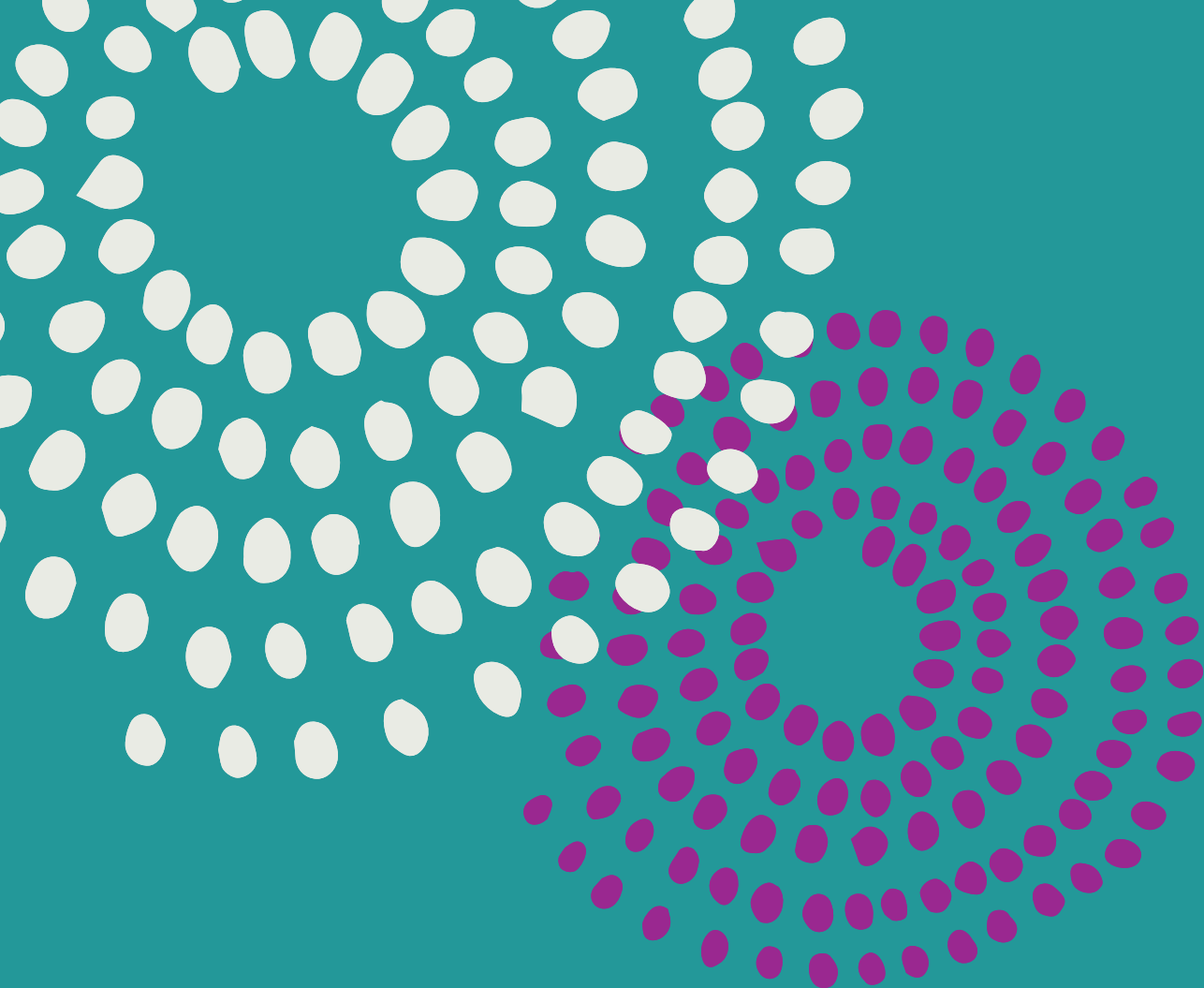


Annual Report 2022

Dublin
Rape Crisis
Centre



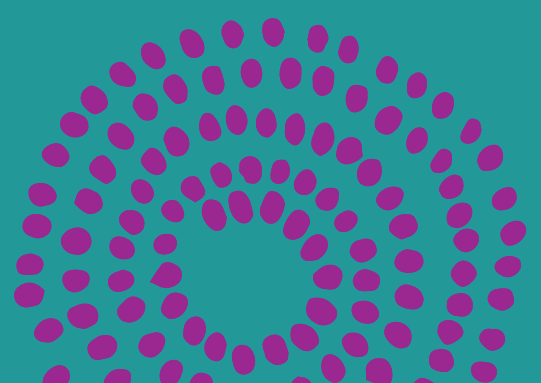
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC)
Annual Report & Financial Statements 2022
Published October 2023

Charity information:

DRCC is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital, registered (CRO 147318).

It holds charitable tax exemption from the Revenue Commissioners (CHY 8529).

It is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority (RCN 20021078).



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Foreword



There are reasons to be grateful. For all the tough days and the frustrations of supporting and promoting the rights and needs of victim of sexual violence, there are good days and times too.

The good days are when we can be there when a victim/ survivor of sexual violence needs us. When we can be there for that person in court who, after years of waiting, after steeling themselves to give evidence, is told on the day that the case has been adjourned, possibly for another year; When we can answer the phone and reassure someone who is breaking up inside, but presents as a 'big strong man' to the world; When someone comes out of a workshop session with a fuller understanding and appreciation of the importance of consent and looking forward to spreading the message; When we help someone to cope with hearing a disclosure of sexual abuse.

It is a bonus to understand the trends and collate the evidence showing that every year, sexual violence continues to be a harmful and dangerous force in our society. And it is a pleasure to be part of the infrastructure of an organisation that supports all the work that goes on. So as DRCC Chair and CEO, on behalf of our entire organisation, we want to say a profound thank you to all those who have trusted us in 2022 and in other years and who have allowed us to be useful.

Providing services to those who experience sexual violence is at the heart of our work. 2022 showed no let-up in demand for healing and for vindication of rights. Most of our services went back mainly to face to face, though 'the COVID years' had also highlighted the value of online resources. We increased those resources in 2022, while working on plans to increase them even further in 2023, particularly in relation to the online 'Finding Your Way after Sexual Violence' module which launched in early 2023 after preparation through 2022.

There was a significant increase in contacts to the National Helpline/Webchat and among those we supported in the justice system. The number of therapy clients remained static due to the very tight employment climate, with significant demand for professional therapeutic skills from a variety of organisations including several state agencies, and restricted funding leading to recruitment difficulties for us. We were very disappointed that we had to temporarily halt our support to inmates of Dóchas, the Women's Prison during 2022 and at the end of the year, were working hard to restore that post as well as to rebuild therapy and counselling teams that are essential to providing the healing support that is needed for more people than ever.

Our support for those navigating the justice system continued to expand in 2022. We anticipate that expansion will continue, with more people than ever recognising that they have a right to access justice as victims of crime and as more people begin to accept that being a victim of rape, sexual assault or sexual harassment is never the responsibility of the person who experienced that harm. We were very pleased to see the Government's Third National Strategy, led out by the Taoiseach and Ministers for Justice & CEDiy in June 2022, has specific goals to support those who must engage with what victims call a 'daunting' justice system. In 2022, our submissions to policy makers as well as our accompaniment services supported those who engage with the system and point out the many ways in which Irish law and practice still has a long way to go to allow victims/survivors to give their best evidence and to have real access to justice. But progress is being made and the announcement by the Minister for Education that a new programme of SPHE/RSE would be introduced for junior cycle secondary school students in 2023, senior cycle students in 2024 and primary school students thereafter was sincerely welcomed by us; it will give our young people some of the tools they need to live in respect, safety and health in the world.

While we laid the foundations for a new organisational strategy in 2022, we remained focused on achieving the various goals and objectives under our current one, and details of the various objectives are set out in this report. Overall, those goals and objectives exist to accomplish our mission of preventing the harm and healing the trauma of rape and other sexual abuse.

For a second year in succession, that part of our vision relating to prevention of harm had a specific focus on building a national conversation on consent. Again and again, we see where a clearer debate on consent in sexual activity and behaviour and an increased understanding of it allows our society to be more honest and more equal on the one hand and less tolerant of injustice and harm on the other.

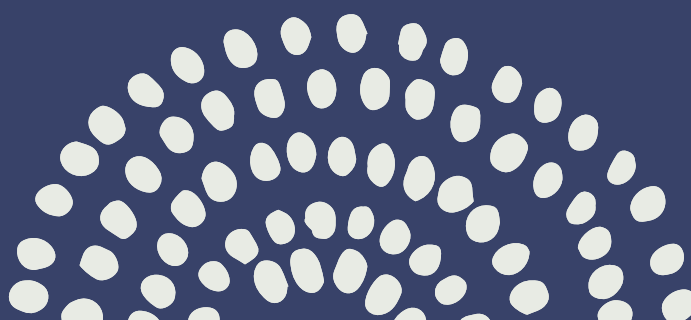
As the report shows, all the services, the awareness raising, the prevention work could not take place without adequate resources. The best resource we have are our people and we want to pay tribute to the committed, professional and collegiate work of the staff and volunteers of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, including the wise and experienced board of DRCC, who consistently ensured that no matter what, on good days and bad, those who had experienced sexual violence were at the heart of their work to ensure their rights to health, justice and a safer world.

Those staff need to be resourced. To all those who attended events, sent a donation through the website and gave their time and energy to fundraisers for us, know that your funding was crucial and your donations were well spent. Equally, we are extremely grateful to our statutory, philanthropic and corporate funders who trusted us to ensure that our streams of work for victims/survivors had the supports they needed and who invested in us to make a positive change in the world. Nonetheless, we will continue to challenge government to recognise that they ask us to deliver outcomes that they recognise are necessary but fail to recognise that it is not reasonable to ask us to deliver these on less favourable terms and conditions than they award people who are in the public sector.

To finish where we started: it is an honour and a privilege to be allowed to work with Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and with the wider community who want to bring about a world free of the harm of sexual violence, but where those who experience it are given the support they need and deserve.

Ann Marie Gill
Chairperson

Noeline Blackwell
Chief Executive



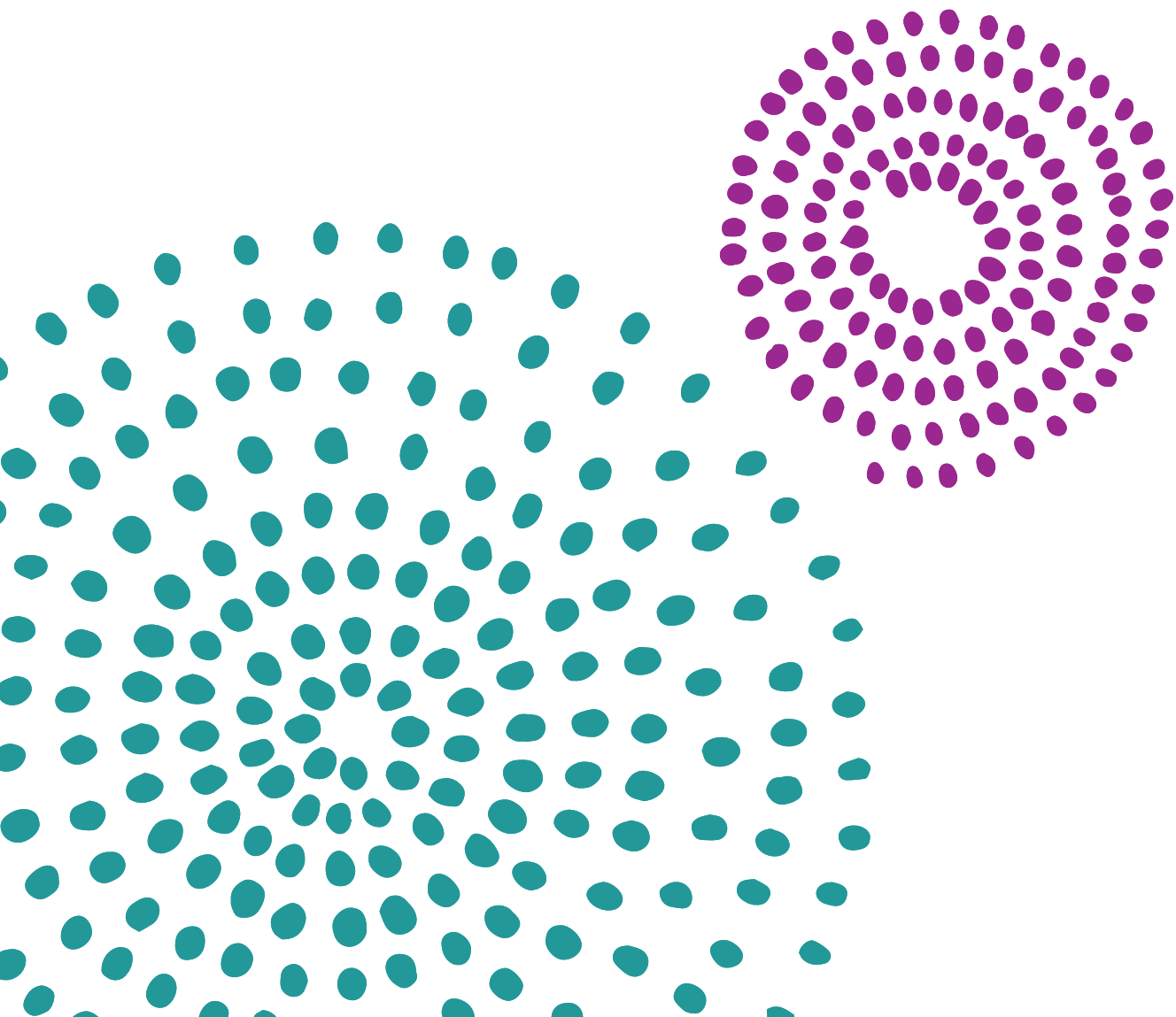
DRCC Values

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1979 as the first rape crisis centre in Ireland.

Our mission is to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Our core values are **Trustworthiness, Respect, Empowerment and Empathy.**

We offer a safe and confidential space and a person-centred, trauma-aware empowerment approach in all of our contact with clients and callers.



DRCC Director Information

Chair:

Ann Marie Gill, Chairperson

Company Secretary:

Carol Keane

Chief Executive:

Noeline Blackwell

Directors:

Ann Marie Gill

Aibhlin McCrann

Síona Cahill

Fergus Finlay (appointed 01/09/22)

John Fanning

Keith Herman (resigned 14/12/22)

Philip Hyland (resigned 31/03/22)

Neasa Kane-Fine (resigned 14/12/22)

Carol Keane

Anne Marie James

Madeleine McCarthy

Cathy O'Donoghue (resigned 14/12/22)

Grace O'Malley

Charity Number:

CHY 8529

Company Number:

CRO 147318

Charity Registered Number:

RCN 20021078

Registered Office:

McGonnell House, 70 Lower Leeson Street,
Dublin 2, D02VW13

Auditors:

JPA Brenson Lawlor, Argyle Square,
Morehampton Road, Dublin 4

Bankers:

Permanent TSB, 70 Grafton Street, Dublin 2

Allied Irish Banks, 40/41 Westmoreland
Street, Dublin 2

Ulster Bank, 130 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2

Solicitors:

LK Shields Solicitors LLP, 38 Mount Street,
Dublin 2

Donations link:

www.drcc.ie/donate



DRCC Strategic Goals

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre has three overarching goals under its current plan:



Ensure that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence receive the supports that they need to heal



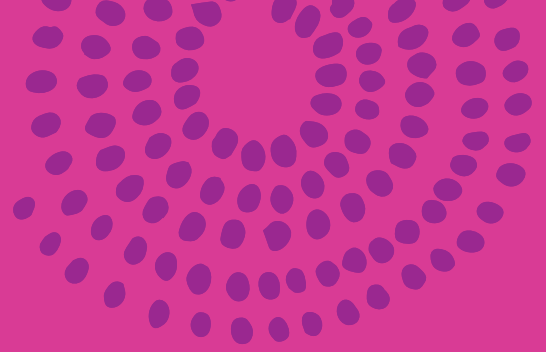
Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors



Be a strong, sustainable organisation

Each goal is to be achieved through delivery of relevant strategic objectives. The 10 objectives are laid out below with an account of the organisation's work in each area.

A new strategic plan will be implemented in late 2023.



Goal One

Ensure that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence receive the supports that they need to heal

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Objective One

Providing high-quality services to victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence

DRCC's services to victims/survivors are delivered through:

- The freephone 24-Hour National Rape Crisis Helpline 1800 778888;
- An online webchat support service;
- An Interpreting Service for those wishing to access the National Helpline in 240+ languages;
- A text service for Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers;
- Face-to-face counselling and psychotherapy;
- A client support/welfare service; and
- Survivor accompaniment support services in the justice and forensic healthcare systems.

24-hour National Helpline 1800 778888

The freephone 24-Hour National Helpline 1800 77 8888 offers free, confidential listening and support to adult victims/survivors of sexual violence. Trained Telephone Counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide non-judgmental support to anyone affected by sexual violence. The line can also support families and friends of victims/survivors as well as those who work with victims/survivors in their employment or in volunteering.

18,400
Total Crisis
Helpline Contacts



Contacts: 

9,285	3,967	5,148
First time	Repeat	Unknown

3,009
Outgoing
Contacts



15,391
Incoming
Contacts



Ways people contacted the National Helpline

Counselling calls	15,150
Emails	1531
Text messages	1101
Webchat	607
Social media contacts	11
Total	18,400

The following table shows a breakdown of helpline contacts:

Breakdown of helpline contacts

Type of contact	Figures
Counselling/support	9186
Information	3330
Hang-up	2702
Schedule appointment	2438
Hoax	280
Silent	275
Abusive	100
Other	89
Total	18,400

Note: Other includes concern about abuser, advocacy, survivor referral



2022 trends

There were 18,400 contacts with the National Helpline in 2022, a 31% increase over 2021 when there were 14,012 contacts. As in previous years, most contacts related to rape as an adult (42.2%) followed by Child Sexual Abuse (30.6%) and sexual assault as an adult (13.9%). Sexual harassment was cited by 1.2% of callers.

Not all contacts disclose their age or gender. Of those who did in 2022, some 84% percent were female, 15.7% percent were male and 0.3% identified as other. In terms of age, just over a fifth of contacts (20.3%) were from those aged 18 to 23 years, while just under a fifth (19.1%) were from people in their 40s. In total about 40% of contacts were aged under 30. Where indicated, 70% (9285) were contacting the line for the first time, compared to about half of contacts in 2021.

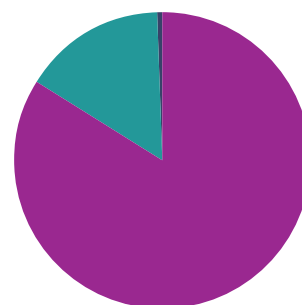
Age of contacts to National Helpline	
Age of victim	% of calls
Under 16	02.5%
16 – 17	02.5%
18 – 23	20.3%
24 – 29	15%
30 – 39	16.2%
40 – 49	19.1%
50 – 59	16.1%
60 – 69	06.4%
70 – 79	01.6%
80+	00.3%

Based on 46% of contacts who disclosed their age

Gender of contacts to National Helpline

Percentage of calls

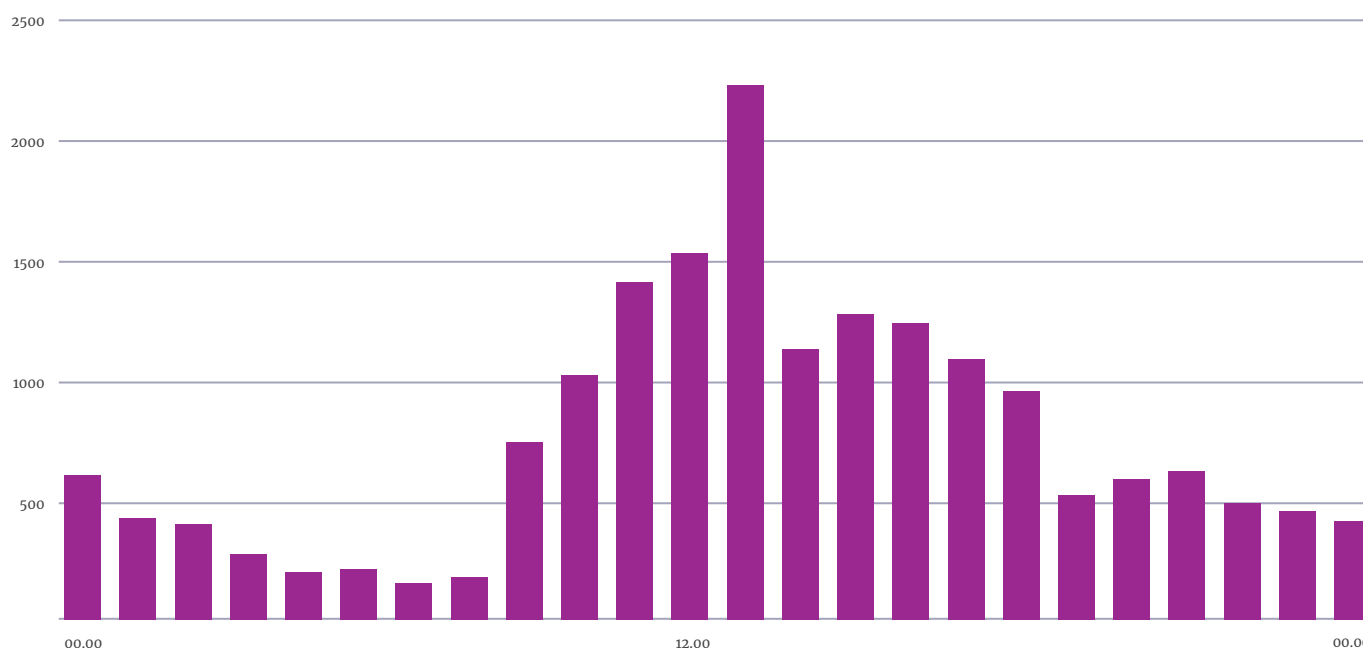
- Female 84%
- Male 15.7%
- Other 0.3%



Based on 75% of contacts who disclosed their gender

Although callers hailed from 64 countries in total, among those who indicated their country of origin, the vast majority (87%) were Irish. Six in ten contacts were located in Dublin and the remaining 41% situated around the country. July was the busiest month for first-time callers, followed by January and August. The busiest time for calls on average covered the three hours from 10am to 1pm.

Number of contacts per hour of day



Helpline referrals to other agencies

Agency/service	% of referrals
Rape Crisis Centres	38
Other counselling services	12
SATU	8
Other medical services	8
Gardai / GNPSU / GVSO	6
CARI	5
Suicide Prevention Services	5
Mental Health Services	4
One in Four	3
Legal Services / Solicitor	3
Women's Aid Domestic Violence Services	2
Tusla / SW / Child Protection	2
Addiction services	1
Homeless services	1
Children and youth services	1
Services for men	<1
Medical Council	<1
LGBT+ Services	<1
Migrant support services	<1
Crisis Pregnancy Agency	<1
Ruhama	<1

Mental health

Continuing the trend of recent years, there has been a marked rise in calls to the helpline from people experiencing a crisis in their mental health. This reflects what they tell us is a reduction in capacity for effective mental health treatment nationwide, exacerbated by the pandemic. These callers are often frustrated and angry, repeatedly seeking solutions that go beyond the remit of DRCC to provide. There has also been a rise in people expressing suicidal ideation, with some callers expressing elevated anxiety about the future. This has led to longer, more complex calls. In some cases, callers are managing symptoms through abuse of alcohol or other substances. Helpline support can help callers manage their feelings of isolation and trauma until they access a more comprehensive support, or to get a referral to an appropriate service.

“Thank you”

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, so so much.This service is unbelievably amazing. And to the lady who helped me, I will never know who you are but I am so grateful for you being thereThat lady potentially saved my life.”

- Helpline Contact

Gender-based violence

2022 started with a huge outpouring of grief and anger on the Helpline in the face of the most shocking and tragic killing of a young woman, Ashling Murphy, in Tullamore in January. Many callers were highly triggered by the incident and talked about the safety of women, domestic and sexual violence, and indeed the casual sexual harassment many face daily, whether on the streets or in their workplaces. Call rates doubled at this time, with both male and female callers expressing their concern. Women in particular expressed fear, anger and powerlessness. One positive outcome of this tragedy was that some of our callers felt enabled to finally report their own abuse and foster healing.

Recognising sexual violence

With a growing focus on consent in media and national discourse, both consent and coercive control were mentioned frequently on the Helpline during the year. Callers can find it difficult to articulate concerns about intimate relationships. Some sought clarity on something that had happened to them, such as casual harassment or coercive control. Where present, coercive control may likely impact the intimate sexual aspect of a relationship also. Often they tried to minimise incidents, particularly in the case of younger callers.

Case Study

One young adult caller said that while she was unsure of how to put it, she felt completely “overwhelmed” by her partner’s constant questioning of where she had been, who she was talking to, who she was friends with on social media, and so on. It was soon clear that this behavior had been going on for some time; ultimately, she disclosed that the intimate part of the relationship was equally controlling and in fact often non-consensual. She described feelings of shame and guilt, and stated she even felt “disloyal” to him by telling us. She noted how “safe” she felt on the Helpline as she had never spoken of this before. We signposted her to our website on Healthy Relationships and emphasised the importance of her own personal safety. At the end, she decided to talk her parents. She felt “relieved that she was not alone”.

School-based abuse

The year ended in a further surge of calls triggered by stories of past abuse in schools, notably those run by the Spiritan Order but also from other schools. Many callers did not want to report the abuse officially, but just needed to express the pain and shame they had carried for years. Some calls came from family members of victims, who now understood and wanted to help their loved ones; in some case, they blamed themselves for what their child had gone through. Callers were grateful to have a safe place to speak about what had been deemed unspeakable, and for being met with compassion by helpline workers.

Helpline Accreditation

In May, following a highly rigorous examination and validation process, the 24-Hour National Helpline was awarded its three-year Q-Mark accreditation for a second time. Every public point of access of the service was analysed, from calls over the 24-hour cycle to webchat and email support, as well as a virtual on-site audit of calls with staff and volunteers, and the assessment team commented on how empathic and professional the team responded to calls, and indeed how deeply moving they found the process. They also noted how much the organisation had grown in such a short time, how every new and existing policy and procedure had been so well documented, and was a testament to the hard work done across DRCC.



Helpline services

Alongside the 24-Hour Helpline, we provide some additional specialist services for those seeking crisis help (note that these services are not 24/7 and are closed on public holidays).

- A **text service** for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, operating **Mon-Fri from 8am to 6:30pm, at 086-8238443** – in 2022, this service received 1109 texts.
- A **Webchat Support Service** on our website drcc.ie, offering a written mode of communications, particularly helpful to those who cannot verbally articulate their needs or who don't have a private space in which to speak. In May, we extended the hours of the service to run from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
- A live **Helpline Interpreting Service** for those who do not speak English, operating Mon-Fri from 8am to 6:30pm.

Webchat

The webchat service had 607 contacts during the year, up from 415 in 2021. Callers may find our webchat a much easier introduction to support services, with some feeling that they prefer to communicate by webchat for a longer period. Contacts via webchat vary widely in age and gender, from supporters to victims and survivors themselves. In many cases, the person ultimately takes the next step to accessing one or more of our services.

To capture carefully what the caller may need can take a lot of time, with some chats varying from 15 to 50 minutes. It is critical to allow adequate time and space to communicate the type of abuse they have endured, something they say they may never do in their daily lives.

Members of the Deaf community have also identified that the webchat platform is a comfortable one for them, whether on past issues or more recent ones.

Case Study

A very distressed Mum, whose young adult daughter had disclosed past sexual abuse as a child, reached out to the Helpline to find a way for her daughter to express how she was feeling and coping. Her daughter had suffered dreadfully through the COVID19 pandemic, having lost friends and become very isolated. We suggested that she try to use the chat service. She did so and became a little more open to talking about her experience. The young girl found it most helpful that she didn't have to go into the details – she just chatted about how she was feeling at that time. She indicated that webchat was where she felt most comfortable for the moment. For the Helpline support worker, the primary objective is to build trust and allow the caller to feel heard. Some weeks later, she contacted the Helpline and went on to seek individual therapeutic help; she identified she had used our chat service and felt safe enough now to talk to a counsellor one-on-one.



Helpline Interpreting Service

In 2022, we had callers to the National Helpline who needed interpreting assistance to take the call in their own language. Time and space are critical elements in these calls, where the Helpline worker needs to alert the interpreter to allow space for emotion, to be aware of how restrained in expression a caller can present.

Our Helpline Interpreting Service has proven to be a space for callers who may otherwise not have received valuable, critical information in a timely way from a trained Helpline worker, delivered in their own language.

For victims of sexual violence, it can be hugely challenging to work through a third party over the phone, so some cases may involve simply gathering the information required to keep the caller safe and giving them appropriate referrals.



Case Study

One caller identified how difficult it was to articulate what type of sexual violence had occurred. The Helpline worker needed to take particular care to guide her through the call, acknowledging the courage it took to even make it in the first place.

The caller eventually arrived at a comfortable level to be able to identify what had happened. We could then signpost her to appropriate services. She explained that in her culture, the crime would be placed on her, something our Helpline workers would be keenly aware of. Calls like these can as a result take a considerable amount of time, but the outcome for the caller was extremely positive. She felt heard, “telling us that she was so grateful to be able to speak of her pain”.

Case Study

In another challenging call involving recent sexual violence, the caller needed emergency referrals following an assault. She was able to use the Helpline Interpreting Service through a trusted supporter who had called the line in advance. Our Helpline worker first needed to carefully establish what exactly was needed, and the caller identified a need for emergency medical support and counselling, which the support worker could assist with.

“I want to say thank you.”

For a period of about 3 years, I was going through intensive therapy for the effects of my sexual abuse as a child. I was in immense stress. The night times were the worst.

I am a “big strong man”, and the people closest to me could not reach me. It wasn't easy for them.

So the abandonment and isolation of being sexually abused as a child becomes a pattern. We don't expect and know how to help someone to reach us. We use all sorts of tactics to avoid intimacy. It's nearly impossible for others to reach us. Sometimes, they prefer the persona too.

During the nights I had horrific nightmares and waves of stress.

That's when you helped me.

I rang your helpline over 20 times.[...]

What I spoke about was extraordinarily disturbing - what happened to me, the effects on me, the confusion, fear, anger, shame.

No one ever hung up or hushed me up, or lost patience. Some calls went on and on.

I guess the sense of confusion and repetition and extreme helplessness is the hardest to listen to?

Anyhow. I'm good now.

And I want to say thank you. It meant a lot.

– Helpline Contact

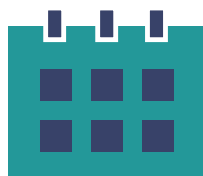
Counselling & Therapy

Through our team of dedicated counsellors and psychotherapists, DRCC provides Counselling and Psychotherapy for adult survivors of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and childhood sexual abuse. We offer a limited counselling & therapy service for 16 and 17-year-olds, with the consent of their parent(s) or guardian, strictly by consultation.

During 2022, DRCC underwent a significant restructuring of our therapy services. We welcomed a new Therapy Services Manager and created two new posts of Therapy Intake Coordinator to manage the waiting list, assess incoming clients and help streamline our client intake process. A new Therapy Framework was devised, including new and revised procedures and policies, including the Suicide Awareness and Intervention Policy. A substantial training in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing therapy) was offered to the therapy team which resulted in a number becoming qualified in this modality. This has significant outcomes for those affected particularly by single incidence of trauma. We were able to expand our delivery of service to two late evenings in response to feedback from those on our waiting list. Recruitment of specialist therapists proved extremely challenging during the year, with greater competition from state and other services for skilled psychotherapists. This was especially concerning as the number of therapists declined over the year from 15 to 11.



4,170 appointments given at a take up rate of **78%**



51% of appointments for recent rape or assault

62.2% of therapy clients experienced sexual violence as adults

and

37.8% of therapy clients experienced sexual violence as children



Overview of therapy services in 2022

In 2022, DRCC provided therapy to 551 clients, as compared to 580 clients in 2021. This comprised 286 new clients (52% percent of total clients) and 265 existing clients (48% of total).

We delivered 4,170 appointments in 2022, down from 5,314 the previous year. This was out of a total 5,343 appointments offered, indicating a take-up rate of 78%, allowing for cancellations and no-shows. Among these appointments, just over half (51%) were for people who had experienced a recent rape or sexual assault within the previous six months.

Over six in ten clients (62.2%) had experienced sexual violence as adults, with 37.8% abused as children. The majority of clients were female (93.3%) with 6.3% male and 0.4% identifying as other. Some 15 clients disclosed a disability.

Gender of clients

Percentage of calls



Clients ranged in age from 16 to over 70. As in the previous year, the largest age cohort was 18–23 years (making up 27% of clients), followed by those aged 24–29 years (at 20.87% of clients). In total, over half (52.3%) of clients were aged under 30 years.

Age of Clients	
Age	% of calls
16 – 17	4.0%
18 – 23	27.4%
24 – 29	20.87%
30 – 39	18.87%
40 – 49	16.88%
50 – 59	9.26%
60+	2.72%

Types of sexual violence

Note that the statistics in this section are divided between sexual violence experienced as adults and as children, and the percentages are of the total client cohort.

Almost four in ten clients (38.4%) reported being raped as an adult, and another 6.93% cited marital or intimate partner rape, 13.4% sexual assault, and 2.26% sexual harassment as adults. Smaller numbers indicated they had suffered aggravated sexual assault.

Abuse experienced by clients as adults	
Type of Abuse	% of all incidents
Rape	38.4%
Sexual Assault	13.4%
Marital Rape	6.93%
Sexual Harassment	2.26%
Aggravated Sexual Assault	1.05%
Suspected Drug Rape	0.15%
	62.2%

Abuse experienced by clients as children	
Type of Abuse	% of all incidents
Child Sexual Abuse	37.8%

About one in 15 clients (6.5%) had experienced sexual violence as both a child and an adult.



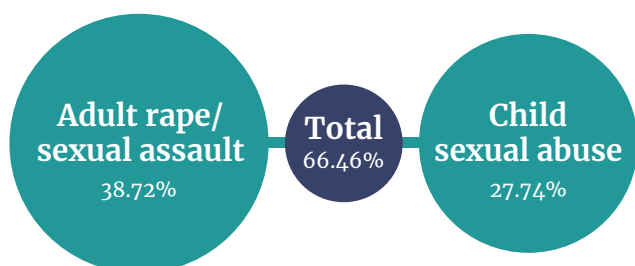
New clients in 2022

Statistics provided in this section relate only to the 286 clients who entered our therapy services in 2022. The data includes incidents of additional violence disclosed by those clients, as well as information disclosed on the outcome of pregnancies (recent or historic) as a result of rape and on those who had reported the sexual violence to the Gardaí at any time, either in 2022 or in previous years.

Sexual violence experienced by new clients

The 286 new clients who commenced therapy in 2022 disclosed 328 abuse incidents. Of these, 143 new clients had experienced other forms of violence in addition to the main abuse type. Collectively these 143 clients report 218 incidents (66.46%) involving other forms of violence.

% of all incidents with additional violence



Violence experienced by new clients as adults

Type of violence experienced by adults	% of incidents
Physical abuse	33.07
Harassment/ Intimidation	33.07
Psychological abuse	22.84
Stalking	5.51
Attempt to kill	3.15
Threat to kill	2.36

Note: A separate incident can have multiple types of violence.

Violence experienced by new clients as children

Type of violence experienced by children	% of incidents
Psychological abuse	38.46
Harassment/ Intimidation	29.67
Physical abuse	28.57
Threat to kill	1.1
Trafficking	1.1
Stalking	1.1

Note: A separate incident can have multiple types of violence.

Relationship between victim and offender(s)

As in other years, the majority of our 2022 intake of clients knew the person who had raped or assaulted them, accounting for over 95% of childhood abuse incidents and three-quarters (74.5%) of sexual violence incidents as adults. Figures for intimate partner abuse were higher among those subjected to sexual violence as adults (20%) as opposed to children (13.9%)

Relationship between victim and offender(s)		
Relationship	Child Sexual Abuse	Adult Rape/ Sexual Assault
Parent	6.48%	0%
Sibling	7.41%	0%
Partner	13.89%	20%
Other relative	17.59%	3.64%
Other known person	44.44%	47.27%
Person in authority	5.56%	3.64%
Stranger	4.63%	25.45%

Pregnancy

In 2022, female clients disclosed 7 pregnancies.

Outcome of pregnancies	Number
Became pregnant, parenting	4
Became pregnant, miscarried	2
Became pregnant, termination	1

New clients: Reporting to Gardai

Of 286 new clients in 2022, some 105 had reported the crimes against them to the Gardai (either in 2022 or previously), a reporting rate of 37%.

Cases reported	% of total cases reported
Recent rape cases	49
Past rape cases	17
Recent Child Sexual Abuse cases	8
Past Child Sexual Abuse cases	26

Case outcome

Outcome information was known for 84 (80%) of the 105 cases reported:

Outcome	Total
Under Garda Investigation	73
Dropped by DPP/ client	9
Went to trial	2
Outcome not disclosed	21

There was a conviction in both cases that were tried.

Relationship between victim and offender(s) in reported cases:		
Relationship	Child Sexual Abuse	Adult Rape/ Sexual Assault
Parent	8.11%	0%
Sibling	5.4%	0%
Partner	18.92%	16.18%
Other relative	16.22%	4.41%
Other known person	45.95%	55.88%
Person in authority	2.7%	5.88%
Stranger	2.7%	17.65%

Accompaniment Support

Along with accessing health services including counselling, therapy and medical care, it is very important that victims and survivors of sexual violence are able to seek justice following sexual violence. Wider society benefits from ensuring that those who commit sexual offences are held to account for what they have done and stopped from committing further harm.

However, for someone harmed by sexual violence, it can be daunting to engage with the justice system alone, without any idea of how the system works or where to go next.

DRCC accompaniment support workers are there to support victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) at Dublin's Rotunda Hospital, reporting sexual violence to An Garda Síochána or responsible institution, and going to court or other hearings in relation to sexual violence. This support is also available to friends and families or others who may be with them.

SATU accompaniment

Our support in the SATU unit of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin is available 24/7 to those seeking forensic medical attention. In 2022, our accompaniment teams supported 291 people at the SATU unit, most of whom were female (273) with 15 male and 3 transgender survivors. DRCC also offered emotional and psychological support to 233 friends, family members and other supporters at the unit. DRCC's support at SATU is non-judgmental and confidential. It is available to all victims of sexual assault and rape. It is particularly appreciated by those who are attending alone and have no other support. Family members and friends also find the support invaluable because they are often at a loss when seeking to support those they love.

To further enhance SATU's work, DRCC is part of a liaison committee of the Rotunda Hospital which advises on and monitors services there. DRCC is also represented on the national SATU Implementation Project Team.

291
victims and
survivors supported
at forensic medical
treatment in SATU



233
friends and
family offered
emotional support

Justice system accompaniment

For victims and survivors reporting a sexual offence to the Gardaí or other investigating authority, or those who are going through a subsequent trial or other hearing, our psychological support service offers the reassurance of having a support worker accompanying them who can offer support as well as information and guidance on what is involved in reporting and also attending court. For those who are considering making a report to Gardaí or those who have already begun, the act of talking through the process or voicing worries may be a first step. It is helpful to have access to a person who can answer specific questions, explain unfamiliar language and structures and help navigate what can be a complex criminal legal process. The service can also include making a visit to a court ahead of the trial to become familiar with the layout and process.

Reporting accompaniment

In 2022, DRCC provided support and information to 246 victims / survivors who contacted the service looking for support and information around reporting sexual violence. Of those 246, some 50 victims/ survivors were accompanied by our support workers while they gave their statement in garda stations and other settings. This compares with 210 in 2021, and 106 in 2020. In some cases, the person reporting was dealing with very challenging circumstances in addition to reporting and required substantial support from the team. Of these 246 victims and survivors, the majority (222) were female and about a tenth (24) were male. The time devoted to such support rose from 367 hours in 2021 to 502 hours in 2022.

331
people supported
in justice system



502 hours of
support



50 people accompanied
in reporting at Garda
stations & other settings



60
people accompanied
in trials, hearings or
other court processes

Court & hearing accompaniment

Our main focus is on the criminal courts. In addition, we supported people attending the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, the Workplace Relations Commission, the International Protection Office and the Family Courts in 2022, as well as accompanying victims and survivors to college disciplinary hearings and meetings with bodies such as religious orders.

We offered support and information to 85 victims / survivors in relation to their upcoming court cases, trial and hearings in 2022, of these 85 we provided accompaniment to 60 people during their trial, hearing or court process, compared with 45 in 2021, and 44 in 2020. We provided information and support to a further 26 people. Most survivors we supported in the

courts system were female (79). Notably, the amount of time this involved increased from 348 hours in 2021 to 484 hours in 2022. DRCC now has a dedicated accompaniment support team available courts in the Dublin area following a successful pilot project.

Issues

Delay in the court process was again a major factor in 2022, with late requests for information being made by either defence or prosecution teams, as well as court issues such as availability of judges or witnesses failing to attend. Adjournments ranged from periods of a few days up to a year. Where adjournments are short, it is likely the case has been adjourned a number of times already. Our own data on delay in cases where we accompanied survivors in 2022 shows:

15 cases adjourned for 9 to 12 months

(cases include first time listing as well as adjournments from previous years)



11 cases adjourned for 6 to 9 months

(cases include first time listing as well as adjournments from previous years)

5 cases adjourned for 1 to 6 months

(cases that had been adjourned from previous years)



Another issue is that sentencing may take place over a number of days, meaning that the victim/survivor must keep returning to court.

Accompaniment information

In the summer, we produced a new accompaniment information card detailing all the ways our service can support survivors. Throughout the year, the accompaniment support team was deeply involved in creating a new online resource that will provide detailed, survivor-centred and trauma-sensitive information about sexual violence, reporting, courts and beyond, to be launched in 2023.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre – with you every step of the way

Our Accompaniment Services provide practical and emotional support after sexual violence

National 24-Hour Helpline 1800 778888

Accompaniment Services: What we do

If you, or someone you know, has experienced sexual violence, we can provide **practical information and emotional support.**

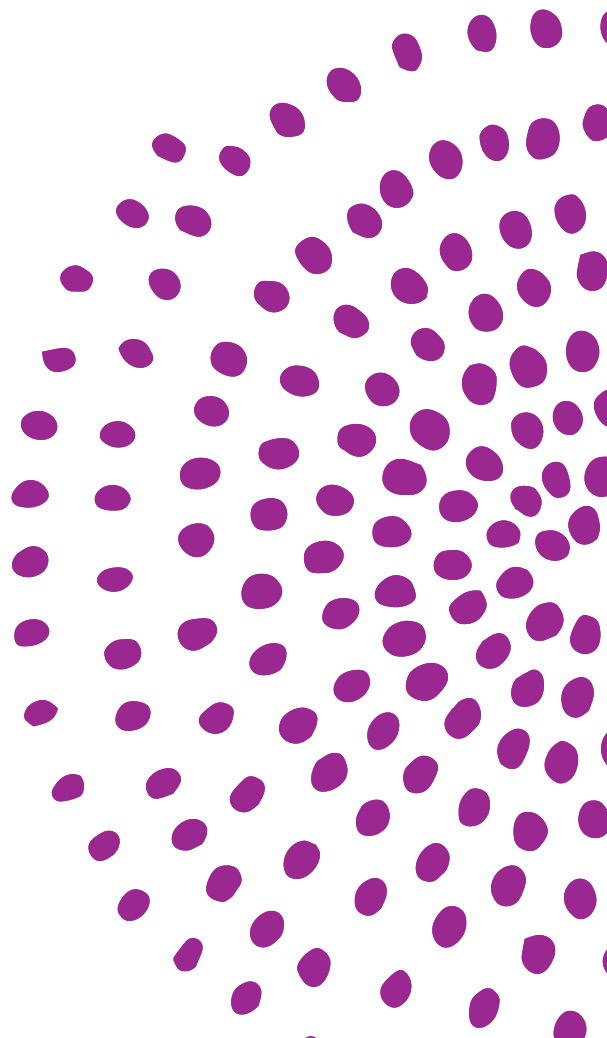
We offer accompaniment and support to any person at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU), Garda stations, court and elsewhere

See online guide at drcc.ie/fyw

DRCC
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

DRCC
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
National 24-Hour Helpline 1800 778888



DRCC staff and volunteers completed training at the Criminal Courts of Justice in April



Client feedback on accompaniment service:

“This painting is a gift from me to DRCC for all the support given to me on the long, lonely road to healing and trying to navigate my way through the justice system... The work they do is so important and is it a light in the darkness.”

“I discovered my self-worth, since my disclosure of the abuse; enabled by the support and confidentiality of the DRCC, to whom I owe a great depth of gratitude...What I found empowering in all of this experience, I was able to stand up and speak out and tell my story. I realised how strong and resilient I am.”

“I thank you sincerely for all the support and guidance you gave me on my journey... Having your support is what got me through, especially towards the end. I had your phone number when everyone else walked away.”

Training

We held training for staff and volunteers throughout the year, including visits to the courts for familiarisation and advanced training in the Criminal Court of Justice for our experienced court accompaniment support workers. DRCC also provided training and information to other relevant bodies.



Objective Two

Building the capacity of Irish society to better understand and guard against the harm of sexual violence, as well as meet the needs of victims/survivors



Noeline Blackwell speaking at event to mark International Women's Day at Áras an Uachtaráin

Promoting an appropriate response for victims/survivors through frontline training:

It is imperative that key services are provided to victims and survivors in a way that does not further traumatise them and that is sensitive to their circumstances. DRCC aims to help frontline services and professionals become more trauma-aware and better able to understand and support victims & survivors and their needs. Towards this goal, we provide specialised training and information to staff and professionals who support those impacted by sexual violence. During 2022, we provided 57 training sessions, some of which ran over a number of days. Approximately 630 people were involved over the year.

Topics included working with victims of childhood sexual abuse, impact of Trauma, and managing disclosures. Our courses were attended by a variety of frontline groups, including sectors such as third-level, disability, refugee/asylum seekers, Traveller community, mental health, addiction, consular, homelessness, policing, prisons, defence forces.

Tackling Sexual Violence Training Network:

Learning from our peers, we co-ordinated a series of training sessions to a national network consisting of Rape Crisis Centres within the Rape Crisis Centre Forum, One in Four and the Men's Development Network. This group covered such topics as Sexual Trauma in Adolescents, Sex, Gender & Relationships, and Working with the LGBT community, with a variety of skilled and experienced trainers. A total of 6 workshops/sessions took place in 2022 with a total of 139 participants, and a conference is planned for early 2023.

Tailored training:

Different groups and organisations will have different ways of working and intersecting with survivors. DRCC's Education & Training team adapts its programmes to suit those needs. In 2022, we worked with religious groups, justice system bodies, artists, comedy sector actors, consular organisations, support services, security guards, health care staff, social care and homeless sector staff, those working with refugees and asylum seekers, interpreters, student unions, helplines, and college staff from various departments. All of our training is tailored to the needs of the specific organisations.

Feedback on training

"I thoroughly enjoyed the training session from start to finish and I particularly enjoyed hearing the experiences from the two trainers. I feel I would be better equipped to deal with such disclosures more effectively moving forward"

"All elements of the training were extremely valuable and will help my work going forward. From finding your own grounding (i.e. being able to remove yourself from the situation), how the brain processes trauma and how much victims are able to remember."

"A fuller understanding of consent, based on open communication, equality and consideration for others, will build empathy in young people and contribute to healthier relationships."

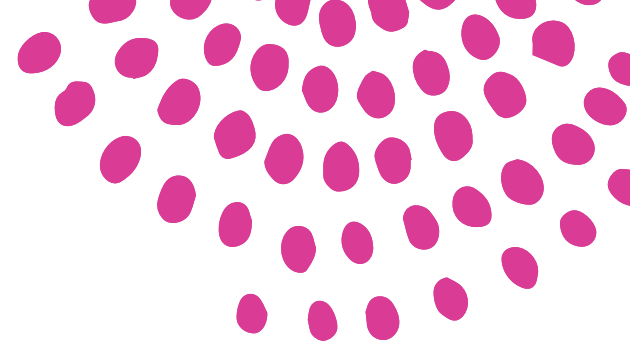
- Noeline Blackwell, DRCC CEO responding in July to the opening of the NCCA's consultation on SPHE curriculum reform for Junior Cycle.

Curriculum reform:

DRCC has long advocated for reform of Relationships and Sex Education in second level schools in the face of alarming indicators, such as the rising number of sexual offences, including intimate image abuse, being committed among young people, and the growing availability of hardcore porn to even primary age children via smartphones. At the launch of our annual report in September by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, we heard from secondary teacher (and BodyRight graduate) Eoghan Cleary about what the adolescents in his RSE classes are saying: In the absence of solid, clear guidance, young people turn to porn – sometimes violent and abusive porn – to learn about sex and relationships, inevitably giving rise to unhealthy expectations and practices from and with each other. Teachers attending our Youth Programmes tell us that they need specialised training to be able to deliver RSE classes, and that there needs to be adequate time and support for this vital topic in timetables if it is to be effective. DRCC contributed to National Council for Curriculum & Assessment consultations on updating Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curricula for Junior and Senior Cycles later in 2022.

Marking International Women's Day with the announcement of support from anonymous donors to our consent campaign were our CEO Noeline Blackwell with Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of the Community Foundation for Ireland and Grainne Healy, consultant and feminist & equality activist.





Youth programmes

DRCC prioritises work equipping frontline staff working with young people to understand key issues around sexual violence, healthy relationships and consent. In 2022 we continued to offer training programmes and materials to this end. Alongside our two core programmes below, we also provided tailored training to a number of participants, with a total of 180 individuals attending our youth programmes in 2022. Those who take part in our youth programmes are given access to an information portal where they gain access to relevant online resources and can share best practice.

BodyRight programme:

Our flagship training for BodyRight facilitators is a four-day programme designed to equip those working with young people to raise awareness of respect and healthy relationships, consent and online safety and to prevent sexual violence. In 2022, we delivered BodyRight facilitator training on 7 occasions to teachers, guidance counsellors, youth workers, therapists and other youth professionals. In addition, we ran a 2-day BodyRight refresher course. In total, BodyRight was delivered to 102 individuals, up from 78 in 2021. Thanks to a funding grant, we were able to offer this important instruction to participants free of charge.

#LetsGetReal:

With a growing awareness of the need to educate young people to become more critical in their consumption of advertising, popular culture and pornography, DRCC's #LetsGetReal educational resource for youth workers and school staff has become increasingly popular. We were able to offer this programme 6 times in 2022, with 69 people trained.

Youth Advisory Group:

This group of young people aged 18 to 25 years provides invaluable guidance and input on issues relevant to young people for our programme development, as well our campaign work. In August, the group had its first in-person meeting since the pandemic, where we planned its direction, and discussed issues that the group felt are important to young people today.

Peer exchange:

In the autumn, we presented on our youth programme work, as well as our clients support service and consent project, at a Listening Session for the Irish Consortium for Gender Based Violence.

Feedback on Youth Programmes

“I found the information very relevant and easy to follow ... This is information I can use in my everyday practice.”

“Very valuable and very needed in schools. This course gave me more confidence to teach students in my class.”

“Comprehensive, well run, impactful course designed well and relevant to today's generation and incorporating LGBTQ well.”

“The facilitators managed the group well, going into break out rooms is a great learning for participants as we learn from each other.”

“Really enjoyed it. It was informative and interesting and also a bit of an eye opener.”

“Very useful as a teacher, guidance counsellor and parent!”



Noeline speaking at President Higgins' 'He For She' summer event for women's rights organisations in June

Work with third-level colleges:

Our Education & Training Manager Caitriona Freir is part of the steering group for the 'Speak Out' anonymous reporting tool. This tool allows students, staff and visitors in 18 higher education institutions to report incidents of sexual harassment and misconduct on an anonymous basis. She is also on the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the ESHTe project on ending sexual violence and harassment in third level education. Other DRCC staff and our Chairperson Ann Marie Gill all sit on consent committees for some of the higher education institutions as they tackle the issue of sexual violence and harassment within their institutions. In addition, CEO Noeline Blackwell is part of an advisory committee to the Higher Education Authority on Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions and was part of a panel discussion at the launch of its Implementation Plan for Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions in October 2022.

Tackling sexual violence in society:

In February, DRCC hosted and contributed to a webinar on 'What Needs to Change? Preventing male violence against women' which was convened by Ruairi McKiernan and musician and activist Molly Sterling, and featured artist and writer Fiona Whelan, Gary Keegan of theatre group Brokentaklers, academic and researcher Conor Hammersley and Danielle McKenna of Rialto Youth Project. The panel discussed the issue of male violence against women in the wake of several high-profile attacks and suggested several ways to address this issue.

International Women's Day:

We marked IWD on 8 March with a focus on #EqualConsent, stressing that gender equality was at the heart of consent and of ending sexual violence. Also on IWD, DRCC was delighted to announce a major anonymous philanthropic donation towards our national consent campaign in partnership with the Community Foundation for Ireland, focusing on robust research foundations, raising awareness and amplifying survivor voices. Our CEO Noeline Blackwell highlighted sexual violence against women at an event outside Dáil Eireann organised by the National Women's Council to mark IWD. Our Consent Project Manager Sarah Monaghan took part in a community event on gender-based violence organised by Dublin City Council. A group from DRCC were invited to a belated IWD celebration hosted by President Michael D Higgins and Sabina Higgins at Aras an Uachtarán in June, where Noeline gave an address to attendees.



DRCC staff attending the President's 'He for She' event for women's rights organisations at Áras an Uachtaráin - L-R: Ashley Perry, Ciara Lynch, Claire O'Farrell and Edie Cunningham



Pictured on International Women's Day - L-R: Ruth Breslin, Sexual Exploitation Research Project; Ivana Bacik TD; Denis Charlton, CEO Community Foundation for Ireland; Noeline Blackwell, CEO DRCC.

Objective Three

Recognising the diversity of those who are victims/survivors of sexual violence, ensuring our services are available to whoever needs them

Recognising barriers to participation and support:

DRCC is aware that due to status, disability, poverty or other discrimination or social inclusion factor, many victims and survivors may find it particularly hard to seek and access support. While we ask our clients to make a contribution towards therapeutic services if they can, those who cannot are welcome to access the service without charge. Our National 24-Hour Helpline has an interpretation facility allowing people to access the service in over 240 languages, alongside the existing text line for Deaf and hard of hearing callers. Other specific services are provided to support those who would benefit from additional supports.

Support for minority & vulnerable groups:

People without homes, those who are living with addiction and those who are refugees or seeking asylum are particularly vulnerable as victims of sexual violence, as are those who come from minority ethnic groups. Our support service for women detained in Dóchas, the Women's Prison, was disrupted during 2022 because of a wider shortage of available specialist therapists, and DRCC is working to restore this vital support in 2023.

Did you know?

DRCC's website has a built-in translate function that can automatically translate text in a host of other languages!

Visit [drcc.ie](https://www.drcc.ie) and go to the top of the webpage (any webpage!) to switch to the language of your choice using the Google Translate tool.

National Helpline Interpreting Service

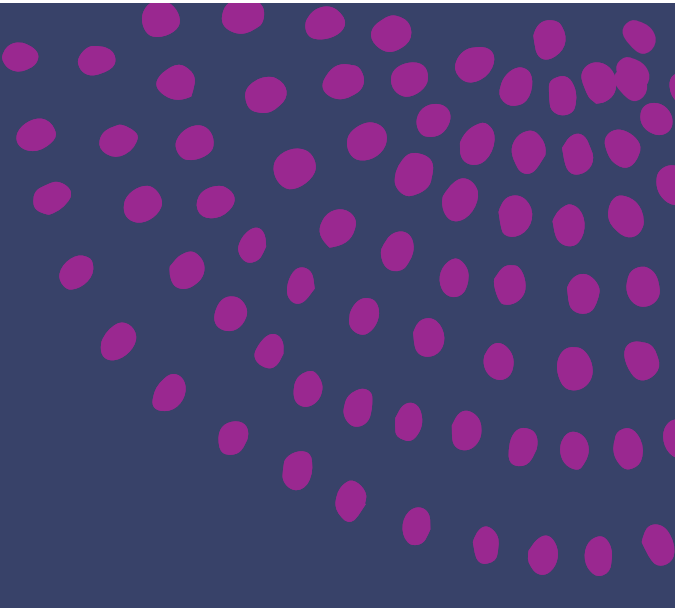
DRCC operates the 24-hour freephone National Helpline 1800 778888 in English, but if you prefer to engage in another language, the Helpline Interpreting Service can help. It runs Monday to Friday, 8am to 6:30pm except holidays. It also operates midnight to 8am seven days a week.

The service is free, non-judgmental and confidential – you can read more on our website at bit.ly/DRCClang

Client Support Service:

The impact of trauma can be made worse for victims and survivors when they also face other challenges. In addition, those who have experienced trauma may have their capacity to cope with additional stresses reduced by this impact. Crucially, it can be difficult for those facing significant barriers in their lives to address their trauma through counselling and therapy in an effective way when they are overwhelmed by practical issues.

Our Client Support Service empowers and helps clients to access rights and entitlements, find relevant information and seek referral to other services as appropriate, in a holistic way. This involves working with clients one-on-one and making representations on their behalf to statutory bodies and services around accessing their rights and entitlements or to appeal decisions where they have been refused unfairly. It can cover issues such as housing/homelessness, social welfare, health, immigration, the asylum process, education and employment.



In 2022, the service assisted 69 individuals. DRCC therapy and accompaniment support teams referred 57 clients to the Client Support Service. Our CSS Officer carried out 234 interventions involving 203 agency engagements. There were an additional 12 referrals from the National Helpline (totalling 17 interventions and 14 agency engagements), as a pilot programme.

On average, clients engaged with the Client Support Service for 13 weeks, involving an average of 4 distinct interventions and requiring 4 agency engagements. During the year, DRCC developed a Holistic Needs Assessment used to better assess vulnerable clients' needs.



JUSTISIGNS 2 group meeting at University of Vigo, Spain in October

Ukrainian emergency response:

With the arrival of Ukrainian refugees fleeing conflict in their homeland during the year, DRCC liaised with the Department of Equality on providing information in Ukrainian and Russian on available supports for victims and survivors of sexual violence. We also helped to ensure information was included on SATU services around Ireland. DRCC participated in the Ukraine Civil Response Forum throughout the year providing information and assisting as appropriate.

JUSTISIGNS II Project:

DRCC is part of this collaboration of experts from Ireland, Belgium, Spain and the UK undertaking research within the Deaf, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities to investigate experiences of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence as well as their interactions with victim support agencies. It seeks to improve access to support services and the legal process through raising awareness and providing accessible information and resources and training for key actors such as police, interpreters and health workers. During 2022 we continued to work on developing training and resources for those from the deaf and migrant communities who are impacted by sexual violence. This included two half-day trainings for sign and spoken language interpreters in February, and two half-days in November, on working with vulnerable groups impacted by sexual violence. We also completed work on a handbook for interpreters working with issues of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, and developed a Toolkit of Resources for those impacted by, and working with the issue of sexual violence. We contributed a chapter to a Training Manual for Interpreters and Service Providers around DSGBV. We also attended a transnational meeting in Vigo, Spain, and took part in a conference at the European Union of the Deaf in Brussels.

Training to support survivors from minority groups:

DRCC aims to ensure that frontline staff supporting vulnerable and minority groups have appropriate training on the impacts of sexual violence. During 2022, we provided training to 190 professionals working with minority and vulnerable groups, including Traveller groups, homeless support organisations and refugees and asylum-seekers support bodies, made possible through grant funding.



Working with peer organisations & groups:

Over the year, DRCC took part in a variety of information and awareness events aimed at minority groups, including those organised by the International Organisation of Migration, the Muslim Sisters of Eire, Amal Women. DRCC has also engaged with a wide variety of groups through our Consent Project.

Goal Two

Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors



Objective Four

Building, maintaining and disseminating knowledge and expertise on the topic of sexual violence

Third National Strategy against Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence:

On Tuesday 28 June, the Third National Strategy on DSGBV 2022–2026 was launched jointly by An Taoiseach Micheal Martin, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee and Minister for Equality Roderic O’Gorman. DRCC welcomed the new plan, which also has a detailed timetable for implementation, saying “today is the day when our government undertakes to step up to its responsibilities to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights obligations to the people of this land by declaring zero tolerance of all domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.” With four pillars – prevention, protection, prosecution and policy – the strategy mandates a much-needed but hitherto absent cross-government approach and will involve establishing a new agency to drive actions and progress among multiple departments.

The plan also prescribes a focus on increasing awareness of consent in society including Relationships and Sex Education in schools, as well as better provision of information on available supports to people using state services, an increase in the number of refuges for victims of domestic violence and an increase in the maximum sentence for assault causing harm from 5 to 10 years. The strategy also recognises children in domestic violence situations as witnesses and victims/survivors in their own right for the first time. For the past number of years, DRCC has contributed substantially to the development of this strategy and look forward now to supporting its full and speedy implementation.

Ahead of Budget 2023 being announced in September, we called on government to ensure that it would provide adequate sustainable funding to deliver the Third National Strategy, but also that the organisations who part-deliver this strategy – rape crisis centres – are also adequately resourced.

Young people & sexual violence:

In March, our Education & Training team took part in a Seminar organized by An Garda Síochána for about 100 secondary school students, talking about DRCC services and on consent, myths & attitudes about sexual violence and sharing intimate images.

In May, we co-hosted a webinar on *Judicial Discretion and the Justice and Welfare Dichotomy: The Sentencing of Child & Adolescent Sexual Offences in the Irish Youth Justice System* with the Children’s Rights Alliance. His Hon Dr John Connor presented on how juvenile offenders charged with sexual offences are treated in the Irish criminal justice system. A panel chaired by Mary Carolan, *Irish Times* Legal Affairs Correspondent, included responses from DRCC, Children’s Rights Alliance, Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Department of Justice. A recording is available on DRCC’s YouTube account and on our website at drcc.ie

Cooperating with international partners:

In July, DRCC hosted a visit from representatives of Swedish women's rights organisation Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina who were on a study visit to Ireland to learn more about rape crisis centres. After a rewarding exchange of information and ideas, Our Policy Manager Shirley Scott then presented on our work at a conference in Sarajevo in November aimed towards establishing the first-ever Rape Crisis Centre in Bosnia.

Marking 20 years since SAVI:

In December, we marked two decades since the publication of the ground-breaking report on 'Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland' with a webinar. What became known simply as the SAVI report was the first population-wide prevalence survey on sexual violence in Ireland and was commissioned by DRCC, capturing public attitudes towards and experience of all forms of sexual violence, both as adults and as children. Our webinar featured as keynote speaker the original lead author of SAVI, Prof Hannah McGee of Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. In addition, Helen McGrath of the Central Statistics Office provided an input on the CSO's forthcoming Sexual Violence Survey which will finally give an update to SAVI, Philip McCormack* of the Department of Justice spoke on the influence of SAVI on the Department's work over the past two decades, and Adam May of Language & DRCC Consent Project Manager Sarah Monaghan introduced DRCC's new consent research & the impact of SAVI on it. A recording of the event is on DRCC's Youtube channel and on our website at drcc.ie.

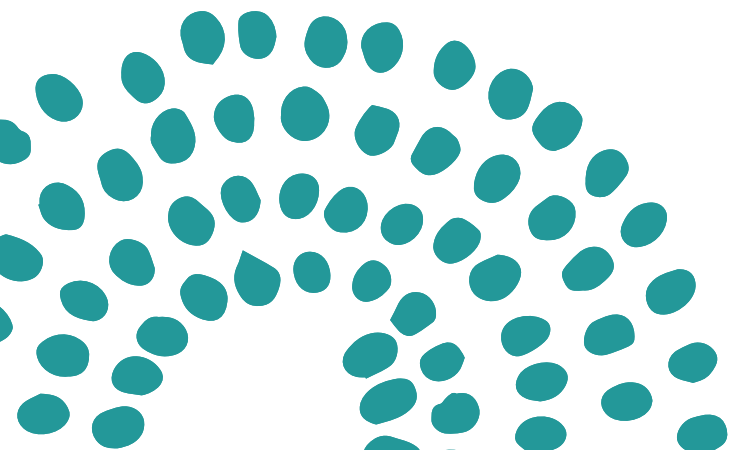
(*Sadly Philip passed away in February 2023; we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and colleagues.)

Promoting Gender Equality:

DRCC appeared before the Joint Committee on Gender Equality at the end of March to discuss the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Gender Equality. We offered comment on some specific recommendations of the Assembly, particularly around a new statutory agency that would coordinate a whole-of-government approach to tackling gender-based violence, as well as supporting justice for victims and survivors through courts reform, judicial training, better sentencing, better data collection, a Victims/Survivors Commissioner and more trauma-sensitive, survivor-centred services. The wide-ranging recommendations of the committee were published in December as 'Unfinished Democracy: Achieving Gender Equality' and include many issues identified by DRCC, a long-overdue updating of overhaul of sex education curricula in our schools.



DRCC's Policy Manager Shirley Scott travelled to Sarajevo in November to a conference organised by groups seeking to establish Bosnia & Herzegovina's first dedicated Rape Crisis Centre.





DRCC staff met representatives of groups from Bosnia & Herzegovina visiting in July

Working with others

Joining forces to increase impact:

While we aim to build our own organisational capacity and expertise, we recognise that we gain in knowledge and impact when we collaborate with colleagues in other organisations in the community and voluntary sector and beyond.

- DRCC is a committed member of the **National Women’s Council** and also of the Observatory against Violence against Women, which NWC chairs. DRCC is one of 14 members of the **Beyond Exploitation** civil society campaign for equality and freedom from sexual exploitation, led by the NWC.
- We are a member of the **Rape Crisis Centre Forum Ireland**, a collective of nine of the country’s 16 Rape Crisis Centres, which meets regularly for information sharing, pooling of experience, training and expertise and development of mutual objectives.
- We are involved in the **Victims’ Rights Alliance** and of the advisory committee to the **Familicide Review** commissioned by the Department of Justice.
- In addition, DRCC is part of the **Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee** of An Garda Síochána and in the National Advisory Committee to the Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management group, SORAM.
- DRCC is a member of the **Children’s Rights Alliance**, offering feedback and other input to its annual Score Card which evaluates the state’s performance in upholding children’s rights in Ireland. Over the past number of years, DRCC has worked with CRA and others in the 123 Online Safety campaign for more safety in online communications. We co-organised a webinar with CRA in May – more above.
- DRCC is also a member of **The Wheel**, which represents community & voluntary organisations around Ireland and engages with a wide range of organisations on an ad-hoc basis. In 2022 DRCC was part of its ‘WeAct’ campaign to celebrate the impact of Ireland’s charities and community groups as well as engaging in various specialist forums of The Wheel.

Objective Five

Building greater recognition in the law and throughout society on the key role of consent

Further building a national consent project in Irish society:

DRCC's Consent Project is a long-term cultural reframing to support healthier, happier relationships & to reduce sexual violence. The project has four long-term objectives:

1. Cultural norms around sex, consent and gender equality will be challenged.
2. Nobody will believe that sexual activity without consent is OK.
3. Consent is understood & valued.
4. DRCC, and partners, are better equipped to communicate and engage with the public about consent.

Building on work done over the previous year, and with investment from the Department of Justice and via Community Foundation in Ireland, DRCC recruited a skilled and dedicated Consent Project team. This comprises an experienced Project Manager with senior leadership positions in several national campaigns behind her, an Outreach and Engagement Officer with responsibility for survivor engagement and roll out of consent workshops countrywide, and a skilled Communications and Events Officer with responsibility for social media, design, digital strategy and event management.

'Unite4Consent' campaign in November - L-R: Noeline Blackwell (holding art by Orlaith de Búrca), artists Laura Duffy, Sarah Hegarty, Eibhin Kavanagh, and DRCC Consent Project Manager Sarah Monaghan (holding art by Bronagh Lee) and Consent Project Communication & Events Officer Edie Cunningham (holding piece by Ciara Kenny).





Winners of the Cannes Young Lions media category, Roisin Monk and Laura Cassidy of Rothco, in April

A key aspect of the project development was the formation of the Consent Project Advisory group – survivors, campaigners, sectoral organisations and representatives from marginalised communities who all brought immense experience and expertise. Its first meeting in July was an important milestone for the Consent Project in including external parties in the project and this group is an immense asset to its work. In addition, we established a Survivor Council – a small group of survivors who review the Project’s approach and materials and feed directly into campaign plans drawing on their lived experience as victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Following on from ground-breaking quantitative and qualitative research into consent in Ireland in 2021, we completed a second phase of research in 2022 delving into public understanding and opinions around consent and also testing the coming campaign identity and messaging with various audiences. This phase of research included focus groups with marginalised communities to ensure a diverse range of opinion and experience was built into the campaign foundations. In 2022, we also commenced a series of new and innovative nationwide consent workshop events with an external facilitator. These focus on teaching people about consent, bias and acquiring skills needed to have the conversations about sex, consent and relationships that we can find difficult. The Consent Project embarked on early outreach work ahead of launch by hosting Consent stalls at UCD and speaking on panels at Femfest and the launch of the Shadow Report to Greivio by the National Observatory on Violence Against Women and Girls. The Project ended 2022 in a great position for the launch of a public-facing campaign in early 2023.

Putting a spotlight on consent:

In February DRCC was chosen as one of 3 charities to take part in in the Irish leg of the international Cannes Young Lions competition among young advertising/PR executives. The winning teams get to design a media campaign and short film on our chosen topic, which was consent, and would represent Ireland in the Cannes Film Festival side event in June. The DRCC campaign team worked with our board member John Fanning on presenting our consent work to the young creatives competing, and then on shortlisting their campaign pitches for final judging. The two victorious 'Young Lions' were both from Rothco (now Accenture Song). Part of the film category prize included a TV ad for future airing on Sky Ireland, which will dovetail with the wider consent campaign development.

Our focus on International Women's Day 2022 was #EqualConsent, looking at the intersection between consent, equality and ending sexual violence. We were also lucky to have a video with Irish Sign Language produced by our JUSTISIGNS partners. In November, we marked the Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence against women with a campaign using art to highlight the importance of consent and celebrate activism, women and community, called #unite4consent. We were supported by six wonderful young Irish artists who contributed to the campaign with some gorgeous prints, where they contributed a percentage of sales to support our work and services.



Aoife Wolf performing on Culture Night 2022

DRCC x Culture Night x WeAct:

In September, we teamed up with community campaign WeAct to participate for the first time in Culture Night. DRCC opened its doors to welcome members of the public and explain our services and wider work. Under the title 'Consent, Conversation & Culture', we offered taster workshops on consent and closed the night with a wonderful session of comedy, music, poetry and song featuring Eve Darcy, Sam's Collective & Aoife Wolf.



EMBRACE UNCERTAINTY
THE LEGAL AGE

CONSENT
CAN NEVER BE ASSUMED

ASK FOR HELP

YOU CANNOT
GIVE CONSENT
FOR SOMEONE ELSE

Objective Six

Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence

Providing information to victims & survivors:

With state funding, in 2022 we began work on an online guide offering information to victims and survivors of sexual violence on options and supports available to them, including engagement with the criminal justice system and reporting sexual crimes. We worked with e-learning organisation Learning Pool on digital content for the guide which will offer trauma-sensitive, victim-centred information in a variety of formats. The guide will launch in early 2023.

Supporting a Victim's Journey:

The aptly-named Department of Justice plan to improve reporting and criminal justice systems for victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases continued in 2022, with DRCC and other groups providing input to its implementation. We are part of a number of sub-groups to help implement particular recommendations of Supporting a Victim's Journey, notably on advancing specialist training programmes for all those who deal with victims in sexual offence cases, and on mapping the journey faced by victims as they navigate the reporting and legal system. During the year we saw the commencement of the Criminal Procedures Act 2021 to allow for the introduction of pre-trial hearings which has the potential to reduce delay and improve efficiency in case management.

Advocating for adequate compensation for victims of crime:

In early 2022, the Law Reform Commission announced that it planned to examine the way in which state compensation for victims of criminal injuries operates in Ireland, with a particular focus on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, and whether Ireland is meeting its international and EU law obligations with regard to compensation for victims of violent crime. The focus of DRCC's submission to the Commission's consultation paper on this issue was informed by our experience supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence. We suggested changing the three-month time limit which is entirely inadequate in the context of sexual violence; providing sufficient supports including legal advice and representation; ensuring the scheme is managed in an efficient but trauma-aware way; understanding the needs of survivors in a holistic way; ensuring that compensation for pain and suffering includes non-physical injuries; provision for emergency awards and for long-term needs.



DRCC Policy Manager Shirley Scott with Det Inspector Seamus Houlihan and Inspector Aidan Curtin

Fostering reporting of sexual misconduct at third level:

DRCC assisted in developing an online anti-harassment/sexual misconduct training module at University College Dublin by providing feedback and contributing a video clip to the module, which was put in operation from September. We also supported UCD staff in establishing a ‘report and support’ team and related resources by providing training and feedback.

Creating a safer internet:

DRCC is part of the 123 Online Safety campaign to increase protections online, led by Children’s Rights Alliance (CRA). The year started with the long-awaited publication of Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill, but while the Bill contained some provisions DRCC and others had sought, it did not have provision for an individual complaints mechanism that would offer everyone an accessible solution when online services and platforms fail to protect them. We provided comment to the online safety expert group convened to examine practicalities and potential operation of an individual complaints’ mechanism. CRA hosted an online discussion with members of various political parties to hear their views on how to ensure the OSMR Bill is fit for purpose. DRCC was pleased to note that the Online Safety and Media Regulation Act of 2022 provides for a specific post of Safety Commissioner and there is provision for the gradual adoption of that essential element of an individual complaint mechanism.

Advocating for an improved police response to domestic and sexual violence:

In spring, we were invited by the Garda Inspectorate to make a submission on the effectiveness and efficiency of An Garda Síochána’s response to domestic abuse, including sexual violence. This is in the context of a wider inspection into the force’s response and a report is expected in due course.



Objective Seven

Facilitating victims/survivors in making their voices heard and promoting innovation in strengthening protection for victims/survivors of sexual violence



At the launch of her book 'Ash + Salt' in March, survivor and activist Sarah Grace with Dublin's Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland (L) and Noeline Blackwell (R)

Towards a more victim-centred justice system:

Many aspects of our criminal justice system cause needless re-traumatising of victims and survivors in rape and sexual assault proceedings. February saw the introduction of a new Private Members Bill in the Seanad to limit the use of character references in mitigating sentences of those found guilty of violent and sexual crimes. The Bill was created by Senator Regina Doherty and sponsored by her, Senator Lisa Chambers and Senator Pauline O'Reilly having discussed it in some detail with DRCC. It aims to require such character references to be submitted under oath and to allow the prosecution to cross-examine those submitting character references for a defendant. The Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill 2022 was passed by the Seanad in December 2022 and is awaiting discussion by Dáil Éireann.

During the year, DRCC's Accompaniment Manager delivered talks in Garda Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSU) in Dublin to raise awareness of our accompaniment work and the services available to victims after sexual violence. We were also invited to address the annual conference organised by District Court judges on the importance of empathetic and respectful communication when dealing with survivors in court.

Recognising the intersection of legal jurisdictions:

One frustrating aspect of the justice system for victims is the multiplicity of proceedings that they may be facing. People who are witnesses in criminal sexual offences proceedings may also be involved in private law proceedings relating to separation, divorce, maintenance or child custody in the Family Courts and may also be involved in proceedings brought by Tusla relating to child care. These courts operate independently, with different standards of evidence and different rules and can leave victims of sexual violence confused and tied up in inexplicable procedural knots. In 2022 the National Women's Council, funded by the Department of Justice commissioned research on the intersection of the three justice systems. It will include recommendations on how the different arms of the justice system can better work in tandem to ensure that victims' rights are upheld and respected throughout the justice system. DRCC contributed information to the researchers and was represented on the NWC Advisory committee to the research.

Amplifying the voices of victims and survivors:

A key tenet of how we fulfil our dual mission is that we aim to amplify and promote the voice of victims and survivors of sexual violence as the true Experts by Experience in combating sexual violence in all its forms. Indeed it is essential that victims and survivors are at the centre of our work so it can be relevant and authentic to our vision of an Ireland free from sexual violence. In 2022, we have been privileged to work directly with victims and survivors in a number of ways: our Consent Project Survivor Panel helped guide the development of our new campaign in the second half of the year; we provided support to survivors who waived their anonymity following court proceedings; we included first-hand survivor testimonies and experiences with the reporting and legal systems in

our forthcoming online information guide, as well as other information resources; and we included survivor feedback in our policy and research outputs throughout 2022. We are deeply grateful to each and every person for their generosity in sharing their invaluable insights.

Building a safe and respectful working environment in the Arts:

In April, DRCC responded to an invitation from the Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports & Media to provide commentary on the delivery of a safe and respectful working environment in the Arts. DRCC called for the implementation of recommendations by the Irish Theatre Institute's Speak Up: A Call for Change report; for shifts in culture to ensure safe and respectful working environments; for reform of existing policies, frameworks and procedures and for the introduction of governance standards. In September the Committee issued its Report on Safe and Respectful Working Conditions in the Arts in which it made a series of recommendations. This report comes on foot of research commissioned by the Irish Theatre Institute which found several issues relating to harmful workplace behaviours across the arts sector.



Junior Policy Analyst Ashley Perry speaking to Oireachtas Committee in April

Combating sexual harassment in the workplace:

In 2022, DRCC continued its exploration into whether the tools and systems available to counter sexual harassment in the workplace were adequate. We suspect not, as the numbers disclosing such harassment in surveys, is far greater than those reporting it and taking steps to hold abusers to account. In addition to supporting University College Dublin as they developed a wide range of reporting tools, DRCC contributed to the 'Dignity Matters' training video created by the Law Society for its member solicitors about the impact of harmful behaviour in the workplace. DRCC's research work on this topic will continue into 2023.

Following numerous calls for review of how the Defence Forces handle allegations of sexual misconduct and sexual violence within their ranks, the government established an Independent Review Group in March 2022. The group subsequently invited inputs on the relevant mechanisms and structures within the Defence Forces, and DRCC contributed recommendations on what is needed to underpin a workplace based on dignity and respect as well as providing training support to the Review personnel. The Report of the group is due early in 2023.

In early 2023, Ireland will ratify the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention 2019, only the 24th country to do so. This is the first international treaty to recognise the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment. In September, DRCC contributed to a public consultation supporting the proposed ratification because the adoption of this Convention would signal a positive commitment to protect workers

generally and in particular in relation to workplace sexual harassment and abuse issues that arise. Our submission noted that women are disproportionately accepted by such abuse. We also noted that following ratification, further work needed to be done on existing systems to make them effective in supporting the principles of the Convention.

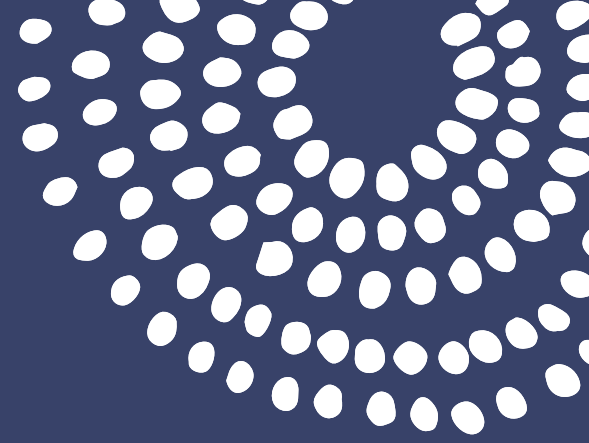
Holding the state to account on obligations to eliminate gender-based violence:

The Istanbul Convention is an international human rights treaty ratified by Ireland in March 2019. It maintains a Europe-wide legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women, based on a victim-centred approach and linked to a wider goal of achieving gender equality. The convention places obligations on the Irish state across a range of targets. Ireland will be assessed for the first time on how it is meeting these obligations in 2023 by the independent expert body called GREVIO which monitors how the Convention is implemented. In August, DRCC submitted its own observations on how the state is performing, as well as contributing to the joint Shadow Report of the Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women.



Policy submissions in 2022

Month	Submission
January	Submission to the Commission on Taxation & Welfare's public consultation on <i>Your Vision, Our Future</i> .
January	Submission to the Garda Inspectorate on effectiveness and efficiency of Garda Síochána response to domestic abuse including sexual violence.
March	Submission to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality on recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality.
March	Individual submission and support for a Children's Rights Alliance submission to the online safety expert group regarding an individual complaints' mechanism in the Online Safety and Media Regulation bill.
March	Submission to Department of Justice on Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.
April	Submission to the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports & Media in relation to the delivery of a safe and respectful working environment in the arts.
April	Submission to the Independent Review set up to examine allegations of sexual harassment and bullying in the Defence Forces.
April	Submission to the Law Reform Commission's consultation paper on compensating victims of crime.
July	Joint Pre-Budget 2023 Submission with 4 other Rape Crisis Centres – Athlone, Kilkenny, Tullamore and Wexford.
August	Individual submission and collaboration on a Joint National Observatory Shadow Report to GREVIO (the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul convention).
September	Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment on Ireland's ratification of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No 190).
October	Submission on General Scheme of Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences & Human Trafficking) Bill 2022.
October	Submission to National Council for Curriculum & Assessment on draft specification for its Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum for Junior Cycle.
November	Submission to National Council for Curriculum & Assessment on the redevelopment of its Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum for Senior Cycle.



Goal Three

Be a strong,
sustainable organisation.



Objective Eight

Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work

DRCC is reliant on fundraising to be there for the many victims and survivors who come to us for the support they need to recover from the trauma of sexual violence. In 2022, the support we offered to 1 in 5 survivors was financed by public fundraising.

These dedicated individuals and organisations raised a total of €840,000 in 2022 to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and sexual violence. The year saw an array of campaigns, challenges, sports achievements and downright fun events being organised to benefit DRCC. We had groups and individuals participating in a multitude of sporting events, notably the VHI Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin in June, sky dives and sea swim challenges. Trinity College Law Society and DCU raised funds for DRCC over the academic year and other amazing individuals organised events as diverse as a Bond-themed ball, jewellery sales and raffles, and a writing competition with Sonder Magazine.

We organised or co-organised a number of fundraising events in 2022, which the public again supported wholeheartedly. September saw the return of one of our annual calendar fixtures: Pluto events & marketing agency organised the dazzling WomanKind Fashion Show in the InterContinental Hotel, curated by Irene O'Brien and compered by broadcaster Claire Byrne. We also held DRCC's Annual Golf Classic in September with an array of teams competing for glory in the Joe Carr Perpetual Trophy. In October, the divine Miss Candy

hosted her final International Fashion Lunch in the Westin Hotel; we must say a very special thank you to Miss Candy for her unstinting support over the past 25 years and for so many wonderful memories – but importantly for the vital funds she has helped to raise for survivors of sexual violence.

We continued to put the spotlight on the need for #Support4Survivors, running a week of awareness and virtual fundraising in October. We also continued to highlight the impact of leaving a legacy in your will through DRCC's membership of MyLegacy.

DRCC is deeply grateful to the companies, trusts and philanthropists who wished to support our work and who stood behind the issues we champion and the values we stand for. In particular, the Community Foundation Ireland and its donors who championed DRCC's We-Consent campaign in its earliest days. In addition, we benefitted from pro bono support in areas like legal assistance and advice.

It is critical that DRCC raises funds from diverse sources to sustain our work and services. Our fundraising never stops: Each year we work hard to make sure the Centre has the funds it needs to run our clinical support services, education programmes, awareness-raising and communications, advocacy, research and policy work.

At the Community Foundation All-Ireland Convening in September, Ruth Breslin (SERP), Noeline Blackwell (DRCC) and Noelle Collins (Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid) discussed how to tackle gender-based violence





DRCC staff and volunteers attending the WomanKind event in September

Alongside the fantastic public donations, events and corporate partnerships that we were delighted to benefit from in 2022, the State continued to part-fund DRCC. We are very grateful to Tusla and the Department of Justice, as our main state funders, for their partnership approach and significant part-funding of our core work. Nonetheless, a difficulty still remains where it seems to be the case that even when our direct funders are aware of under-funding, the financial arm of government continues to ignore its long-standing neglect of voluntary organisations - such as rape crisis centres - that provide an essential service which the State is duty bound to provide to those who need it.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who chooses to contribute in any way to DRCC's work and mission of preventing the harm and healing the trauma of sexual violence in Ireland.

The support we offered to 1 in 5 survivors was funded by the public; simply put, we couldn't be there for people in their darkest moments without you.

Objective Nine

Implementing a comprehensive & coherent communications plan

Communications underpin and support how DRCC meets its strategic objectives and transmits our values. We use communications tools and channels to broaden understanding of sexual violence and its impacts, to promote our services and supports to victims and survivors, and to campaign for a society with zero tolerance for sexual violence and that understands and values sexual consent. It is also important that we share our insights, learnings and trends from across all facets of our work, both internally and externally, with a variety of stakeholders. Finally, the voice of victims and survivors is at the heart of our communications work and we seek to support and amplify survivors' voices wherever possible.

over

4,500

Downloads



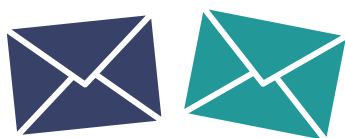
2,830

Telephone Calls

almost

800

Emails



Communications channels

- Our website drcc.ie hosts updates on our work, news and press releases as well as campaigns and events. It is also the access point for our webchat support service which allows people to receive crisis support via online chat with a webchat support worker. The site also houses downloadable resources, focused on offering survivors information and tools to understand and manage trauma impacts. In 2022, there were over 4,500 downloads, 2,830 telephone calls and almost 800 emails sent from the site.
- We used our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube to highlight various aspects our work and draw attention to issues of concern . (Our Consent Project established its own set of social channels in 2023.)
- We issued quarterly online newsletters throughout 2022 to update subscribers on our work, campaigns and other relevant developments. Past issues and sign-ups are at bit.ly/DRCCnl22. Our Education & Training team issues an occasional newsletter to past attendees of training courses to alert them to training opportunities.



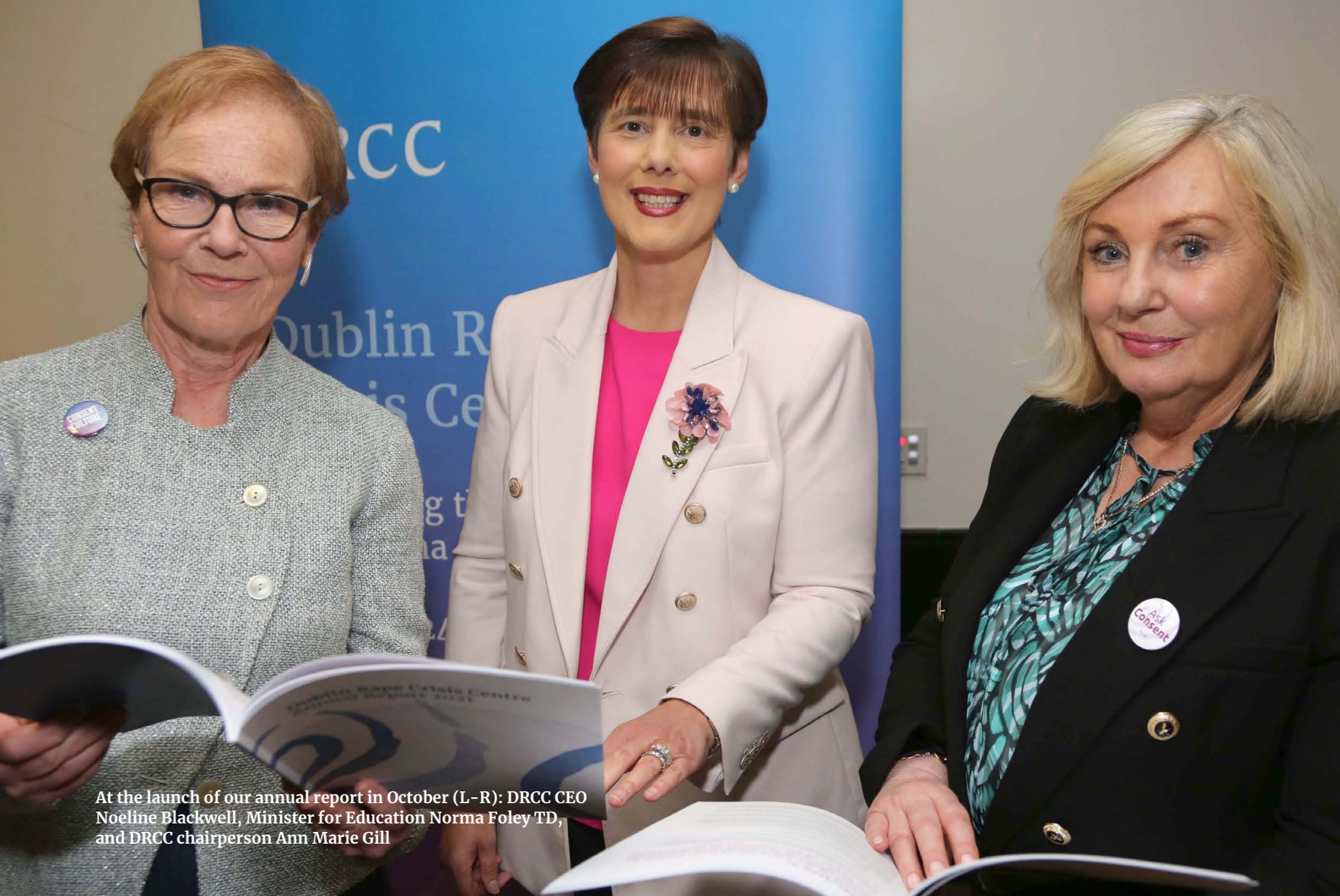
Thanks to ClearChannel, Dublin City Council and Eir, our Helpline messages were visible on streets around Ireland in 2022

Media:

DRCC works with media to share insights and evidence from our work, flag issues of concern and provide comment on relevant matters. We landed over 500 briefings and/or pieces of coverage across media outlets at local and national level in 2022. We assisted a number of survivors who were preparing to speak to media or otherwise address the public about their experience as a survivor, either in the courts or reporting process or to highlight supports or impacts of sexual violence on their lives.

Raising awareness & creating change:

As well as further developing our large-scale national campaign on consent, DRCC created a number of smaller-scale campaigns highlighting equality, online safety and support for survivors and to mark International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Action against Gender-Based Violence. Our award-winning #100consent campaign created with Pluto events and marketing agency continued to garner awards in 2022, winning a silver in the European IMC awards in the non-profit/charity cause and a Golden Spider awards for digital media in March.



At the launch of our annual report in October (L-R): DRCC CEO Noeline Blackwell, Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, and DRCC chairperson Ann Marie Gill

We published our annual report and statistical supplement for 2021 in October, with Minister for Education Norma Foley TD kindly launching the report. DRCC Chairperson Ann Marie Gill welcomed attendees online and in person, and our CEO Noeline Blackwell profiled the year as one in which more people availed of rape crisis supports as lockdown eased, and where we again highlighted key prevention tools such as awareness of and education on consent. The event saw inputs from staff members on our work in accompanying survivors, therapy and counselling services and education.

In 2022, we had the opportunity to promote our services and supports via occasional street-level advertising in Dublin and a number of other locations in Ireland, in cooperation with Dublin City Council and Clear Channel Communications. These digital pedestals also contain telephones with free access to emergency telephone numbers, including the National Rape Crisis Helpline 1800 77 8888.

Providing resources for victims and survivors of sexual violence:

Over the year, we created survivor resources on issues such as coping with nightmares and panic attacks, healthy relationships, and abdominal breathwork, which we shared on social media and via our website. In conjunction with our policy and accompaniment teams, the communications team worked over most of 2022 on writing and preparing an online guide for victims and survivors on their options and supports, forthcoming in 2023. This included liaising with other agencies such as An Garda Síochána, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit as well as legal and other subject matter experts on content, and also with e-learning organisation Learning Pool which was creating digital content. It was a privilege during the year to integrate texts and quotes from survivors into the resource, and towards the end of the year to involve a host of volunteers in creating audio voiceovers for some texts on the site. Thanks to funding support, DRCC was able to hire a communications assistant to coordinate this work and to ensure it is disseminated widely and stays updated into the future.

Objective Ten

Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure



DRCC Staff

The day-to-day fulfilment of DRCC's mission and goals falls primarily to our dedicated staff, managed by our CEO and senior management team and overseen by our voluntary Board. In 2022, our staff resumed ways of working that had been suspended over the pandemic but maintained some useful practices and platforms adopted during the crisis period, setting up hybrid working arrangements to deliver our services smoothly and at the highest standard. In the face of easing restrictions, our main focus was safety for staff and clients alike. In particular, it was very welcome to finally be able to regularly meet clients and colleagues in person again.

Again in 2022, and like many others in our sector and more widely, we experienced a significant turnover of staff. With demand for our services as strong as ever, but in competition with a host of other state and private sector services, it was a constant challenge to recruit new staff across all areas but especially in our therapy services. Another challenge during the year was our premises, which is now inadequate to accommodate the range of work and number of staff needed, which meant reliance on hybrid working practices and required the rental of additional therapy spaces.

Nonetheless, DRCC's staff worked diligently to maintain and improve internal structures, policies and systems, including our IT, data security and internal communications processes. We prioritised contact with clients including those waiting to attend services. Towards the end of the year, we began preparation for a new strategic plan which will be launched in 2023.



At a volunteer recognition event in the Mansion House in May (L-R): Paul Coombes, Síona Cahill, Leesha Duffy, Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland, Xénia Ferigoule, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Maria Kavanagh & Edie Cunningham

DRCC Volunteers

For decades, volunteers have been an integral, vital part of how DRCC delivers its supports and services to survivors of sexual violence, in particular on the National 24-Hour Helpline and in accompanying victim/survivors in the justice system as well as to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in the Rotunda Hospital. In addition, our Board comprises volunteer members who provide leadership and governance oversight for the organisation. And we benefit enormously from the scores of people who share their expertise with us and who raise funds to support our work across all areas.

Celebrating our volunteers:

In March, our long-serving volunteer Kay Lynch was featured as part of the national We Act civil society campaign around the role of the sector in International Women's Day. In May we marked National Volunteering Week with a range of activities including a social media focus highlighting the contribution of our volunteers across a variety of areas, a special edition of our Volunteer Update newsletter, and a lunchtime session with staff as well as a graduation ceremony for volunteers who had reached their two-year commitment. On 20 May, DRCC took part in a Volunteer / Charity Night organised by the Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland at the Mansion House, where we received a certificate to recognise our work. On the same night our CEO Noeline Blackwell chaired the national Volunteering Ireland awards. Later in the year, we marked International Volunteering Day with a special Volunteer Appreciation event on 5 December.

Recruitment:

Our recruitment of volunteers was heavily impacted by the pandemic and our induction and training conducted largely online. We maintained an online element for our recruitment information sessions in 2022 and also for the ongoing communications with our volunteers, who meet regularly with peers and our Volunteer Support team for advice, debriefing and support sessions.

DRCC is incredibly lucky to have an exceptionally committed and skilled body of volunteers of all ages and genders. Among our Helpline and SATU volunteers, many choose to stay on after marking their two-year commitment and even take on further duties, given the great demand for support. Likewise, we salute the volunteers who pour enormous time and energy into fundraising for our work time and time again, ensuring services can continue and other work can be done.

In common with the entire charity sector, it is increasingly difficult for people to find the time and capacity to commit to volunteer roles, especially those as challenging – if equally as rewarding – as those we offer in DRCC. For that reason and many others, we are extremely grateful to each and every volunteer for giving their time, inspiration and energy to our cause.

DRCC Board

DRCC is led by a voluntary Board which met 8 times in 2022, in 7 board meetings and an AGM. There are three board committees: Audit Finance & Risk; Human Resources & Remuneration; and Fundraising, which all met as required during the year.

Board member	Meetings attended (Total=8)
Ann Marie Gill (Chair)	8
Siona Cahill	8
John Fanning	7
Fergus Finlay	3 (joined in Sept)
Keith Herman	5 (resigned in Dec)
Philip Hyland	1 (resigned in Mar)
Anne-Marie James	6
Neasa Kane-Fine	4 (resigned in Dec)
Carol Keane	5
Madeleine McCarthy	6
Aibhlín McCrann	7
Cathy O'Donohoe	3 (resigned in Dec)
Grace O'Malley	6

Note: Board members are not remunerated for their services to DRCC, nor are any expenses reimbursed for travelling to/from board meetings.

Governance

DRCC complies with the Charities Governance Code published by the Charities Regulatory Authority. We met legal requirements throughout the year, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Children First, providing relevant training to staff and ensuring all requirements were incorporated in organisational policies. Lobbying returns were submitted in a timely way to the Standards in Public Office Commission.

Satisfying funder duties:

DRCC fulfilled its targets and reporting obligations for all funders during the course of the year. The financial accounts below give a detailed picture of the income, expenditure and activities of the organisation in 2022.

Commitment to best practice:

DRCC complies with the standards contained in the Charity Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public. The organisation is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (The Governance Code). Our Board and Staff abide by a conflict of interest policy.

Company & Charity Registration:

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital, registered CRO 147318. DRCC holds charitable tax exemption from the Revenue Commissioners (CHY 8529) and is also registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority (RCN 20021078).

Financial Statements

Statement Of Financial Activities (Incorporating An Income & Expenditure Account) for Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Designated Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2022 €	Total 2021 €
Income Donations & Legacies					
Donations	-	337,216	26,410	363,626	373,994
Fundraising income	-	261,039	-	261,039	262,803
Income from charitable activities					
Government grants	-	1,000	2,362,004	2,363,004	1,706,167
Education, counselling & other services	-	107,286	249,075	356,361	652,958
Total income		706,541	2,637,489	3,344,030	2,995,922
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	-	198,016	-	198,016	184,667
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	197,545	2,637,749	2,835,294	2,443,149
Administration & other expenditure	-	295,342	-	295,342	253,437
Total expenditure		690,903	2,637,749	3,328,652	2,881,253
Net income/(expenditure)	-	15,638	(260)	15,378	114,669
Transfer to between funds	-	(260)	260		-
Net movement in funds for the year	-	15,378	-	15,378	114,669
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	2,640,421	497,935	-	3,138,356	3,023,687
Total funds carried forward	2,640,421	513,313	-	3,153,734	3,138,356

Statement Of Financial Position for year ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
	€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		1,114,354		1,157,027
Current assets				
Debtors	7,405		23,005	
Cash at bank and in hand	3,591,985		3,639,600	
	3,599,390		3,662,605	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,316,440)		(1,409,085)	
Net current assets		2,282,950		2,253,520
Total assets less current liabilities		3,397,304		3,410,547
Creditors: amounts falling after more than one year		(243,570)		(272,191)
Net Assets		3,153,734		3,138,356
Funds of the charity				
Accumulated- unrestricted		513,313		497,935
Accumulated-designated		2,640,421		2,640,421
Total		3,153,734		3,138,356

Approved by the board of directors and signed
on its behalf by

Ann Marie Gill

Director

15 June 2023

Carol Keane

Director

DRCC Employee Salary Range 2022

	2022	2021
€60,000- €70,000	2	2
€70,001- €80,000	1	1
€80,001- €90,000	-	-
€90,001- €100,000	1	1

"I'm not sure" "um..." "I'm tired"
"I think we should stop"
"I don't want to" "maybe" "I don't know..."

No
"HELL YEAH!"
No
Consent



#Unite
4 Consent





DRCC Annual Report 2022

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Photos:

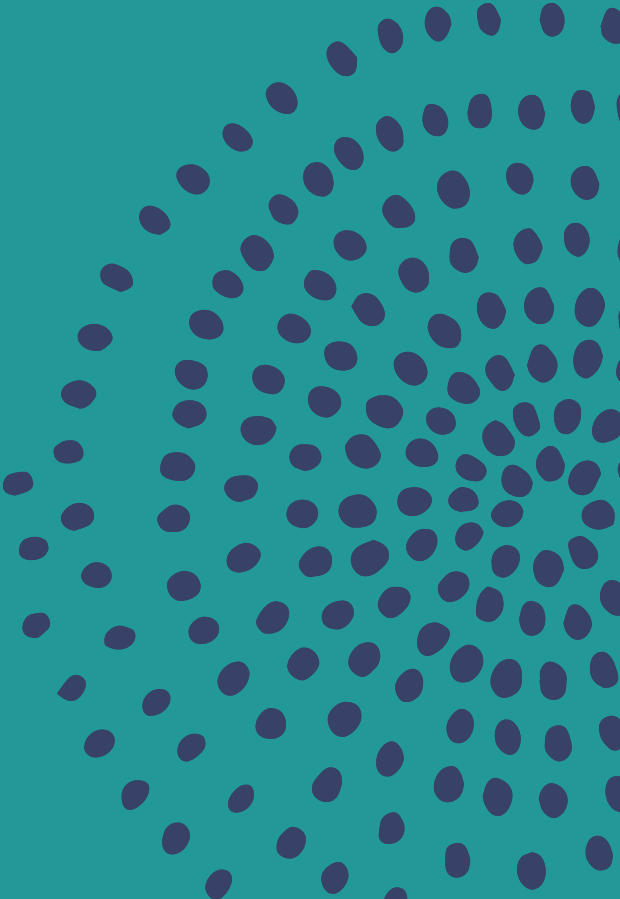
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