commitment to ensuring that good employment practice is adopted by each project.



**West Training and Development, Saint Clare's Walk, Merchants Road, Galway. Tel: 091-567827; Fax: 091-562305; Email: westtr@eircom.net  
Contact: Breda Lymer or Noirin Clancy**

West Training is a regional support agency to the Community Development Programme in Galway and Mayo. It undertakes training, development work and support to community development projects.

**Muintir na Tire, Canon Hayes House, Tipperary. Tel: 062-51163; Fax: 062-51200; Email: muintirtipp@eircom.net;  
Website: www.muintirnatire.com  
Contact: Tom Fitzgerald, Chief Administrative Officer; Jim Quigley, President. Tel: 01-8900377; Fax: 01-8900533**

Muintir na Tire is a national voluntary community development organisation founded in 1937 to promote the concepts of self-help and self-reliance as means to improving the social, economic and cultural lives of people in local communities. Muintir na Tire is particularly concerned with putting in place structures that can support long-term community development. It acts also as a representative of community development groups at national level.

### NATIONAL VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Hundreds of voluntary and community organisations are active in anti-poverty work at local, regional and national level. Many of them are listed in this directory under their specialist activity, others can be contacted through organisations listed in the directory. Some chose not to be included. Members of the Community Pillar, the Community Platform, and the national anti-poverty networks funded by the Combat Poverty Agency are the most prominent organisations at national level associated with anti-poverty work.

### Anti-Poverty Networks

There are seven national networks of groups active in opposing poverty with the support of the Combat Poverty Agency. They are:

- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed;
- Forum of People with Disabilities;
- Irish Rural Link;
- One Parent Exchange and Network;
- Irish Traveller Movement;

- Community Workers Co-operative;
- European Anti-Poverty Network.

**Community Workers Co-Operative (CWC), 1st floor, Unit 4, Tuam Road Centre, Tuam Road, Galway. Tel: 091-779030; Fax: 091-779033; Email: info@cwcc.ie**  
**Contact: Chris McInerney.**  
**99 Lower Main Street, Letterkenny, Co Donegal. Tel: 074-28792; Fax: 074-29067; Email: cwcdl@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Susanna Friel**

The Community Workers Co-operative (CWC) is a national association of people and organisations active in participative community-based initiatives addressing poverty and exclusion throughout the country. CWC aims to promote co-operation and common action among those involved in community development work, in a voluntary, part-time or full-time capacity, and to promote and support community work as a means of intervention for social change. CWC promotes community development, organises seminars and workshops on relevant political and economic issues, publishes material on relations between the state and voluntary sector, on the use of European funding, and on other topics.

**The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland, 5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8745737; Fax: 01-8781289; Email: eapn@iol.ie; Website: www.iol.ie/~eapn**  
**Contact: Co-ordinator EAPN, Robin Hanan; Chairperson, Janice Ransom**

EAPN is an independent coalition of non-governmental organisations and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the member states of the European Union. It is active at national and European levels. Membership of EAPN is open to voluntary organisations, community groups or other bodies whose principal and explicit objectives are to combat poverty and other forms of social exclusion and whose organisational structures are based on the principles of self-help and empowerment.

EAPN activities include:

- policy development and research;
- provision of information including a quarterly review, briefing documents, a website and regular bulletins on European developments;
- advocacy and campaigning;
- networking to strengthen anti-poverty activity.



**Irish Rural Link (IRL), Prospect House, Eyre Square, Galway. Tel: 091-565970; Fax: 091-565429; Email: irl@iol.ie**

Irish Rural Link (IRL) is a national anti-poverty network, founded in 1991. It links rural community groups and organisations active in rural development. Its aim is to highlight rural concerns and issues among policymakers and planners and in this way provide a platform for rural disadvantaged voices. IRL provides a structure through which rural groups can articulate their needs and priorities, share their experiences and present their case with one voice at political levels.

IRL holds regional meetings with its members and links into various national bodies at which it raises rural issues and concerns. It undertakes research and publishes a quarterly newsletter, reports and directories.

### Community Pillar

Community and voluntary organisations are specifically identified as one of the four pillars of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF), the current national agreement on economic and social policy. The following organisations were named by the government as members of the community pillar of the PPF:

- Community Platform
- National Youth Council of Ireland;
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions Centres for the Unemployed;
- Protestant Aid;
- Conference of Religious in Ireland;
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed;
- National Women's Council of Ireland;
- Society of St Vincent de Paul.

### Community Platform

The Community Platform is made up of national community and voluntary sector networks and organisations engaged in combating poverty and social exclusion and promoting equality and justice. It was set up in 1996 to enable the participation of the sector as a social partner in arenas such as the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, Working Groups and the National Economic and Social Council and in national negotiations and decision-making.

The current members of the Community Platform are:

- Community Action Network;
- Community Workers Co-operative;
- Conference of Religious in Ireland;
- European Anti-Poverty Network;
- Focus on Children;
- Forum of People with Disabilities;
- Gay and Lesbian Network;
- Irish Association of Older People;
- Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas;
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed;
- Irish Rural Link;
- Irish Traveller Movement;
- National Women's Council of Ireland;
- One Parent Exchange and Network;
- Pavee Point;
- Threshold;
- Vincentian Partnership for Justice;
- Women's Aid;
- National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA);
- Irish Refugee Council;
- Society of St Vincent de Paul;
- Voluntary Drugs Treatment Network.

## RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ANTI-POVERTY ORGANISATIONS

Among the principal organisations of a religious or charitable inspiration working to tackle poverty are the following:

**Society of St Vincent de Paul, 8 New Cabra Road, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8384164/7; Fax: 01-8387355; Email: info@svp.ie; Website: www.svp.ie**  
**Contact: Columba Faulkner, National Secretary; Liam O'Dwyer, National Service Co-ordinator; Mary Murphy, Social Policy Officer**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international organisation with a membership of over 700,000 in more than 100 countries. The society has been in Ireland since 1844 and has 11,000 members in local groups known as conferences, of which there are currently over 1,100. Its key aims are to provide support and friendship to people, to promote self-sufficiency and to work for social justice. Its main activities include visiting people in their homes, supporting people in education, running personal development courses, youth clubs and holiday centres and providing accommodation for homeless people and the elderly.

**Conference of Religious in Ireland (CORI), Justice Office, Tabor House, Milltown Park, Dublin 6. Tel: 01-2697799; Fax: 01-2698887;**  
**Email: justice@cori.ie**  
**Contact: Father Sean Healy; Sr Brigid Reynolds**

CORI has a number of commissions, two of which, the Justice Commission and the Education Commission, are engaged in research, education and lobbying on issues of social justice. CORI publishes results of research on social, economic and political issues. It is particularly vocal on issues of poverty and social exclusion and organises seminars, conferences and workshops on social policy issues.

**Protestant Aid, 74 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-6684298; Fax: 01-6603292; Email: protestantaid@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Robin George, Chief Executive**

Protestant Aid is one of the eight members of the Community Pillar. It aims to relieve distress by granting financial help on a non-denominational basis. It is associated with the Brabazon Trust that provides sheltered housing for over 100 elderly people.

**RESEARCH BODIES**

A number of research organisations undertake research and compile statistics on poverty and anti-poverty action. Two of the key organisations are the following:

**Central Statistics Office, Skehard Road, Cork. Tel: 021-359000; Fax: 021-4535555.**

**Contact: Information Section**

**Ardee Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Tel: 01-4977144; Fax: 01-4972360; Email: information@cso.ie (both centres) Website: <http://www.cso.ie>**

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is a state body that collects, compiles, analyses and disseminates statistical information relating to the economic and social life of the country. It is also responsible for co-ordinating official statistics produced by other public authorities and for developing the statistical potential of administrative records. It is guided in its work by the National Statistics Board.

It publishes a range of statistical information. The main ones are:

- Five-yearly census that surveys all householders in the State;
- Labour Force Survey;
- Household Budget Survey;
- Economic series statistics (monthly);
- Statistical bulletin (quarterly);
- Live Register of unemployed (monthly);
- Vital statistics (quarterly).

Information and library services are available in both Dublin and Cork. Both offices are available through either telephone number.

**Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), 4 Burlington Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-6671525; Fax: 01-6686231; Email: [admin.esri.ie](mailto:admin.esri.ie); Website: <http://www.esri.ie>**

The ESRI is an independent, non profit-making body that works to increase knowledge of the social and economic conditions of society with particular reference to Ireland. It conducts research by its own staff in close co-operation with the universities and other organisations. It publishes a quarterly economic commentary, a medium-term outlook, and a publication series based on its own



research. It undertakes the Living in Ireland survey on which data most analysis on poverty in Ireland is based.

**Combat Poverty Agency, Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6706746; Fax: 01-6706760; Email: [info@cpa.ie](mailto:info@cpa.ie); Website: [www.cpa.ie](http://www.cpa.ie). Contact: Helen Johnson, Head of Research**

The Combat Poverty Agency has a research division that undertakes its own research and provides support, advice and grant aid for research on poverty projects. CPA has a directory of independent research bodies that undertake poverty and anti-poverty research.

**Health Research Board, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6761176; Fax: 01-6611856; Email: [hrb@hrb.ie](mailto:hrb@hrb.ie) Contact: Dr Ruth Barrington, CEO**

The Health Research Board's task is to carry out research into appropriate health issues either on its own initiative or as requested by the minister and to co-operate with other health agencies engaged in similar activities. It funds research activities and the maintenance of databases. Its board is appointed by the Minister for Health and Children and the universities and medical teaching centres.

**Nexus Research Co-operative, Fumbally Court, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-4730599; Fax: 01-4730597; Email: [nexus@nexus.ie](mailto:nexus@nexus.ie); Website: [www.iol.ie/nexus](http://www.iol.ie/nexus)**

Nexus works to promote critical social research in Ireland and Europe. It undertakes research such as social surveys, statistical analysis and social policy analysis for Irish and international clients.

**Policy Studies Institute, Trinity College, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-6083846; Fax: 01-6770546; Email: [policy.institute@tcd.ie](mailto:policy.institute@tcd.ie); Website: [www.tcd.ie/Political\\_Science/PolicyInst/Home.html](http://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/PolicyInst/Home.html)ThePolicyInstitute**

The Policy Studies Institute is a joint venture of the Departments of Economics and Political Science at Trinity College, Dublin. It aims to enhance the public policy process by stimulating research and innovation in public policy and by undertaking research on particular policy problems.

The Institute publishes its output in the series *Trinity Studies in Public Policy* or 'Blue Papers'. The Institute has published a 'Blue Paper', *A Review of the Free Schemes Operated by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs* and has plans to produce others on the following topics: 'The impact of demographic trends on demands for education, social welfare, housing and health services'; 'the evaluation of programmes aimed at reducing recidivism'; 'housing policy in Ireland'; 'children's rights' and 'the implementation of the Strategic Management Initiative in the Irish civil service'.

**Work Research Centre Ltd., 1 Greenlea Drive, Terenure, Dublin 6W. Tel: 01-4927042; Fax: 01-4927046; Email: wrc@wrc-research.ie;**

**Website: www.wrc-research.ie**

**Contact: Kevin Cullen and Richard Wynne, Directors**

Work Research Centre carries out research on work-related issues in Ireland including conditions of employment, measures to alleviate unemployment and the role of the community and voluntary sector.

**Foundation for Fiscal Studies, Economics Department, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-7068505; Fax: 01-2830068; Email: ffs@ucd.ie**  
**Contact: David Madden, Director**

The Foundation is an independent, non profit-making body established to support independent research on fiscal policy and to organise seminars and lectures that will inform and stimulate public debate on fiscal issues.

**WRC, Social and Economic Consultants Ltd., 4 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8723100; Fax: 01-8723840; Email: wrc@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Carmel Duggan and Tom Ronayne**

WRC, Social and Economic Consultants, undertakes research and evaluation of the labour market and a range anti-exclusion measures. It was also the support structure for the EU Social Fund's EMPLOYMENT Initiatives.

**Brian Harvey Social Research, 2 Rathdown Crescent, Terenure, Dublin 6W. Tel: 01-4903039; Fax: 01-4903076; Email: brharvey@iol.ie**

Brian Harvey specialises in the area of poverty, homelessness, Europe, the work of voluntary organisations and carries out research for government agencies and departments, trusts and non-governmental organisations in Ireland, Britain and Europe.



## ISSUE-RELATED ORGANISATIONS

### Unemployment

#### Key Facts

- Unemployment is a major cause of poverty.
- Households headed by an unemployed person face the highest risk of poverty of all households. Over half of households living in poverty are in this situation.
- Recent economic growth has reduced the percentages of people unemployed from a high of 17 per cent in 1986 to a current 4.4 per cent<sup>31</sup> of the working population. This figure is below the EU average.
- There were 159,914 on the Live Register in July 2000 compared to approximately 210,000 in early 1999.<sup>32</sup>
- The Live Register in April 2000 showed that 63,600 had been signing on the Live Register for one year, that is, were long-term unemployed and had been out of work for over 12 months. The total number on the Live Register in that month was 162,107.<sup>33</sup>
- The profile of the long-term unemployed shows them to be largely men, aged 25 years and over, with low education and skills levels.
- Half the long-term unemployed have no formal education qualifications.
- On present employment trends, "those with limited education are likely to remain seriously disadvantaged on the labour market".<sup>34</sup> The recent tendency has been for new jobs to be filled mainly by those other than the poor. This indicates that poverty caused by unemployment will not be solved by job creation alone.
- The income gap has widened since 1994 as wages have increased faster (22 per cent) than social welfare (10-12 per cent).<sup>35</sup> Therefore, relative income poverty was higher in 1997 than in 1994.

<sup>31</sup> ILO Seasonally Adjusted Standardised Unemployment Rate at July 2000, an estimated figures calculated in relation to the benchmark rate for unemployment that is based on the Quarterly National Household Survey March-May 1999.

<sup>32</sup> ILO Live Register July 2000.

<sup>33</sup> ILO Live Register April 2000.

<sup>34</sup> IERI (April 1997) *Medium Term Review 1997-2003*, No 6, page vii.

<sup>35</sup> Hugh Frazer, (2000) *Combat Poverty Agency*, Address 'Overview of Poverty in Ireland', to conference on Local Government Responding to Poverty.



## What Is Unemployment?

Unemployment may be defined according to the Live Register or the Quarterly National Household Survey.

The Live Register is the total number of people recorded as making a claim for unemployment assistance or unemployment benefit. The Live Register does not include those on:

- short-time work and small farmers' assistance;
- the two pre-retirement schemes (which involve unemployed people over 55);
- Vocational Training Opportunities (VTOS);
- Community Employment schemes.

The Quarterly National Household Survey collects information from individuals on:

- how an individual describes his or her own situation with regard to employment from a list of nine options (Principal Economic Status);
- how respondents reply to questions about the number of hours worked in the last week and whether they have looked for work in that week (International Labour Organisation (ILO) Economic Activity Status. The ILO is a widely used international measure.

The following organisations may be contacted for further information on unemployment:

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment;
- Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs;
- Area Development Management;
- Combat Poverty Agency
- INOU;
- NESF;
- CORI;
- FÁS;
- Central Statistics Office.

**The Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOUE), Araby House, 8 North Richmond Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8560088; Fax: 8560090; Email: inou@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Tony Monks, General Secretary;**  
**Noeleen Hartigan, Press Officer**

The INOU, founded in 1987, is a federation of 180 local centres for the unemployed throughout Ireland. It is a social partner and an active member of the European Network of the Unemployed. The INOU campaigns and lobbies for:

- quality training;
- labour market initiatives;
- welfare supports to eradicate poverty;
- a jobs strategy to get people back to work.

The INOU is mainly involved with policy development and statistical analysis, information provision, campaigning and lobbying. It publishes a range of information leaflets, an annual guide for the unemployed, regular policy documents and statistical analyses.

**Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 31/32 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-6680641; Fax: 01-6609027; Email: congress@ictu.ie; Website: www.ictu.ie**  
**Contact: Research and Information Officer, Oliver Donohoe; Tel: 087-2573799**

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) is the central authority for the trade union movement in Ireland and its main function is to co-ordinate the work of trade unions. It is represented on, and nominates representatives to, a number of government advisory and statutory bodies. Since 1987, the ICTU has represented the trade union movement as one of the social partners for national negotiations on economic and social agreements.

## Centres for the Unemployed

**Athlone Centre for the Unemployed, Lloyd's Lane, Athlone, Co Westmeath. Tel: 0902-73001; Fax: 0902-78291; Email: infor@gofree.indigo.ie**  
**Contact: Bernie Mannion**



**Athy Centre for the Unemployed, 38 Duke Street, Athy, Co Kildare.**  
**Tel: 0507-38523; Fax: 0507-31445**  
**Contact: Hilda Breslin**

**Ballina Centre for the Unemployed, Casement Street, Ballina, Co Mayo.**  
**Tel: 096-70885; Fax: 096-71900**  
**Contact: Tommy Ginley**

**Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, 45-49 Donegal Street, Belfast BT1 2FG.** Tel: 04890 961111; Fax: 04890 961110; Email: info@burc.org  
**Contact: Brendan Mackin**

**Buncrana Centre for the Unemployed, Castle Avenue, Buncrana, Co Donegal.** Tel: 077-61788; Fax: 077-63889  
**Contact: Mary McGeehan**

**Caherciveen Centre for the Unemployed, 3 New Street, Caherciveen, Co Kerry.** Tel: 066-9472866; Fax: 066-9472123  
**Contact: Tony Falvey**

**Castlebar Centre for the Unemployed, Burleigh House, Ellison Street, Castlebar, Co Mayo.** Tel: 094-22814; Fax: 094-22814; Email: cbarcfu@eircom.net  
**Contact: Mary Doyle**

**Cavan Centre for the Unemployed, Dublin Road, Cavan, Co. Cavan.**  
**Tel: 049-4372021; Fax: 049-4372021; Email: cavcentreunp@eircom.net**

**Clare Information and Opportunity Centre, Springfield House, Harmony Row, Ennis, Co Clare.** Tel: 065-6841009; Fax: 065-6842132;  
**Email: cioc@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Greg Duff**

**Clondalkin Centre for the Unemployed, Aras Rualach, Neilstown Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.** Tel: 01-6233629/01-6233657; Fax: 01-6236839;  
**Email: ccu@tinet.ie**  
**Contact: Grace Wills**

**Cork Centre for the Unemployed, 13 North Main Street, Cork.**  
**Tel: 021-275876; Fax: 021-279661; Email: cctu@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Ian Devine**



**Drogheda Centre for the Unemployed, 7 North Quay, Drogheda, Co Louth.** Tel: 041-9835754; Fax: 041-9839064; Email: drogmngcu@iol.ie  
**Contact: Jacqui O'Brien**

**Dublin 12 Centre for the Unemployed, 101 Cashel Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.** Tel: 01-4563197; Fax: 01-4563213

**Dundalk Centre for the Unemployed, 30 Clanbrassil, Dundalk, Co Louth.** Tel: 042-9338820; Fax: 042-9330696;  
**Email: resourcecentre@tinnet.ie**  
**Contact: Dolores McKenna**

**Dungarvan Centre for the Unemployed, 33 Lower Main Street, Dungarvan, Co Waterford.** Tel: 058-44099; Fax: 058-44099  
**Contact: Jimmy Byrne**

**Enniscorthy Centre for the Unemployed, Merrythought House, Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.** Tel: 054-36497;  
**Fax: 054-36499; Email: ennichcu@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Caroline Horan**

**Fingal Centre for the Unemployed, Unit 7, Main Street, Finglas, Dublin 11.** Tel: 01-8641970; Fax: 01-8641980; Email: fingoccu@iol.ie  
**Contact: Dermot Mahon**

**Galway Centre for the Unemployed, Canavan House, Nun's Island, Galway.** Tel: 091-564822; Fax: 091-566758; Email: galcehcu@iol.ie  
**Contact: Elaine Harvey**

**Kildare Resource Centre, Bride Street, Kildare Town, Co Kildare.**  
**Tel: 045-522974; Fax: 045-522986**  
**Contact: Tommy Martin**

**Kilkenny Centre for the Unemployed, 22 Vicar Street, Kilkenny.**  
**Tel: 056-62146; Fax: 056-61580; Email: noresideedu@eircom.net**  
**Contact: Yvonne Moriarty**

**Killarney Centre for the Unemployed, 8 College Road, Killarney, Co Kerry.** Tel: 064-36863; Fax: 064-36876  
**Contact: Kevin O'Connor**

**Larkin Centre for the Unemployed, 57-58 North Strand, Dublin 3.**  
 Tel: 01-8365544; Fax: 01-8366819; Email: maria@larkinctr.com  
 Contact: Maria Tyrrell

**Leixlip Centre for the Unemployed, Unit 3 The Mall, Leixlip, Co Kildare.**  
 Tel: 01-6242511; Fax: 01-6246492  
 Contact: Joan Kenny

**Letterkenny Centre for the Unemployed, Unit 4, Pearse Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.** Tel: 074-28010; Fax: 074-29491;  
 Email: les@indigo.ie

**Limerick Centre for the Unemployed, 33 Thomas Street, Limerick.**  
 Tel: 061-416056; Fax: 061-411696; Email: limejccu@iol.ie  
 Contact: Joan Condon

**Longford Centre for the Unemployed, 6 Keon's Terrace, Longford.**  
 Tel: 043-47515; Fax: 043-48823; Email: infocentre@tinet.ie  
 Contact: Mary Smith

**Mohill Centre for the Unemployed, Hyde Street, Mohill, Co Leitrim.**  
 Tel: 078-32043; Fax: 078-32044; Email: mohillresourcecentre@eircom.net  
 Contact: Cartha Mooney

**Mullingar Congress Information and Development Centre, Mason's Hall, Church Street, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.** Tel: 044-45060;  
 Fax: 044-45675; Email: congresscentre@eircom.net  
 Contact: Barney Fitzgerald

**Naas Centre for the Unemployed, The Harbour, Naas, Co Kildare.**  
 Tel: 045-876253; Fax: 045-871692  
 Contact: Jackie Andrews

**Newbridge Centre for the Unemployed, Lower Eyre Street, Droichead Nua, Co Kildare.** Tel: 045-432763; Fax: 045-433275;  
 Email: ckrs@eircom.net  
 Contact: John Delmer

**New Ross Centre for the Unemployed, South Street, New Ross, Co Wexford.** Tel: 051-422773; Fax: 051-425403;  
 Email: nrosscfu@eircom.net  
 Contact: Ingrid O'Brien



**North Leitrim Centre for the Unemployed, New Line, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim.** Tel: 072-56029; Fax: 072-56185.  
 Email: nlrc@gofree.indigo.ie  
 Contact: Garry Cornyn

**Northside Centre for the Unemployed, Glin Road, Bonnybrook, Dublin 17.** Tel: 01-8479463/01-8476427; Fax: 01-8486325

**Sligo Centre for the Unemployed, The Old Dispensary, Charles Street, Sligo.** Tel: 071-42925; Fax: 071-47432  
 Contact: Padraig Davey

**Tallaght Centre for the Unemployed, St Dominic's Hall, Main Street, Tallaght, Dublin 24.** Tel: 01-4512983/01-4512523; Fax: 01-4526094;  
 Email: tcu@iol.ie  
 Contact: Margaret Deacon

**Tralee Centre for the Unemployed, 5 High Street, Tralee, Co Kerry.**  
 Tel: 066-7127617/066-7129808; Fax: 066-7127920;  
 Email: traljmcu@iol.ie  
 Contact: Jimmy Murphy

**Waterford Centre for the Unemployed, 21-22 The Mall, Waterford.**  
 Tel: 051-855053/855353; Fax: 051-855353  
 Contact: Noel Walsh

**Westport Centre for the Unemployed, Mill Street, Westport, Co Mayo.**  
 Tel: 098-26787; Fax: 098-26787; Email: rcwestport@tinet.ie

**Wexford Centre for the Unemployed, 1 Charlotte Street, Wexford.**  
 Tel: 053-24482; Fax: 053-21889; Email: norac@tinet.ie  
 Contact: Nora Cosgrave

**Wicklow Centre for the Unemployed, 97 Rear Main Street, Bray, Co Wicklow.** Tel: 01-2866730; Fax: 01-2829276; Email: brayfhcu@iol.ie  
 Contact: Niamh McCarthy

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Key Facts**

- One child in six lives in severe poverty measured by combining income poverty and indicators of deprivation.<sup>36</sup>
- One-quarter of Irish children live in households below half the average income.<sup>37</sup>
- Children are 1.25 times more likely to be in income poverty than adults.<sup>38</sup>
- Children in out-of-work families are at the greatest risk of poverty. Two-thirds of poor children are in this category.<sup>39</sup>
- The value of child income support to poor families falls well below the basic costs of rearing a child.<sup>40</sup>
- To guarantee a minimum income of £30 to £40 per week (depending on age) to all children in need would cost £500m per annum. This would include a universal child benefit of £25 per week.<sup>41</sup>
- Poor children have been shown to do less well educationally, to be more likely to suffer ill-health, to be vulnerable to homelessness and to have fewer opportunities in life.
- Ireland has the youngest population in the EU – over 41 per cent of the population is under 25 years.

In addition, children from disadvantaged families lack a whole range of supports. For example, many rural children have no regular access to recreational opportunities because of the lack of local facilities, distance from towns, and lack of transport. Many children in Ireland lack appropriate or adequate play provision. A recent survey found that 46 per cent of local authorities did not provide playgrounds.<sup>42</sup>

Child poverty can seriously damage the life chances of children, leading to a cycle of deprivation that repeats itself from generation to generation unless specific programmes aimed at changing the situation are implemented.

<sup>36</sup> Nolan, Brian (July 2000) *Child Poverty in Ireland*. ESRI/Combat Poverty Agency. Dublin.

<sup>37</sup> Idem

<sup>38</sup> Idem

<sup>39</sup> Idem

<sup>40</sup> Combat Poverty Agency (1997) *Prioritising Poverty, Submission to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs*, Dublin.

<sup>41</sup> Combat Poverty Agency submission on the national children's strategy.

<sup>42</sup> Dr Mary Cawley (1995) *Poor – People-Poor Places. Poverty and Accessibility to Services in the Rural West of Ireland*. Paper given at the annual conference of the Geographical Society of Ireland 1995.



The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child indicated their concern about the "difficulties faced by (Irish) children from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including children belonging to the Traveller community, children from poor families ... as to the enjoyment of their fundamental rights, including access to education, housing and health."<sup>43</sup>

Among its 18 recommendations, the Committee exhorted the Government to "take immediate steps to tackle the problem of child poverty and make all possible efforts to ensure that all families have adequate resources and facilities."<sup>44</sup>

**Organisations to contact for more information include:**

**Regional Health Boards** (see page 107)

**Combat Poverty Agency** (see page 41)

**Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-4530355; Fax: 01-4530300; Email: Margaret.dorgan@barnardo.ie; Website: www.barnardos.ie**

**Contact: Margaret Dorgan, Communications Executive**

Barnardos promotes the welfare and rights of children and young people. Barnardos particularly seeks to address the needs of children at risk, those who are struggling to cope with bereavement and children whose lives are affected by drug abuse, violence, illness and poverty. The organisation seeks to build on the strengths of families, enabling them to care for their children and build better prospects for the future.

Barnardos services include:

- Family support;
- Solás – bereavement counselling for children;
- Adoption advice;
- The National Children's Resource Centre;
- Guardian ad Litem services for the courts.

Barnardos has services in Athlone, Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary and Waterford.

<sup>43</sup> Concluding Observations of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 23 January, 1998, para. 14.

<sup>44</sup> Idem, para. 27.

**The Children's Research Centre, Áras an Phiarsaigh, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6082901; Fax: 6082347; Email: ccentre@tcd.ie. Website: www.tcd.ie/childrens\_centre/ Contact: Robbie Gilligan, Director; Pauline Quinn, Information Officer**

The Children's Research Centre is a multi-disciplinary university-based centre in the service of Irish children. The centre seeks to inform the development of education and social programmes for children in disadvantaged communities by undertaking research and evaluation projects in conjunction with community-based, statutory and voluntary agencies.

**Children's Rights Alliance – Republic of Ireland, 13 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4054823 and LoCall: 1890 200 715; Fax: 01-4054826; Email: info@cra.iol.ie Contact: Anne Shaw, 087-2350895**

Children's Rights Alliance is a national umbrella body composed of a wide range of non-government organisations and individuals concerned with the rights and welfare of children. The aim of the Alliance is to promote the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ireland. It has made and published submissions such as *Small Voices, Vital Right: Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child*, Ursula Kilkelly, 1997.

**Focus on Children, 13 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8788708; Fax: 01-8788734; Email: foc@iol.ie Contact: Sean Lawless 542/544 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3HE. Tel: 048902 671782 Contact: Carol Conlin**

Focus on Children is a cross-border coalition of 40 organisations concerned with the welfare of children. It seeks to promote the rights and interests of children on the island of Ireland as citizens of the EU. Recent issues of concern include disability, school suspension, child abuse, youth homelessness and juvenile justice. It has taken a series of initiatives to promote the welfare of children in the context of the EU and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 20 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6794944; Fax: 01-6791746; Email: ispcc@ispcc.ie; Website: www.ispcc.ie Contact: Paul Gilligan, Director of Services**

ISPCC is a voluntary child protection and children's rights advocacy agency. It offers child-centred programmes and policies that encourage better nurturing of



children and better parent/child relationships. It seeks to prevent and eliminate violence and abuse against children. The society runs a National Children's Rights Campaign, extensive community-based services including the National Childline Service, Childhood Support workers, Steps Youth Advice and Counselling Services, Leanbh (see below), a training and research programme, and it publishes extensively on childcare and parenting.

**LEANBH, 30-31 Bride Street, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-4734262; Fax: 01-4734344.**

**Contact: Annette MacArtain, Regional Manager; Carlos Kelly and Laura Harrington, Childhood Support Workers**

Leanbh was set up to address child begging. It aims to link such children with statutory bodies and provides a childhood support worker service to work with the children in families.

**National Youth Council of Ireland, 3 Montague Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4784122; Fax: 4783974; Email: info@nyci.ie Contact: Eamon Waters, Press and Information Officer, Tel: 087-2645163; Email: eamon.waters@nyci.ie**

NYCI is the representative body for youth organisations in Ireland and is recognised as the social partner body representing youth. NYCI promotes the development of services for all young people and promotes and safeguards their interests and concerns. It serves and supports its member organisations. It campaigns for improvements in youth services and government policy affecting youth.

NYCI has a wide range of information available and has particular analysis of youth unemployment, disadvantage, educational opportunities, early school-leaving, employment rights and exploitation in the work place.

**National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8729933; Fax: 01-8724183; Email: info@nyf.ie; Website: www.iol.ie/~nyf Contact: Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichil, Media Officer**

The National Youth Federation is a youth work organisation that promotes and facilitates personal development and social education. It is engaged in all aspects of youth work with a particular emphasis on local youth services, training and accreditation, and a wide variety of programmes and events. It also operates The Irish Youth Work Centre that offers information and advice, undertakes research and develops resource materials. NYF has a number of regional centres that are listed on its website.

**EDUCATION**

A large proportion of children, mainly those living in poverty, leave school early and are at greater risk of being unemployed as adults. Achievement in the education system depends often on the availability of support and resources such as study time and facilities, extra tuition<sup>45</sup> and extra school resources. These opportunities are often limited in poor households.

**Key Facts**

- Estimates indicate that 16 per cent of the school population may be regarded as educationally disadvantaged.<sup>46</sup>
- Approximately 6,000 young people leave school each year before the age of 16 with poor or no qualifications.<sup>47</sup>
- The majority (60.7 per cent) of disadvantaged pupils live in rural areas with populations of less than 10,000, followed by Dublin (25.5 per cent), followed by towns with populations between 10,000 and 40,000 (9.5 per cent).<sup>48</sup>
- Dublin has the highest population of educational disadvantage (18.1 per cent of all pupils in the city are disadvantaged) followed by rural areas where the concentration is 15.6 per cent of pupils.<sup>49</sup>
- Recent research found that 80 per cent of prisoners surveyed in Mountjoy Jail had left school before 16 years and half before 15. Over 60 per cent said they had mitched from school regularly.<sup>50</sup>
- Third-level education receives the highest per capita spending. Yet the vast majority of people affected by poverty never enter third-level education.
- In 1992, students with backgrounds classified as "skilled manual workers" comprised 14.2 per cent of the university population. The figure has dropped to 11.3 per cent.<sup>51</sup>
- Social class is the main determinant of university participation and the number of university students from poorer backgrounds is falling.

<sup>45</sup> According to confidential figures given to the Commission on the Points System and reported in *The Irish Independent*, 9 November, 1998 (p3), one-third of students who secured places in 1998 in medicine and dentistry had repeated their final exams. This figure rose to 50 per cent for veterinary students. By contrast, 15 per cent of Leaving Cert holders who got into all other courses repeated exams. Repeating the Leaving Certificate, particularly at private colleges, may not be an option for children from poor families.

<sup>46</sup> Kellaghan, Thomas *et al* (1995) *Educational Disadvantage in Ireland*. Department of Education, Combat Poverty Agency and the Educational Research Centre.

<sup>47</sup> Damian Hannan, 'Pathways to the Future', *Forward*, ESRI.

<sup>48</sup> Kellaghan, Thomas *et al*.

<sup>49</sup> Kellaghan, Thomas *et al*.

<sup>50</sup> Dr Paul O'Mahony (1997) *Mountjoy Prison: A Sociological and Criminological Study*. Government Stationery Office, Dublin

<sup>51</sup> Union of Students in Ireland (2000). Report on access to university.



- "Skilled manual workers" comprise 22.4 per cent of the population. The participation ratio of that group in university is 0.46.<sup>52</sup>
- Unequal access to information technology and related training creates new marginalisation.

Further information on educational disadvantage and adult education may be found in a 1997 report, *Early School-Leaving and Youth Unemployment*, published by the National Economic and Social Forum. See also:

FÁS (see page 44)

**YOUTHREACH, c/o Curriculum Development Unit (CDU), Sundrive Road, Dublin 12. Tel: 01-4535487; Fax: 01-4537659; Email: dermot.stokes@cdu.cdvec.ie; Website: www.youthreach.org**  
**Contact: Dermot Stokes, National Co-ordinator**

YOUTHREACH is a national second-chance education and training programme directed at young unemployed early school-leavers. It is jointly managed by the government departments for Education and Science, and for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. There are 65 YOUTHREACH centres, 45 community training workshops and 27 Traveller training centres operating throughout the country. Centres are managed locally and programmes reflect the particular social, economic and cultural environment in which they operate.

**Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage, c/o Combat Poverty Agency, Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8.**  
**Tel: 01-6706746; Fax: 6706760; Email: info@cpa.ie; Website: www.cpa.ie**

The Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage (1996-2000) funded four networks throughout the country that brought together parents, teachers, youth workers and others to promote and develop an integrated approach to the problem of early school-leaving.<sup>53</sup> The four networks involved were Drogheda Youth Education Network (DYEN), Killenarden Education Network (KEN), Tralee Education Network (TEN) and Network for Educational Support Tuam Area (NESTA).

**AONTAS (National Association of Adult Education), 22 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4754121/2; Fax: 01-4780084; Email: aontas@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Berni Brady, Director; Fiona McCauley, Policy Worker; Maureen Kavanagh, Women's Education and Training Officer;**  
**Emer Dolphin, President at 087-2745539**

<sup>52</sup> Clancy (1995) *Access to College: Patterns of Continuity and Change*.

<sup>53</sup> For further information see *Evaluating Integrated Responses to Educational Disadvantage and Policy Aspects of Educational Disadvantage*. Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2000 and Combat Poverty Agency (July/August 2000) *Poverty Today* No. 47: *Anti-Poverty Work in Action*.

AONTAS is the National Association of Adult Education, a voluntary membership organisation. It exists to promote the development of a learning society through the provision of a high-quality, comprehensive system of adult learning and education that is accessible to and inclusive of all. Its main activities are:

- Promoting the importance of adult learning and education in Ireland;
- Participating in the development of adult education policy;
- Supporting and representing members;
- Identifying and strategically responding to changing needs;
- Building positive relationships with other organisations nationally and internationally;
- Developing itself as a learning organisation.

**Information Society Commission, State Apartments, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6703092; Fax: 01-6709073; Email: info@isc.ie ; Website: www.isc.ie**

The Information Society Commission is an advisory body to government whose role is to raise awareness of issues concerning access to and learning about information technology. It produced a report, *IT Access for All*, in which it called for a national plan to ensure access to new technology information and training for disadvantaged people.

**National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), 76 Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8554332; Fax: 01-8555475; Email: nala@iol.ie; Website: www.iol.ie/~nala**

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) is the co-ordinating, training and campaigning body for all those interested and involved in adult literacy work in Ireland. NALA's activities include:

- providing training for all literacy workers;
- working with students and facilitating student participation in conferences and training sessions;
- literacy awareness training and publicity events;
- promoting co-operation between literacy workers throughout Ireland;



- providing a national referral and general information service with access to teaching and training material;
- raising public awareness;
- supporting the membership through regular contact such as a newsletter, publications on policy and practice, and information leaflets;
- developing policy on literacy issues.

**St Vincent's Trust, 9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8722700/8722240; Fax: 01-8723485; Email: vintrust@iol.ie Contact: Catherine Prendergast, Director**

St Vincent's Trust is a community training workshop located in Dublin's north inner city. It has been operating its training programme since 1975. The trustees of the organisation are the Daughters of Charity. St Vincent's Trust deals with young people who are experiencing stress and disadvantage in their lives. It makes recommendations about work with early school-leavers in vocational training in its publications, *Models of Good Practice* and *Towards a Policy for Early School-leavers in St Vincent's Trust, An Information Pack*.

## WOMEN

### Key Facts

- Households headed by women face a higher risk of poverty than those headed by men or couples;
- These households are poorer because they are likely to contain fewer adults, more children and because the head is less likely to be working for payment. The high poverty risk reflects the socio-economic status of women in society;
- Women at work tend to be concentrated in low-paid jobs with poor conditions;
- The main responsibility for housework and childcare is often carried by women;
- There are few family-friendly employment practices for women trying to re-enter the labour market, such as state support for childcare or opportunities for continuing adult education and training. Those that exist are underdeveloped or under-supported;
- Women with disabilities are less likely to be in employment than men with disabilities, less likely to be in job training, more likely to be poor, and less likely to be receiving emotional or physical support;<sup>54</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Commission for the Status of People with Disabilities (1996) *A Strategy for Equality*, report from the Commission, Dublin.

- Research by Women's Aid shows that 18 per cent of women in Ireland have experienced abuse. While this occurs across all social classes, women's economic dependence often makes it difficult to escape from violence in the home. Financial hardship and potential homelessness are realities for many women who decide to leave the family home.

#### **Combat Poverty Agency** (see page 41)

CPA can provide contacts for a number of regional and local women's networks.

**The National Women's Council of Ireland/Comhairle Naisiúnta na mBan in Éirinn, 16-20 Cumberland Street South, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6615268/1791; Fax: 01-6760860; Email: info@nwci.ie or admin@nwci.ie; Website: www.nwci.ie**  
**Contact: Christine Ross, Chief Executive; Grainne Healy, Chairperson; Anne O'Donnell, Communications Manager, Tel: 087-2942208**

The National Women's Council of Ireland is a non-government organisation that is the national representative body for women and women's organisations in Ireland. It has over 140 affiliate groups. Its principal function is to promote equality for women in Ireland. It works to achieve change through a very broad range of action and activity.

The council can provide analysis on issues relating to women and poverty such as childcare, educational disadvantage, housing, unemployment, health, lone parents and rural poverty.

It produced a report on women's poverty, entitled *Out of Sight: the Hidden Poverty of Women*, dealing with the situation of women's poverty (October 2000).

**Women's Aid, P.O. Box 791, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8745302; National Freephone Helpline: 1800 341 900; Fax: 01-8745525; Email: waiddub@iol.ie; Website: www.womensaid.ie**  
**Contact: Teresa O'Donnell, Press Officer, Tel: 01-8745305; Email: waidpr@iol.ie**  
**Denise Charlton, Director, after office hours: Tel: 087-2438603**

Women's Aid is a non-government, service-based, political and campaigning organisation committed to the elimination of violence against women through effecting political, cultural and social change. Women's Aid offers information, support and accommodation services to women and children who are the victims of sexual, physical and mental abuse. Women's Aid works from a self-help, mutual aid ethos that values women's experiences and promotes the empowerment of women.



**Women's Education Research and Resource Centre (WERRC), Faculty of Arts, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-7068571; Fax: 01-7061195; Email: werrc@ollamh.ucd.ie; Website: www.ucd.ie/~werrcc/**  
**Contact: Ailbhe Smyth, Director**

As part of its research and analysis of the economic and social position of Irish women, WERRC is involved in research on poverty and on the impact of social and economic policies on the scale and nature of poverty among Irish women.

**Employment Equality Agency** – see **Equality Authority**

**Banúlacht Women in Development, 20 Lr Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8726952; Fax: 01-8724183; Email: banúlacht@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Eileen Smith**

Banúlacht promotes awareness of the links between development issues that affect women locally and globally. Banúlacht works from a gender perspective, analysing unequal effects of development on women and men. The organisation provides training programmes, resource development, seminars, workshops, lobbying and publications.

**Women's Education Initiative, Further Education Section, Department of Education and Science. Tel: 01-8892021; Fax: 01-8700648; Email: mcgauranb@educ.irigov.ie; Website: http://www.irigov.ie/educ**  
**Contact: Des O'Loughlin**  
**Support and Research/Evaluation Service: Maria Hegarty, WRC. Tel: 01-8723100; Fax: 01-8723840; Email: wrc@iol.ie**

Women's Education Initiative, funded by the Department of Education and Science and aided by the European Social Fund, was established to assist projects to address the current gaps in provision for educationally disadvantaged women. It was established in 1998 and in the two-year period up to 2000, 13 projects to develop models of good practice and to improve provision for educationally disadvantaged women were supported.

Contacts are available for projects that include a range of education and disadvantaged groups and issues, such as refugees, lone parents, Travellers, violence in the home, prisoners and rural women.

### **LONE-PARENT FAMILIES**

There has been a substantial rise in the number of lone-parent families since the early 1980s. The vast majority of lone-parent families are headed by women and they face a higher than average risk of poverty.

- Research by Women's Aid shows that 18 per cent of women in Ireland have experienced abuse. While this occurs across all social classes, women's economic dependence often makes it difficult to escape from violence in the home. Financial hardship and potential homelessness are realities for many women who decide to leave the family home.

#### **Combat Poverty Agency** (see page 41)

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**The National Women's Council of Ireland/Comhairle Naisiúnta na mBan in Éirinn, 16-20 Cumberland Street South, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6615268/1791; Fax: 01-6760860; Email: info@nwci.ie or admin@nwci.ie; Website: www.nwci.ie**  
**Contact: Christine Ross, Chief Executive; Grainne Healy, Chairperson; Anne O'Donnell, Communications Manager, Tel: 087-2942208**

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The council can provide analysis on issues relating to women and poverty such as childcare, educational disadvantage, housing, unemployment, health, lone parents and rural poverty.

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**Women's Aid, P.O. Box 791, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8745302; National Freephone Helpline: 1800 341 900; Fax: 01-8745525; Email: waiddub@iol.ie; Website: www.womensaid.ie**  
**Contact: Teresa O'Donnell, Press Officer, Tel: 01-8745305; Email: waidpr@iol.ie**  
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**Contact: Ailbhe Smyth, Director**

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**Contact: Eileen Smith**

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**Women's Education Initiative, Further Education Section, Department of Education and Science. Tel: 01-8892021; Fax: 01-8700648; Email: mcgauranb@educ.irlgov.ie; Website: http://www.irlgov.ie/educ**  
**Contact: Des O'Loughlin**  
**Support and Research/Evaluation Service: Maria Hegarty, WRC. Tel: 01-8723100; Fax: 01-8723840; Email: wrc@iol.ie**

Women's Education Initiative, funded by the Department of Education and Science and aided by the European Social Fund, was established to assist projects to address the current gaps in provision for educationally disadvantaged women. It was established in 1998 and in the two-year period up to 2000, 13 projects to develop models of good practice and to improve provision for educationally disadvantaged women were supported.

Contacts are available for projects that include a range of education and disadvantaged groups and issues, such as refugees, lone parents, Travellers, violence in the home, prisoners and rural women.

### **LONE-PARENT FAMILIES**

There has been a substantial rise in the number of lone-parent families since the early 1980s. The vast majority of lone-parent families are headed by women and they face a higher than average risk of poverty.





The One-Parent Family Payment was introduced by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs in 1997 to relieve hardship on lone parents who had not received adequate child maintenance from the other parent or spouse and to encourage lone parents to consider employment as an option, while supporting them at home if that was required. A review of the One-Parent Family Payment scheme in September 2000 found that training and education opportunities needed to be tailored more to meet the needs of one-parent families.

### Key Facts

- Nearly 50 per cent of lone-parent families are headed by a widowed person. In a further 28 per cent, the lone parent is separated.
- Single parents account for about 15 per cent of all lone-parent families although this figure is likely to be underestimated because single parents living with their own parents are not counted as separate families in census statistics.<sup>55</sup>
- Nearly 50 per cent of lone parents have no post-primary education.<sup>56</sup>
- Over 80 per cent of lone parent families are headed by women.
- Over 30 per cent of lone-parent families are living below the relative income poverty line.<sup>57</sup> This compares with 57 per cent in 1994 and 30 per cent in 1987.<sup>58</sup>
- Nearly 75 per cent of people receiving One-Parent Family Payment are unmarried lone parents.

Organisations with information on lone-parent families include the following:

**The Combat Poverty Agency** (see page 41)

**One Parent Exchange and Network (OPEN), Unit 19, Greendale Shopping Centre, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5. Tel: 01-8320264/086-8143297; Fax: 01-8320737; Email: open@indigo.ie Contact: Patricia Quinn, Chairperson**

One Parent Exchange and Network (OPEN) is a national organisation made up of lone-parent self-help groups whose members are single, separated, divorced and widowed people. OPEN is a national anti-poverty network and a social partner representative. It was founded in 1994 and currently has a membership of over 60 groups.

<sup>55</sup> Central Statistics Office July (1997) *Census 1996 Principal Demographic Results*. Dublin.

<sup>56</sup> Review of One-Parent Family Payment (OFP), September 2000, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

<sup>57</sup> Idem.

<sup>58</sup> McCashin, A., (1995) *Lone Mothers in Ireland - A Local Study*. Oak Tree Press, Combat Poverty Agency: Dublin.

The One Parent Exchange and Network seeks to:

- highlight the issues and needs of one-parent families;
- undertake research;
- provide practical support through information, training and networking;
- influence policy and campaign for change.

**Gingerbread, 29-30 Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6710291; Fax: 01-6710352; Email: gingerbreadireland@tinet.ie Contact: Carmel Mudrack, Chairperson**

Gingerbread is an organisation for lone parents. It provides mediation, legal and counselling services.

### DISABILITY

In Ireland, there is a lack of research data on the situation of people with disabilities. However, the Living In Ireland survey shows that households headed by a person with a disability have a very high and increasing risk of poverty. People with disabilities are poorer as a group than the general population and people living in poverty are more likely than others to be disabled.

In addition, inaccessible buildings and services exclude people with disabilities from what is considered everyday participation in society. Many people with a disability live close to the poverty line, because they are prevented from working and/or because of the additional costs associated with disability. Lack of transport for people with a disability impedes access to skill training and education, especially in rural areas.

### Key Facts

- The Living in Ireland survey indicated that 48 per cent of households led by a person with a disability had less than half the average income to live on. This compares with a figure of 18.5 per cent for all households.
- While there are no official figures, it is estimated that the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is over 80 per cent.
- Many people with disabilities who are in work are in low-paid jobs with little prospect of promotion, or in informal arrangements where they receive payment in the form of a supplement to their main income – a disability-related benefit.



For further information contact:

### Comhairle

#### National Rehabilitation Board (NRB)

Services for people with disabilities were restructured following the establishment of Comhairle. Some of the functions of the NRB were taken over by Comhairle; others by relevant mainstream organisations such as FÁS and the health boards; and the National Disability Authority was set up (see below).

**National Disability Authority, 25 Clyde Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 6080400; Fax: 01-6609935; Email: nda@nda.ie; Website: www.nda.ie**

The functions of the National Disability Authority are to:

- advise and inform government on policies and practices affecting people with disability;
- assist in co-ordination and development of policy in relation to disability;
- undertake research and gather statistics to aid the provision of services;
- devise and monitor appropriate standards and codes of practice;
- recognise and reward good standards in the provision of services and programmes.
- monitor the quality and adequacy of state-funded services for people with disability.

**People with Disabilities in Ireland, Richmond Square, Morning Star Avenue, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8721744; Fax: 01-8721771; Email: info@pwdi.ie**

People with Disabilities in Ireland was set up in 1997 as the official state-funded body to advise the Government on the needs of people with disabilities. The council represents individuals with disabilities, organisations of people with disabilities, their parents, partners, carers and advocates.

**The Forum of People with Disabilities, First Floor, 21 Hill Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8786077; Fax: 01-878 6170; Email: inforum@indigo.ie Contact: Dónal Toolan, Network Co-ordinator**

The Forum of People with Disabilities is primarily a civil rights group whose aim is to empower and enable people with disabilities to participate in positive action to achieve full civil rights. It is a national anti-poverty network. It was formed in 1990 and currently has over 400 individual members.

A key aim of the forum is to articulate and define the real needs and wants of people with disabilities. It conducts research, provides information, ideas and advice, and supplies training about the personal experience of disability and rights. The forum makes representations to government and to service providers. It promotes the involvement and participation of people with disabilities in the control of organisations that provide services and other activities for them.

**INTERACT, Irish Wheelchair Association, Áras Chúchulain, Blackheath Drive, Clontarf, Dublin 3. Tel: 01-8338241; Fax: 01-8333873; Email: info@iwa.ie; Website: www.iol.ie/~iwa Contact: Dolores Murphy, Co-ordinator**

INTERACT is a specialist support agency to the Community Development Programme. It provides advice and develops models of good practice for the inclusion of all people with disabilities in community development projects. It aims to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities within their communities in order to achieve active, visible and equal participation.

**Centre for Independent Living, Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8730455/8730986; Fax: 01-8730998; Email: cildub@iol.ie Contact: Selina Bonnie**

The Centre for Independent Living (CIL) is part of a worldwide independent living movement of and by people with disabilities. The movement originated in the USA in 1972. It was established in Ireland in 1992 with the specific goal of ensuring that people with disabilities achieved independent living and full participation in society. There are CIL centres in Dublin, Blakestown, Bray, Carlow, Ennis, Cork, Galway, Mohill, Newport, Portlaoise, Roscommon, Sligo, Thurles, Tullamore, Waterford, Wexford and Limerick.



## MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS

Minority ethnic groups in Ireland can be classified as Travellers, EU nationals and non-EU nationals. Although these three groups may not all experience the same kind of discrimination, they do share some common experiences of racism that contributes to making and keeping people poor.

Racism has been defined as the exercise of prejudice plus power that leads to discrimination, inequality and social disadvantage marked by or based upon ethnicity. While all social groups have the capacity to be racist, institutional aspects of racism empower majority ethnic groups and disempower minority ethnic groups.

### Key Facts

Statistics on minority ethnic groups are inaccurate because the census does not ask an ethnic question but some figures give an indication of the situation.

- The 1996 Census showed 22,520 people who were born in countries other than Ireland, the EU, the rest of Europe and North America. This was an increase on the 1991 figure of 17,059.
- According to recent research, there are approximately 30,000 black and minority ethnic people in Ireland, 10,000 of whom are non-EU nationals.<sup>59</sup>
- The majority of asylum-seekers come from the following countries: Nigeria, Algeria, Romania, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Sudan.
- Groups working with refugees suggest there are about 6,000-8,000 refugees. Many of these would be either asylum-seekers (people still awaiting recognition as refugees), convention refugees (people who have been recognised as refugees), programme refugees (people who have entered Ireland on the basis of a government decision to admit a quota of refugees) or people who, while not refugees in Ireland, have, "humanitarian leave to remain".
- The numbers of people applying for asylum in Ireland have increased from 92 in 1993 to 4,626 in 1998. In the first seven months of 2000, 6,100 people claimed asylum in Ireland.

Organisations that can provide further information on these issues include:

**Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland (ARASI), 1 The Mews, 213 North Circular Road, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8381142; Fax: 01-8381143; Email: arasi@indigo.ie; Website: <http://indigo.ie/~arasi> Contact: Mohamed Hajji, Spokesperson**

ARASI is an organisation for and staffed by refugees. It undertakes support, public awareness raising and development education work, and lobbies and campaigns for the rights of refugees.

**Bosnian Community Development Project, 40 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6719202; Fax: 01-6719202; Email: bcdp@iol.ie Contact: Haris Bijedic, Public Relations Officer**

The Bosnian Community Development Project was set up by the Refugee Agency, the Irish Refugee Council and Irish Refugee Trust to help Bosnian people integrate into Irish society. It provides services to the Bosnian community, undertakes a wide range of activities and publishes a newsletter. It is now funded as part of the Community Development Programme of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

**Comhlámh, 10 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4783490; Fax: 01-4783738; Email: comhlamh@iol.ie. Contact: Louise Keating, Majella Darcy 55 Grand Parade, Cork. Tel: 021-275881; Fax: 021-275 241; Email: comhcork@iol.ie Contact: Wendy Knott**

Comhlámh is a voluntary organisation whose members promote human rights and social justice, including the rights of asylum-seekers, globally and locally. There are Comhlámh Refugee Solidarity Groups in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The groups undertake community education, media and lobbying work on the rights of asylum-seekers. They organise English language teaching and run social events.

Refugee community groups contactable through Comhlámh include: Nigeria, Sudan, Congo (Zaire), Algeria, Palestine, Angola, Kosovo, Romania, Togo and Somalia.

**Irish Refugee Council, 40 Lr Dominick Street, Dublin. Tel: 01-8730042; Fax: 01-8730088; Email: refugee@iol.ie and 35/36 Arran Quay, Dublin 7. Tel: 8724424; Fax: 8724411 1, Bank Place, Ennis, Co Clare. Tel: 065-22026; Fax: 065-22026 Contact: Derek Stewart, Chairperson**

A voluntary organisation that provides support for refugees and asylum-seekers

**National Consultative Committee on Interculturalism and Anti-Racism (NCCIR), 26 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4785777; Fax: 01-4785778; Email: nat.racism.ctee@eircom.net; Website: www.homepage.eircom.net/~racismctee Contact: Philip Watt, Director**

The role of the committee is to advise the Government and provide the structure to facilitate ongoing programme development and services. It operates under the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and works in partnership with government and non-government organisations.

**NODE, 10 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4751998; Fax: 4783738; Email: node@iol.ie; Website: http://homepage.iol.ie/~node Contact: Owen McCarney**

NODE is a network of grassroots development education centres and groups that aim to raise awareness of the causes and effects of poverty, injustice and inequality at local, national and international levels. There are centres in Belfast, Galway, Ennis, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Portlaoise, Sligo, Waterford, Tullamore and Mayo.

**The Refugee Agency, 9 Marlborough Court, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8787200; Fax: 01-8787232; Email: office@refugeeagency.ie**

This is a government agency to co-ordinate arrangements for the admission, reception and resettlement of programme refugees (that is, refugees admitted into the country on foot of government decisions). It was established in 1991 and operates under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Services include support to refugees on initial arrival, ongoing support to vulnerable families, promoting community development work within refugee communities and working with public bodies and NGOs to ensure that refugees have access to entitlements and services. This remit is currently under review and consideration is being given to extending the role of the agency to include the resettlement and integration of all refugees given the right to stay in Ireland.

Other refugee organisations and resource groups include:

**Irish Black and Migrant Women, c/o 10 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2.**

**Association of Nigerian Asylum Seekers in Ireland, c/o 4 Preston Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8551457; Fax: 01-8551460.**



**Ogoni Solidarity in Ireland, 10 College Manor, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Tel: 01-8378105.**

**Democratic Republic of Congo Solidarity Group, 10 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2.**

## TRAVELLERS

Travellers make up the largest minority ethnic group in Ireland. Travellers experience high levels of social exclusion, disadvantage and discrimination. The *Report from the Task Force on the Travelling Community* published in July 1995 highlighted the discrimination, disadvantage and hardship experienced by Traveller families across a whole range of indices including employment, accommodation, health, education and training.

### Key Facts

- More than 1,000 Traveller families live on the roadside.
- Approximately 250 Traveller households live on temporary halting sites, many of which lack basic services such as toilets, electricity and proper washing facilities.
- Infant mortality rates are three times higher than those of the settled community and Travellers generally experience worse health status than members of the settled community.
- High levels of illiteracy present a major barrier to full Traveller participation in society and to Traveller participation in adult education programmes.
- Travellers' traditional economic activities have disappeared over the years and this has led to difficulties in pursuing new economic activities.
- There are high levels of unemployment and reliance on social welfare payments among the Traveller community.
- The 1996 census showed that 50 per cent of Travellers were aged less than 15 years (compared with slightly less than a quarter for the population in general).<sup>60</sup>
- Just over one per cent of the Traveller community survived beyond 65 years of age in 1995. Travellers over 65 accounted for just 1.3 per cent of the Traveller population. This figure compares with 11.4 per cent for the whole population.
- Travellers are only now reaching the life expectancy that settled Irish people achieved in the 1940s. Traveller women on average die nearly 12 years earlier than settled women, Traveller men 10 years.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Central Statistics Office (March 1998). *The Demographic Situation of the Traveller Community in April 1996, Statistical Special Release.*

<sup>61</sup> *Report of the Task Force on the Travelling People, 1995.*

The difficulties that Travellers experience are often attributed to Traveller nomadism and there is a view in the settled population that Travellers must become settled before Traveller poverty can be addressed. But Traveller nomadism, the importance of the extended family, the Traveller language and the structure of the Traveller economy all provide visible or tangible markers of a distinct Traveller culture. Services appropriate to this Traveller culture are underdeveloped or lacking.

Organisations that can provide further information on these issues include:

**The Irish Traveller Movement (ITM), 4/5 Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6796577; Fax: 01-679 6578; Email: itmtrav@indigo.ie**  
**Contact: Fintan Farrell, Co-ordinator; David Joyce, Accommodation Officer; Thomas McCann, Development Worker**

The Irish Traveller Movement was founded in November 1990 as a national network of organisations and individuals working within the Traveller community. ITM is a partnership of Travellers and settled people committed to seeking full equality for Travellers in Irish society. It has 70 member organisations and regional networks. ITM aims to increase Traveller participation and offer support at local level.

ITM's main activities are:

- highlighting the issues faced by Travellers and pressing for real solutions;
- supporting the development of Traveller organisations;
- representing Traveller interests on consultative fora;
- raising public awareness about the situation of Travellers in Irish society.

**Pavee Point, 46 North Great Charles Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8780255; Fax: 01-8742626; Email: pavee@iol.ie;**  
**Website: www.homepage.iol.ie/~pavee**  
**Contact: Ronnie Fay, Co-Director;**  
**Martin Collins, Development Worker**  
**Caoimhe McCabe, Information Worker**

Pavee Point is a partnership of Travellers and settled people seeking to contribute to improving the quality of life and living circumstances of Travellers through working for greater solidarity, social justice, development and human rights.



Pavee Point undertakes:

- direct work with Travellers developing innovative projects in relation to health, education, training, youth work, heritage and community development;
- Pavee Point also is a specialist support and resource agency within the Community Development Programme. It provides support, advice and educational resources on anti-racism practice that promotes the inclusion of and positive outcomes for Travellers.
- Policy work.

**National Traveller Women's Forum, c/o Galway City Park, Town Park Centre, Tuam Road, Galway. Tel: 091-771509; Fax: 091-771235; Email: ntwf@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Rachel Doyle, Co-ordinator; Rosaleen McDonagh, Development Worker**

The National Traveller Women's Forum works collectively to support Traveller women in attaining self-determination, human rights and equality in society. Activities include providing training to Traveller women; networking; policy work; research; providing information to the public and the media.

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Housing tenure is linked to the risk of poverty and local authority tenants have been at increased risk of poverty since 1987. Increased segregation of public and private housing, the overwhelming location of unemployed people and other disadvantaged groups within the public housing sector, and growing problems of crime, vandalism, joyriding and drug use have all led to a deterioration in the quality of life in local authority housing.

Poverty, unemployment, poor housing and low education can lead a person to becoming homeless and make it very difficult to get a new home. The immediate cause of homelessness is often a family or relationship breakdown. The homeless population is increasingly made up of younger people, women and younger children.

The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness contains a commitment for developing new targets for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy for housing/accommodation and to "comprehensively address the problems of homelessness".

**Key Facts**

- In 1999, the total number of households on local authority housing lists was 45,578. In 1996, it was 30,533; in 1987 it was 18,000.
- Many thousands more need housing but are provided with other housing measures such as rent supplements from the health boards.
- Large numbers of people in need of housing do not appear on local authority housing lists, for example, single people without children.
- Households in local authority housing made up about 50 per cent of those living in poverty in 1994, i.e. one in two poor households were located outside public sector housing. But in Dublin, almost 70 per cent of households renting local authority houses were living in poverty.
- A decline in the building programme and high sales of local authority houses have sharply depleted public housing stocks.
- The 1999 assessment of local authority housing needs found a total of 5,234 homeless people in Ireland, more than twice the figure of 2,501 for 1996.
- Those in need of housing are among the most disadvantaged sectors in Irish society.
- Lone mothers are significantly over-represented on the housing waiting lists and the number of child dependents of families living in unsuitable or precarious accommodation is increasing.
- In 1998, a total of 5,985 individuals were in contact with Focus Ireland's services. This was a 71 per cent increase on 1994.
- According to Focus Ireland, the number of people sleeping rough has more than doubled since 1996.
- Youth homelessness is increasing dramatically. Significant numbers of homeless young people have previously been in substitute care, particularly residential care.

Organisations that can provide information about housing and homelessness include:

**Department of the Environment and Local Government**

The Department publishes a regular Housing Statistics Bulletin. A section in the Department deals with Traveller accommodation.

**Eastern Regional Health Authority and Northern Area Health Board**

An independent Forum on Youth Homelessness, was established by the former Eastern Health Board in February 1999 to identify the needs of homeless young people in the board's former region and improve and develop services in response (see below, Homeless Initiative). The Forum recommended that one authority be legally responsible for the delivery of services and be given the statutory powers to meet that responsibility.

The ERHA is now responsible for policy issues relating to homelessness in the counties of Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare. The Northern Area Health Board has responsibility for delivery of services to homeless people within the health authority's area.

**Centrecare, 1a Cathedral Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-8726775/8746915;**  
**Fax: 01-8727003; Email: [cntrcare@indigo.ie](mailto:cntrcare@indigo.ie);**  
**Website: <http://indigo.ie/~cntrcare/>**  
**Contact: Paula O'Sullivan, Information Officer**

Centrecare is a project of Crosscare and the Catholic Church's Pro-Cathedral. It is a drop-in centre, available free of charge to the vulnerable and powerless. It provides information, advice and support on a wide variety of issues such as food centres, hostels, entitlements and domestic problems. It advocates on behalf of its clients, refers clients to the appropriate statutory or voluntary body and undertakes research.

**Focus Ireland, 1 Lord Edward Court, Bride Street, Dublin 8 and 14a**  
**Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4751955; Fax: 01-4751972;**  
**Email: [info@focusireland.ie](mailto:info@focusireland.ie); Website: [www.focusireland.ie](http://www.focusireland.ie)**  
**Contact: Roughan MacNamara**

Focus Ireland believes that everyone has a right to a place that they can call home. It seeks to make this a reality for people out-of-home by providing a range of services targeted at young people, families and adults. An integral element in the delivery of the services is empowerment through the provision of information, resources and training. Focus Ireland seeks to enable people to exercise control over their lives and to rejoin a society that has excluded them. Focus Ireland commissions research and publishes reports and fact sheets.

**Fáilteú, 4 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6771128; Fax: 01-6771000;**  
**Email: fsji@iol.ie**  
**Contact: Gerry Raftery OFM, Director**

Fáilteú is a voluntary organisation run as part of the Franciscan Social Justice Initiative. It provides a range of services to meet the daytime needs of homeless people in Dublin. Fáilteú offers advice, information, social support and resettlement services as well as a meals service to over 150 people a day.

**Homeless Initiative, (The), 6 St Andrews Street, Dublin 2.**  
**Tel: 01-6705173; Fax: 01-6705175**

The Homeless Initiative was set up in 1996 to plan and co-ordinate delivery of services to homeless people in the then Eastern Health Board region. It is a voluntary/statutory partnership under the direction of Dublin Corporation and the Eastern Regional Health Authority. Reports include: *Settlement Services for Homeless People in Europe: Lessons for Ireland* by Brian Harvey, April 1998, and *Making Connections: A guide to Policy and Other Developments Likely to Impact on Homelessness*, May 2000, also by Brian Harvey. This updates the 1998 report in the light of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, the National Development Plan and developments in the EU. A workshop organised by the Initiative in 1998 made recommendations that resulted in the establishment of the Forum on Youth Homelessness (see Eastern Regional Health Authority).

**National Association of Tenants Organisations, 35 Meath Place, Dublin 8. Tel/Fax: 01-4543842**  
**Contact: Matt Larkin, General Secretary, Tel: 01-4543842; Seán Ó Cionnaith, PRO, Tel: 01-8424684; Donnchadha Mac Raghnaill, Treasurer, Tel: 041-37648; Bob Bickerdike, Vice-President, Tel: 024-93009**

The National Association of Tenants Organisations seeks to promote the economic, social and cultural interests of all its members. It represents its members at regional and national fora, holds meetings and makes submissions to state and semi-state bodies.

**Simon Community of Ireland, St Andrew's House, 28-30 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6711606; Fax: 01-6711098;**  
**Email: simonnat@indigo.ie; Website: <http://indigo.ie/~simonnat>**  
**Contact: Conall Mac Ríocáird, National Director**

The Simon Community is a voluntary organisation that provides a range of caring services to homeless people and campaigns at local and national level to prevent and reverse homelessness. The Simon Community operates shelters, residential

houses, soup runs, referral and settlement services, work projects and other services for homeless people. It also publishes information on issues of housing and homelessness, networks with other voluntary organisations, lobbies for social change and makes policy submissions to government. Full and part-time volunteers are integral to the running of Simon projects.

**Threshold, 19 St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7. Tel: 01-8726311;**  
**Fax: 01-8726063; Email: [info@threshold.ie](mailto:info@threshold.ie); Website: [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)**  
**Contact: Kieran Murphy, Director; mobile: 087-2391528**

Threshold works for justice on housing and homelessness through the provision of services, lobbying for the reform of housing policy, legislation and practice, and developing innovative solutions to housing problems. It provides advice centres in Dublin, Cork and Galway, undertakes research and policy development and publishes policy, analysis and research issues.

**Respond! Head Office, Airmount, Waterford. Tel: 051-357901;**  
**Fax: 051-841943; Email: [respondwfd@esatclear.ie](mailto:respondwfd@esatclear.ie);**  
**Contact: Patrick Cogan, Managing Director**  
**All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.**  
**Tel: 01-8572020; Fax: 01-8572066; Email: [responddub@esatclear.ie](mailto:responddub@esatclear.ie)**  
**Contact: Noel Mathews, Training Manager; Gareth Casey, PRO**

Respond! is a housing association that seeks to provide good-quality housing for needy people in communities of mutual support. It provides job creation and childcare opportunities in most of its 60 estates. It specialises in training tenants (currently about 1,500) to manage their own estates and runs certificate courses in tenant management.

## HEALTH

### Key Facts

- Ill-health, both mental and physical, is a major consequence and cause of poverty for groups such as Travellers, lone parent families, older people and children.

Further information is available from the following organisations:

**Health Boards** (see page 107)  
**Health Research Board**  
**The Children's Research Centre**

**DRUGS****Key Facts**

- The drug problem, while affecting all classes, is concentrated in areas where many are already struggling to cope, that is, areas of high unemployment, housing problems, large populations of children, high concentrations of lone-parent families, low service provision and low participation in higher education. Poverty provides a climate in which problem drug use may grow. When poverty and drug use come together the consequences can be devastating.<sup>62</sup>
- Children growing up where a drug culture is firmly established have greatly reduced chances of avoiding addiction themselves.
- Heroin users in Ireland are the youngest in Europe.<sup>63</sup>

**National Drugs Strategy Team, 4/5 Harcourt Road, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4754119/4754120; Fax: 01-4754045**

**Media Contact: Bart Cronin/Therese O'Connor, Press Officer,  
Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation:  
Tel: 01-6313838/6313807/6313806; 087-2908193**

The national strategy against drugs has three key elements: the cabinet sub-committee on social inclusion, drugs and local development; the national drugs strategy team; and local drugs task forces.

The National Drugs Strategy Team comprises representatives of the Departments of Education and Science; Environment and Local Government; Health and Children; and Tourism, Sport and Recreation. Other agencies represented are FÁS, An Garda Síochána, the health boards and representatives of community organisations. Its role is the reduction in the demand for drugs and the co-ordination of national strategies against drugs.

Local Drugs Task Forces are at work in 13 areas: Ballyfermot, Blanchardstown, Canal Communities, Coolock, Crumlin, Clondalkin, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Finglas/Cabra, North Inner City, South Inner City and Tallaght, all in Dublin, and in Cork city. Their role is to ensure the effectiveness, delivery and development of local services to reduce the demand for drugs and combat the drug problem, focusing on those areas where it is most severe.

<sup>62</sup> McCann, Mary Ellen, *A Report of the Conference for Community Development Programme Projects on Community Responses to Drugs Issues*, held February 1997. Mary Ellen McCann is director of Ballymun Youth Action Project in Drugs, Poverty and Community Development.

<sup>63</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (September 1996), *The State of the Drug Problems in Europe*.



**The Merchants Quay Project, Drugs/HIV Service, 4 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6790044; Fax: 01-6771000; Email: info@mqp.ie  
Contact: Tony Geoghegan, Director**

The Merchants Quay Project is a voluntary agency providing a spectrum of services aimed at meeting the needs of drug users at the various stages of addiction. The project provides services ranging from crisis contact work, through stabilisation programmes and residential rehabilitation to the point at which drug users are able to rejoin society via the project's resettlement and employment programme.

**Voluntary Drugs Treatment Network, Franciscan Friary, 4 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6040060/087-2669910; Fax: 01-6771000;  
Email: seancassin@tinet.ie  
Contact: Sean Cassin**

This is a coalition of 11 drug treatment agencies with national, international, regional and local remits. Its role is to pool resources and information and to act as a lobby group to represent the voices of drug users to statutory bodies and service providers. Its members follow varied approaches to drug treatment ranging from harm reduction programmes to drug-free rehabilitation strategies. It is represented on the national drugs strategy team.

**OLDER PEOPLE****Key Facts**

- 30 per cent of older people live in households below the poverty line. This is high relative to other population groups.
- In 1991, more than 400,000 people were over 65 years of age, 11.4 per cent of the population.
- In 2021, over 620,000 people will be over 65, 15.5 per cent of the population.
- Life expectancy for men and women is relatively low compared to many western European countries.
- While 80 per cent of elderly householders own their homes, many of these live in older, inadequate accommodation, especially those living alone.
- Since 1973, the number of older people living in two-person households or living alone has increased.



- 5.8 per cent of people aged 65 and over suffer severe dementia and a further 5 per cent are in long-term care.<sup>64</sup>

**Age Action Ireland, 30-31 Camden Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4756001; Fax: 01-4756011; Email: ageact@indigo.ie; Website: <http://indigo.ie/~ageact> Contact: Robin Webster, CEO; Tom McGuirk, Head of Information**

This is a support organisation for groups and individuals concerned with ageing and older people. It has published a service directory, a directory of respite care for adults and services for death, dying and bereavement. It also publishes regular bulletins.

**Age and Opportunity, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01-8370570; Fax: 01-8376591; Email: ageandop@indigo.ie; Website: [www.indigo.ie/~ageandop](http://www.indigo.ie/~ageandop) Contact: Ann Leahy**

Age and Opportunity provides library information service, resource materials, fact sheets, project work, facilitation of activities by older people's groups and support to active retirement associations.

**Alone – The Voluntary Organisation, 1 Willie Bermingham Place, Kilmainham Lane, Dublin 8. Tel/Fax: 01-6791032; Email: alone@iol.ie; Website: [www.alone.ie](http://www.alone.ie) Contact: Harry Sheill**

The objectives of Alone are to protect old people from hunger, sickness and neglect by providing a wide range of services and by encouraging neighbours to take an active part in meeting their needs. Alone provides food, clothing, fuel, shelter or accommodation, educational and information services and assistance in the refurbishing, renovation and redecoration of accommodation for people aged over 60 who are living alone or with a companion.

**Irish Association of Older People, Room G02, University College, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4750013. Fax: 01-4750013 Contact: Brendan McLoughlin, Chairman**

The Council acts as a direct voice for older people to represent their interests, campaign on their behalf, and provide information.



**National Council for Ageing and Older People, 22 Clanwilliam Square, Grand Canal Quay, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6766484; Fax: 01-6765754; Email: [john@ncap.ie](mailto:john@ncap.ie) Contact: John Heuston, Communications Officer**

The Council carries out research on the position of older people, advises the Government and presents policy recommendations. It published a report in early 2000 entitled *Income Deprivation and Well-Being Among Older People*. Many of its 59 reports deal with issues of poverty and its Factfile No.3 deals with income for older people.

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

### Key Facts

- Lesbians and gay men experience marginalisation, discrimination, oppression and prejudice in Ireland.<sup>65</sup>
- The cumulative effects of disadvantage, exclusion, discrimination and prejudice affect the quality of life and the standard of living of lesbians, bisexuals and gay men.

Organisations that can provide further information on these issues include:

**Gay HIV Strategies, Fumbally Court, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-4730599; Fax: 01-4730597; Email: [ghs@nexus.ie](mailto:ghs@nexus.ie); Website: [www.iol.ie/nexus](http://www.iol.ie/nexus) Contact: Brian Sheehan, Director**

This is a project funded by the Department of Health and Children to facilitate new programmes, resources and linkage strategies for the prevention of HIV in gay men.

**Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), c/o Outhouse, 6 South William Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-4730599; Fax: 01-6713549; Email: [ghs@nexus.ie](mailto:ghs@nexus.ie) Contact: Kieran Rose, Co-chair, Tel: 01-4730599 (work); Chris Robson, Co-chair**

GLEN campaigns against the social exclusion of lesbian and gay people. It undertakes policy and media work and makes submissions to government. GLEN carried out a research study on poverty and lesbians and gay men in conjunction with the Combat Poverty Agency and Nexus Research (see footnote).

<sup>65</sup> GLEN/Nexus (1995) *Poverty: Lesbian and Gay Men: The Economic and Social Effects of Discrimination*. Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin.

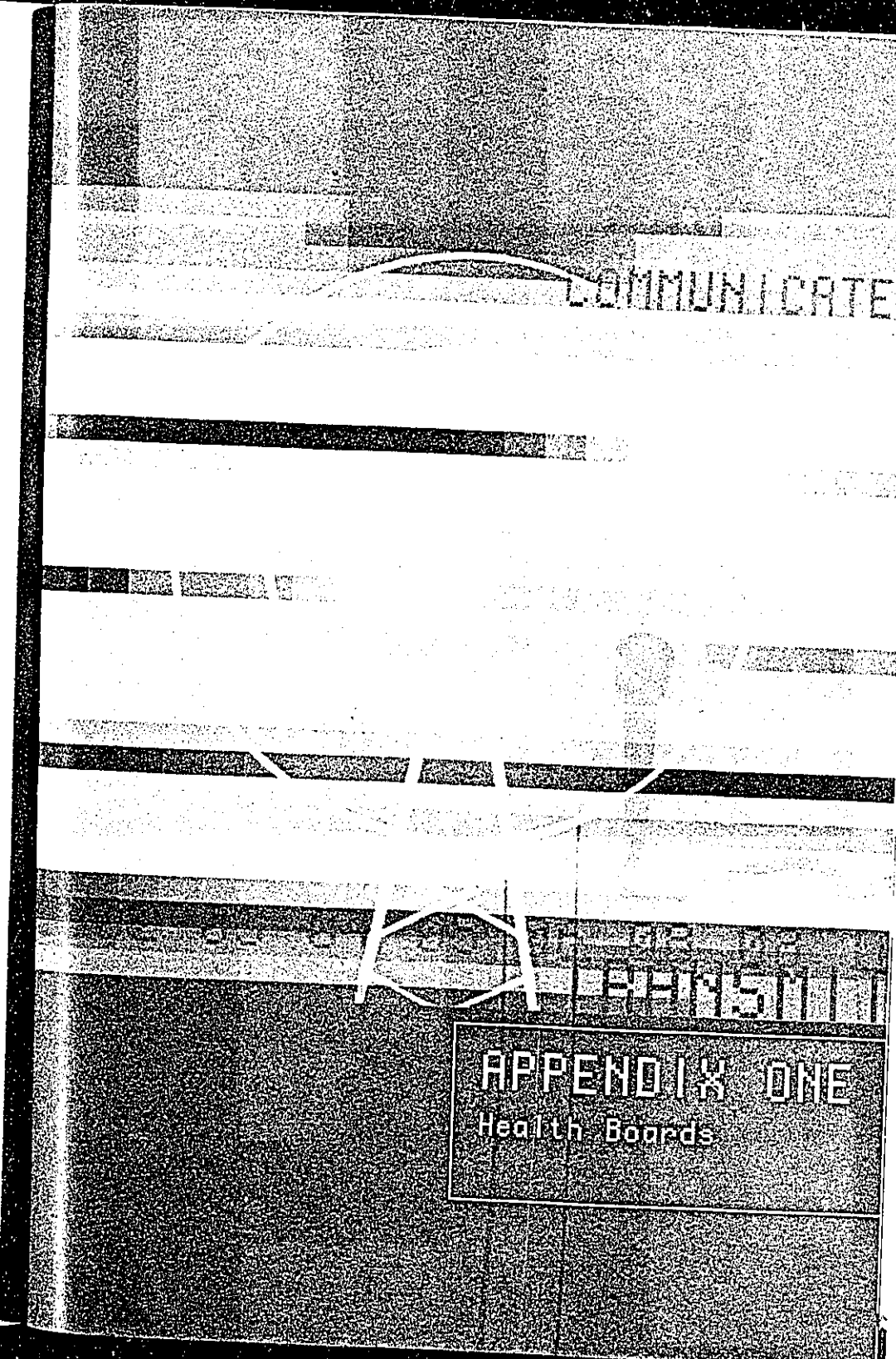
**Lesbians Organising Together (LOT), 5 Capel Street, Dublin 1.**  
**Tel: 01-8727770; Fax: 01-8730520**  
**Contact: Beth Wallace, Chair**

**Southern Gay Health Project, 8 South Main Street, Cork.**  
**Tel: 021-278745/278470; Fax: 021-278471**  
**Contact: Arthur Leahy**

An organisation that deals with issues of poverty and mental and physical health for gay and lesbian people. Its underlying perspective is that poverty among gay/lesbian people is one aspect of poverty in the wider community and it has identified issues of early school-leaving, educational and career under-achievement and resulting poverty among gay/lesbian people. It is a member of Cork Partnership and receives health board funding.

**Waterford Gay and Lesbian Resource Group, c/o Youth Resource Centre, St John's Park, Waterford. Tel: 087-6387931; Email: resourceworker@europe.com**  
**Contact: Alan Brett**

Works with Waterford Partnership on community development, capacity building and tackling social exclusion of gay people in Waterford city.





## HEALTH BOARDS

**Eastern Regional Health Authority, Canal House, Canal Road, Dublin 6.**  
**Tel: 01-4065600; Fax: 01-4065611; Email: erha@erha.ie;**  
**Website: www.erha.ie**

In March, 2000, the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) replaced the Eastern Health Board. Three new area health boards were set up – the South Western Area Health Board; the Northern Area Health Board; and the East Coast Area Health Board. The three area health boards are responsible for providing, within their areas, the services previously delivered by the Eastern Health Board. The Eastern Regional Health Authority is an umbrella body responsible for strategic planning and funding of services and monitoring and evaluation of services provided.

**East Coast Area Health Board, Southern Cross House, Southern Cross Business Park, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01-2014200;**  
**Fax: 01-2014201**

**South Western Area Health Board, Leinster Mills, Osberstown, Naas, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045-872063/875772; Fax: 01-045-875889**

**Northern Area Health Board, Unit 7, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01-8407059/8131805; Fax: 01-8407446**

**Midland Health Board, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Westmeath.**  
**Tel: 0506-21868; Fax: 0506-51760**  
(Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath)

**Mid-Western Health Board, 31/33 Catherine Street, Limerick.**  
**Tel: 061-316655; Fax: 061-483350; Email: eolas@mwhb.ie**  
(Limerick, Clare, Tipperary)

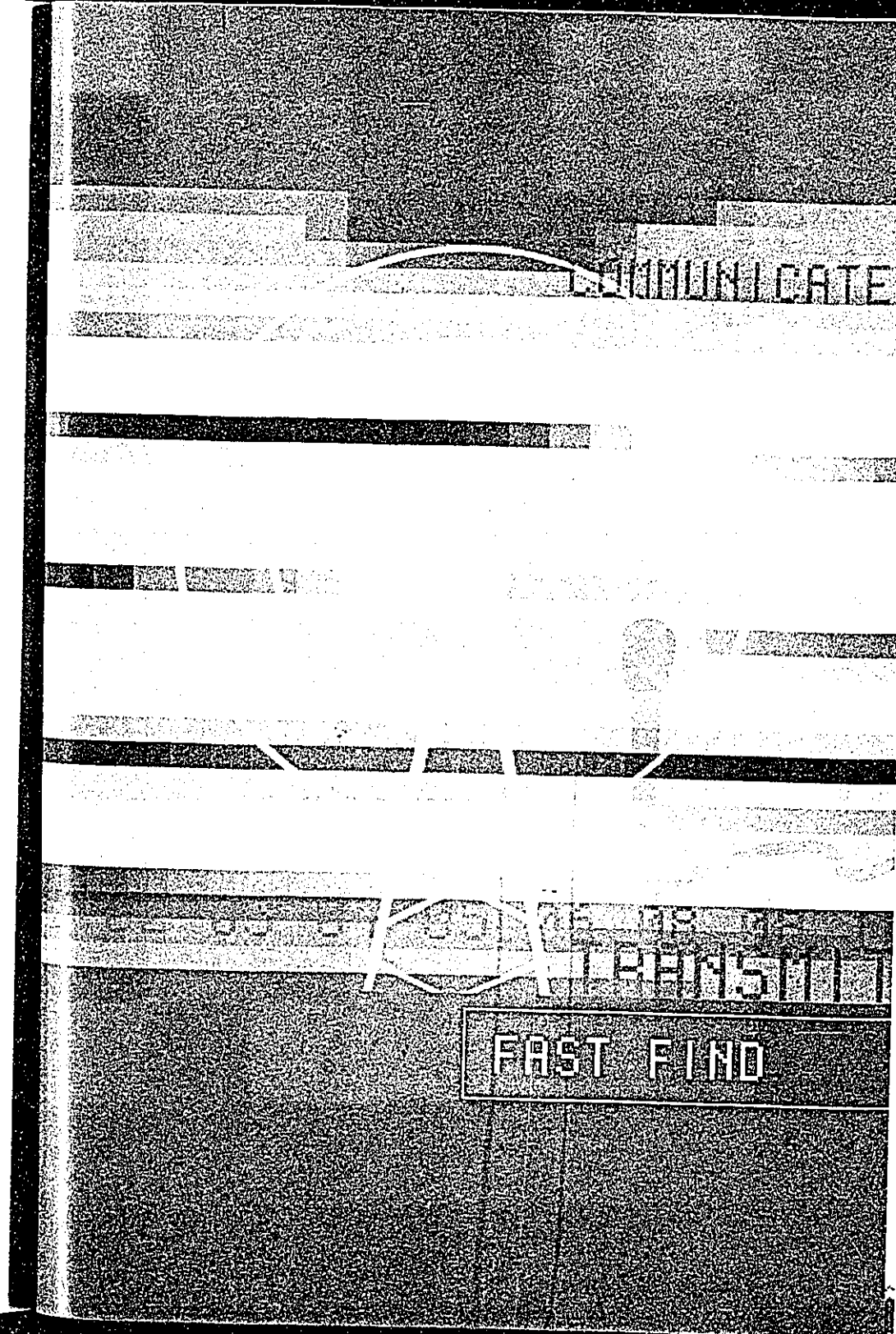
**North Eastern Health Board, Kells, Co. Meath. Tel: 046-40341;**  
**Fax: 046-41459; Email: nehbms@indigo.ie; Website: www.nehb.ie**  
(Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Meath)

**North Western Health Board, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.**  
**Tel: 072-20400 / 55123; Fax: 072-55123 / 20431; Website: www.nwhb.ie**  
(Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim)

**South Eastern Health Board, Lacken, Dublin Road, Kilkenny.**  
**Tel: 056-20400; Fax: 056-65270; Website: [www.sehb.ie](http://www.sehb.ie)**  
(Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford, South Tipperary)

**Southern Health Board, Wilton Road, Cork. Tel: 021-545011;**  
**Fax: 021-545748**  
(Cork, Kerry)

**Western Health Board, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway.**  
**Tel: 091-751131; Fax: 091-752644. Email: [whbmsg@iol.ie](mailto:whbmsg@iol.ie)**  
(Galway, Mayo, Roscommon)



**Fast Find - Listed Organisations and Initiatives****Note:****Telephone number:**

These refer to main office telephone numbers. Consult the main text for direct lines to press offices or contact persons.

**Page number:**

The page number refers to main index entry. Other references to groups/agencies and programmes will be found throughout the Handbook.

Age Action Ireland. P. 102. **Tel:** 01-4756001.

Age and Opportunity. P. 102. **Tel:** 01-8370570.

Agriculture, Department of. P. 32. **Tel:** 01-6072000.

Alone The Voluntary Organisation. P. 102. **Tel:** 01-6791032.

Anti-Poverty Networks. P. 61.

Aontas. P. 81. **Tel:** 01-4754121/2.

Area Development Management (ADM). P. 51. **Tel:** 01-6613611/2400700.

Area-Based Partnership Companies. Pp. 52  
See individual organisations.

Association of Nigerian Asylum Seekers in Ireland. P. 92. **Tel:** 01-8551457.

Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland. P. 91.  
**Tel:** 01-8381142.

Banúlacht Women in Development. P. 85. **Tel:** 01-8726952.

Barnardos. P. 77 (6). **Tel:** 01-4530300.

Bosnian Community Development Project. P. 91. **Tel:** 01-6719202.

Central Statistics Office. P. 66. **Tel:** 021-359000/01-4977144.

Centre for Independent Living. P. 89. **Tel:** 01-8730455/8730986.

Centrecare. P. 97. **Tel:** 01-8726775/8746915.

Children's Research Centre. P. 78. **Tel:** 01-6052901.

Children's Rights Alliance. P. 78. (6). **Tel:** 01-8733199.

Combat Poverty Agency. P. 41. **Tel:** 01-6706746.

Combat Poverty Agency. (Research Division). P. 67. **Tel:** 01-4606746.

Comhairle. P. 42. **Tel:** 01-6059000.

Comhlámh. P. 91. **Tel:** 01-4783490.

Community Action Network (CAN). P. 59. **Tel:** 01-8788005.

Community Development Programme, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. P. 57. **Tel:** 01-8748444.

Community Pillar. P. 63. **Tel:** see individual organisations.

Community Platform. P. 63. **Tel:** see individual organisations.

Community Workers Co-operative (CWC). P. 62. **Tel:** 091-779030.

Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI). P. 65. **Tel:** 01-2697799.

Cork Community Development Institute (CCDI). P. 59. **Tel:** 01-4276050.

Democratic Republic of Congo Solidarity Group. P. 93. **Tel:** see main text.

Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage. P. 81.  
**Tel:** 01-6706746.

East Coast Area Health Board. Appendix 1. P. 107. **Tel:** 01-2014200.

- Eastern Regional Health Authority. Appendix 1. P. 107. **Tel:** 01-4065600.
- Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). P. 66. **Tel:** 01-6671525.
- Education and Science, Department of. P. 34. **Tel:** 01-8734700.
- Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Department of. P. 34.  
**Tel:** 01-6312121.
- Environment and Local Government, Department of. P. 35.  
**Tel:** 01-8882000.
- EQUAL Initiative. P. 49. **Tel:** 01: 6614444.
- Equality Authority, The. P. 43. **Tel:** 01: 4173333.
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). P. 62. **Tel:** 01-8745737.
- European Social Fund (ESF). P. 48. **Tel:** 01-6614444/6045333.
- Failltiú. P. 98. **Tel:** 01-6771000.
- FÁS. P. 44. **Tel:** 01-6070500. —
- Finance, Department of. P. 35. **Tel:** 01-6767571.
- Focus Ireland. P. 97. **Tel:** 01-4751955. *67/2555*
- Focus on Children. P. 78. **Tel:** 01-878808.
- Foreign Affairs, Department of. See under Refugee Agency. P. 92.
- Forum of People with Disabilities. P. 89. **Tel:** 01-8786077.
- Foundation for Fiscal Studies. P. 68. **Tel:** 01-7068505.
- Gay and Lesbian Equality Network. P. 103. **Tel:** 01-6710939.
- Gay HIV Strategies. P. 103. **Tel:** 01-4730599.
- Gingerbread. P. 87. **Tel:** 01-6710291.

- Harvey, Brian, Social Research. P. 68. **Tel:** 01-4903039.
- Health and Children, Department of. P. 36. **Tel:** 01-6354000.
- Health Boards. Appendix 1. P. 107.
- Health Research Board. P. 67. **Tel:** 01-6761176.
- Homeless Initiative, The. P. 98. **Tel:** 01-6705173.
- ICTU Centres for the Unemployed. Pp. 71. See individual centres.
- Information Society Commission. P. 82. **Tel:** 01-6703092.
- Interact Irish Wheelchair Association. P. 89. **Tel:** 01-8338241.
- International Fund for Ireland. P. 44. **Tel:** 01-4780655.
- Irish Association of Older People. P. 102. **Tel:** 01-4750013.
- Irish Black and Migrant Women. P. 92. **Tel:** See main text.
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions. P. 71. **Tel:** 01-6680641.
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed. P. 71.  
**Tel:** 01-8560088.
- Irish Refugee Council. P. 91. **Tel:** 01-8730042.  
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- Irish Rural Link. P. 63. **Tel:** 091-565970.
- Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. P. 78.  
**Tel:** 01-6794944.
- Irish Traveller Movement, The. P. 94. **Tel:** 01-6796577.
- Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Department of. P. 36.  
**Tel:** 01-6028202.
- Leanbh. P. 79. **Tel:** 01-4734262.

Legal Aid Board. P. 46 **Tel:** 01-6615811.

Lesbians Organising Together. P. 104. **Tel:** 01-8727770.

Local Drugs Task Forces. See National Drugs Strategy Team. P.100.

Meitheal Community Development Ltd. P. 60. **Tel:** 01-6719803.

Merchants Quay Project, The. P. 101. **Tel:** 01-6790044.

Mid-West Community Development Support Agency. P. 60.  
**Tel:** 061-225711.

Muintir na Tire. P. 61. **Tel:** 062-51163.

National Adult Literacy Agency. P. 82. **Tel:** 01-8554332.

National Anti-Poverty Strategy, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. P. 39. **Tel:** 01-8748888, ext. 3827/2818.

National Association of Tenants Organisations. P. 98. **Tel:** 01-4543842.

National Consultative Committee on Interculturalism and Anti-Racism. P. 92. **Tel:** 01-4785777.

National Council for Ageing and Older People. P. 103.  
**Tel:** 01-6766484.

National Disability Authority. P. 88. **Tel:** 01-6080400.

National Drugs Strategy Team. P. 100. **Tel:** 01-4754119/4754120.

National Economic and Social Council (NESC). P. 45.  
**Tel:** 01-6369298.

National Economic and Social Forum (NESF). P. 45. **Tel:** 01-6369280.

National Rehabilitation Board. P. 88.  
See Comhairle/National Disability Authority.

National Traveller Women's Forum. P. 95. **Tel:** 091-771509.

National Women's Council of Ireland. P. 84. **Tel:** 01-6615268/1791.

National Youth Council of Ireland. P. 79. **Tel:** 01-4784122.

National Youth Federation. P. 79. **Tel:** 01-8729933.

Nexus Research Co-operative. P. 67. **Tel:** 01-4730599.

NODE. P. 92. **Tel:** 01-4751998.

Northern Area Health Board. Appendix 1. P. 107.  
**Tel:** 01-8407059/8131805.

Ogoni Solidarity in Ireland. P. 93. **Tel:** 01-8378105.

Ombudsman. P. 46. **Tel:** 01-6785222.

One Parent Exchange and Network (OPEN). P. 86.  
**Tel:** 01-8320264.

Partners (Training for Transformation). P. 59. **Tel:** 01-6673440.

Pavee Point. P. 94. **Tel:** 01-8780255.

People with Disabilities in Ireland. P. 88. **Tel:** 01-8721744.

Policy Studies Institute. P. 67. **Tel:** 01-6083846.

Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, EU Special Support. P. 47.  
**Tel:** 047-71340.

Protestant Aid. P. 65. **Tel:** 01-6684298.

Refugee Agency, The. P. 92. **Tel:** 01-8782000.

Refugee Legal Service Law Centre. P. 46. **Tel:** 01-6310800.

Refugee Legal Service. P. 46. **Tel:** 01-2400946.

Regional Operational Programmes, National Development Plan. P. 50.  
**Tel:** 01-6313800.

Respond! P. 99. **Tel:** 051-357901. See main text for other numbers.

Simon Community. P. 98. **Tel:** 01-6711606.

Social, Community and Family Affairs, Department of. P. 37.  
**Tel:** 01-8748444.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul. P. 65. **Tel:** 01-8384164/7.

South Western Area Health Board. Appendix 1. P. 108.  
**Tel:** 045-872063/875772.

Southern Gay Health Project. P. 104. **Tel:** 021-278745/278470.

St. Vincent's Trust. P. 83. **Tel:** 01-9722700/8722240.

Taoiseach, Department of. P. 31. **Tel:** 01-6624888.

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Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Department of. P. 40. **Tel:** 01-6313800.

Voluntary and Community Services Section, Department of Social,  
Community and Family Affairs. P. 38. **Tel:** 01-8748444.

Voluntary Drugs Treatment Network. P. 101.  
**Tel:** 01-6040060/087-2669910.

Waterford Gay and Lesbian Resource Group. P. 104. **Tel:** 087-6387931.

West Training and Development. P. 61. **Tel:** 091-567827.

Western Development Commission. P. 46. **Tel:** 0907-61441.

Women's Aid. P. 84. **Tel:** 01-8745302.

Women's Education Initiative. P. 85. **Tel:** 01-8892021.

Women's Education Research and Resource Centre. P. 85.  
**Tel:** 01-7068571.

Work Research Centre Ltd. P. 68. **Tel:** 01-4927042.

WRC, Social and Economic Consultants. P. 68. **Tel:** 01-8723100.

Youthreach. P. 81. **Tel:** 01-4535487.

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Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness. P. 35.

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Equal Opportunity Childcare Programme. P. 36.

European Employment Strategy. P. 48 (ESF)

European Network of the Unemployed. P. 71.

European Observatory for Leader+. P. 33.

Family Income Support. P. 37.

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National Development Plan. P. 50.

National Lottery. P. 35.

National Rural Development Forum. P. 33.

National Social Services Board. P. 42.

National Statistics Board. P. 66.

National Union of Journalists. P. 24. **Tel: 01-8053258**

Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust. P. 47.

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Planet. P. 52.

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