



women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland



**REACH
OUT**



**SPEAK
OUT**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2009-2010**



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Open to anyone affected by domestic violence

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Annual report 2009–2010

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland
2010



Our Vision

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland's vision for the 21st century is the elimination of domestic violence.

Our Mission

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs which perpetuate domestic violence. We seek through our work to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

Our Goal

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland strives to welcome and support all women, children and young people, including those with disabilities and those without, women from minority communities, different cultures, races, languages and sexual orientations and from a wide age range.



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Reach Out, Speak Out is our theme for this year and is at the heart of everything Women's Aid across Northern Ireland works to achieve.

We want to reach a place where every victim of domestic violence feels empowered to reach out and speak out knowing that support is there and that justice will be done.

As a crucial starting point in fulfilling our vision to eliminate domestic violence we are totally committed to preventative education work. We want to ensure that all boys and girls and young people have the opportunity to learn how to protect themselves, how to spot the early warning signs of domestic violence (in an age appropriate manner) and the difference between healthy and abusive relationships.

So it is with immense pleasure that we can report an ongoing positive relationship between ourselves and the Department of Education, with funding support agreed in April 2009 to match fund support from DHSS&PS to advance this work in schools. We are proud to launch the freshly designed Helping Hands packs for primary schools.

This fruitful engagement deepens our sense of commitment to partnership work, especially through the Tackling Violence at Home government strategy partnership. We remain fully committed to playing our part in it.

Facing the straitened financial times ahead we

firmly believe that it is only within the strength of these partnerships that our joint efforts to tackle domestic violence will continue to flourish.

Facing also the challenges of ensuring we are delivering our essential services in the most effective way possible this year we continued with our internal restructuring change process which is still ongoing.

As always our priority will remain meeting the needs of the women and children victims of domestic violence across Northern Ireland.

Thanks are due to all our funders who have supported our work throughout the year; a full list of funders appears on page 54.

Special thanks are due to the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSS&PS, Community Safety Unit, Northern Ireland Office (now Department of Justice) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive who jointly fund the Service Level Agreement for the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

Finally warm thanks are due to the dedicated members of the Federation Management Board and to the commitment of the Federation Director, Annie Campbell and all the hard-working Federation staff and volunteer team.

Christine Whiteman
Chair

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our services are focussed on the real lives and needs of women and children who suffer domestic violence. Women's Aid grew out of a heart-felt response to the silencing and denial of those lives and the brutality faced by those women and we remain committed to bringing out their true life stories.

Each story of each woman is important; each family destroyed by abuse, a loss for us all; each injury, physical or emotional unacceptable; each death from domestic violence an outrage.

So we continue to urge women to *Reach Out, Speak Out*. And they do:

During this year 32,349 calls were managed by the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, an increase of 17% on last year.

Women's Aid local groups provided refuge to 1,077 women and 854 children.

Every day across Northern Ireland another 5 women and children come to stay in refuge because they are not safe in their own homes. This figure has remained constant year on year.

Our Floating Support / outreach services gave support to 2,938 women and 4,489 children. These numbers are increasing each year as our message reaches further out into the community.

This message of hope and support is greatly assisted by our vital community support. We were delighted with the continued strong cross-party support for the work of Women's Aid we received this year, evidenced in the support of all our MLA's during the White Ribbon Campaign which calls on everyone to pledge '*never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women*'.

It is this support that will enable us to carry on our work to create zero tolerance for domestic violence and to build a world where all women, children and men are free from it.

This year I would like to thank as always the team of Senior Managers of the ten local Women's Aid groups for their commitment and expertise.

Many thanks go to the dedicated Federation Senior Management team of Sarah Mason and Deirdre Teague, together with all the committed and hard-working team of Federation staff and volunteers.

And finally grateful thanks to the inspiring volunteers who make up our Management Board; led by the Chair Christine Whiteman, with great commitment and skill.

Annie Campbell
Director

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

PSNI statistics 2009 – 2010

- 24,482 domestic incidents were reported to the PSNI in 09/10.
- The PSNI responded to a domestic incident every 21 minutes of every day of the year in Northern Ireland.
- The total number of all recorded offences of murder was 18. Those classed as having a domestic motivation totaled 7. Therefore, 38.9% of all murders in Northern Ireland in 09/10 had a domestic motivation.
- Where the gender of the victim was known, 75% of adult victims of domestic crimes recorded by the PSNI in 2009/10 were female. *
- Of the total 109,139 crimes recorded by the PSNI in 09/10, 9,903 were crimes with a domestic motivation. This equates to 9.1% of all crimes in 09/10.
- There are more than 3 times as many domestic related crimes as drug offences.
- There were more than 3 times as many domestic related crimes as there were car thefts.

*(*Based on Findings from the PSNI Annual Recorded Crime Statistics Report 2009/10
N.B "Adult" is defined as aged 17 and over.)*

All data is taken from PSNI reports. These figures cover the period of April 2009 – March 2010



REGIONAL POLICY & LOBBYING

Policy and lobbying work forms an essential part of Women's Aid Federation's work to challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence by lobbying, campaigning and influencing the policy agenda.

Gillian Clifford is the Federation's Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator, who works in consultation with the ten local Women's Aid groups in the development of policy positions. The overall policy & lobbying work is led by Annie Campbell, Director with lead roles on different issues assigned to Sarah Mason, Finance & Training Manager, Deirdre Teague, Helpline Manager and Gillian Clifford, Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator.

Tackling Violence @ Home

During this period we were active participants in the interagency Tackling Violence at Home Regional Strategic partnership, chaired by DHSS&PS and NIO (now Department of Justice) and answerable to the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence at Stormont. Women's Aid has places on the Regional Strategic Group (RSG), the Protection & Justice sub-group, Prevention & Support sub-group and the Children & Young People's sub-group. In addition all of our local groups are active in their local Domestic Violence Partnerships which link into the work of the RSG.

Partnership in action:

MARAC

We continued to support the roll-out of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC's), which we regard as essential to protect high risk victims of domestic violence. Annie Campbell spoke at the official launch of MARAC at Hillsborough Castle on 14 December 2009 and welcomed the start of the roll out of MARAC. We remain committed to ensuring MARAC is fully implemented.

MODV

We continued to work with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland on the MODV (Men Overcoming Domestic Violence) programme this year with our local groups.

On an ongoing basis we continue to provide information to politicians / councillors and key policy makers on the effects of domestic violence and the work of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland.

The aim of Women's Aid involvement is to increase the protection and safety of partners/ex-partners and children of participants on the MODV programme.

During the latter part of this year we started the implementation planning for the introduction of a new programme IDAP (Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme) which includes Women's Aid providing Women's Safety Workers to the four PBNI areas in Northern Ireland that run the programme. This is a pilot one year programme which both PBNI and Women's Aid will be working closely together on to monitor and evaluate.

Trafficking

We continue to work with two of our local Women's Aid groups to operate a pilot support project for the women victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This pilot project has been extended to continue until the end of January 2011. We remain committed to ensuring that the vital support needs of women who are victims of this modern day slavery are met.

Launch of Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)

Trade Union Guide to Domestic Abuse

As part of our ongoing engagement with Trade Unions in Northern Ireland, who have been enormously supportive of our work, Annie Campbell spoke at the launch of the ICTU trade union guide on domestic abuse on International Women's Day, 8 March 2010. The document highlights the impact of domestic violence and explores the importance and relevance of establishing and implementing effective workplace policies

to ensure the safety and well-being of staff. It also provides valuable sources of advice and support for those experiencing domestic violence.



"Domestic abuse can result in:

- **a deterioration in an employee's performance**
- **increased and unexplained absenteeism**
- **poor timekeeping**
- **threat to job security and prospects"**

ICTU: Domestic Abuse: A trade Union Guide 2009

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

(DARD)

At an event to celebrate International Women's Day at the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim on 8 March 2010, DARD Minister Michelle Gildernew MP MLA, highlighted the ongoing partnership work between DARD's Equality Branch, the Forest Service and Women's Aid. The Minister also announced a number of initiatives, which whilst still in the developmental stage, it is hoped will lead to a number of positive opportunities for the women and children who use our services.

Public Affairs Strategy

Women's Aid Federation NI, in consultation with our ten local Women's Aid groups has developed a regional public affairs strategy which identifies key public policy issues facing our organisation and directly impacting the women and children who use our services across Northern Ireland.

Connecting

We continue to develop and sustain our relationships with key partners across all sectors and participate actively on a number of policy fora. These include:

- DHSS&PS Sexual Violence Strategy Subgroups
- End Violence Against Women (EVAW) NI Working Group
- End Violence Against Women (EVAW) London
- Women's Aid Federations across the UK and the Republic of Ireland
- Women's National Commission (WNC)
- Rural Women's Policy Forum
- Children In Northern Ireland (CiNI) Policy Forum
- Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group
- NICVA Women's Policy Forum
- NI Human Rights Consortium

The key public policy issues identified are:

Barriers to Justice: Access to Legal Aid

Women's Aid calls for an immediate amendment to the Legal Aid rules with an automatic right given to all victims of domestic violence to access legal protection and justice free of charge.

Women's Aid believes it is a fundamental human right for women and children to live free from the threat of domestic violence. Where this violence is being perpetrated we believe that it is society's responsibility to take action to protect the victim and bring the perpetrator to justice.

Women's Aid is deeply concerned at the cost of access to justice for women who experience domestic violence in Northern Ireland. Non-Molestation orders come under Legal Aid Advice and assistance legislation, the threshold for which is extremely low.

In 2010, a woman must have a disposable income of no more than £234 per week to receive Legal Aid for non-molestation order proceedings. A single mother working part-time is often brought just over the threshold for Legal Aid.

In seeking a non-molestation order the initial ex-parte order can cost up to £400. It is not uncommon for a full order to cost in excess of £2,000.

For many women who are unable to access Legal Aid, these costs can be prohibitive and an additional, unsustainable financial burden at a time of enormous fear and uncertainty.

Access to Benefits/Entitlements

We are concerned that women who have experienced domestic violence are reporting significant difficulties in accessing benefits/entitlements in Northern Ireland.

Problems include:

- Lengthy delays for women making their first claim
- Eligibility for crisis loans
- Difficulties in obtaining Child Benefit payments

Women accessing Women's Aid services often have no money or income, indeed they are often denied access to their own money by violent partners. Without financial and practical help to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children they are left destitute at a very vulnerable time.

Women's Aid is also deeply concerned that proposed changes to the welfare system may have a negative impact both on the work of our organisation and on many of the women who use our services, particularly in respect of changes to the rules around Housing Benefit.

Women with No Recourse to Public Funds

Women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are being denied access to safe refuge accommodation because refuges are dependent on government funding. These women are not eligible for benefits, such as housing benefit whilst in refuge, and prohibited from employment.

More women with NRPF escaping domestic violence will face homelessness, sleeping rough, hardship and complete poverty. They are also at risk of losing their children as they have no means to support them and in some cases, they risk losing their lives.

The government has provided funding for a pilot project, which provides financial

assistance to women who entered the UK on a spousal visa and who have experienced domestic violence. In welcoming this pilot, we have found that few women seeking our support have fallen within the very limited parameters of the funding criteria.

Women's Aid is willing and committed to providing support, emergency accommodation and assistance for all women and children who are victims of domestic violence however we are severely limited in our capacity to do so due to a lack of funding and resources.

Women's Aid calls on the Social Security Agency to address urgently their policies and procedures on the processing and payment of benefits in respect of women who have experienced domestic violence.

Women's Aid calls for an emergency fund to be set up by government to ensure that there is adequate financial support for all women who are victims of domestic violence, and who have no or limited access to public funds, to enable them to take refuge from their abusers.

Children and Young People

Women's Aid believe that every child living in a household where domestic violence is happening is a victim of abuse and is in need of protection and support services.



Women's Aid calls for a strategy to ensure that the essential support work with children and young people is properly resourced with sustainable funding streams dedicated to these areas.

The consequences of exposure to domestic violence can be enormous and far-reaching for children and young people.

At present there is a patchwork quilt of funding available to Women's Aid and other organisations across Northern Ireland for essential support work, with key areas of work under threat of closure due to lack of funding.

NI Policing Board

Last year, we contributed extensively to the Northern Ireland Policing Board Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee's Thematic Review on Domestic Violence. We were very pleased that the subsequent report contained many of our key recommendations. Women's Aid Federation NI has continued to engage with the NI Policing Board this year, as part of the one year review of the thematic, which will track the progress of the key recommendations contained in the original report.

Research

We are committed to engaging in research projects designed to expand the overall knowledge base surrounding the issue of domestic violence, particularly in Northern

Ireland. In addition to providing advice and support to undergraduates and post graduate students through our library facility, we have contributed to a number of research projects including:

Women's Experience of Violence: Mapping Experiences and Responses

January 2010 saw the launch of a pilot study entitled, "Women's Experience of Violence: Mapping Experiences and Responses" by Anne McMurray. The research was commissioned by the Women's Centre Regional Partnership and funded by the Department for Social Development. Women's Aid Federation NI was a member of the Steering Group.

A number of Women's Aid groups participated in the snapshot online survey carried out in September 2009. The findings highlighted some significant patterns of behaviour and issues both for policy makers and service providers.

Domestic Violence & Disability

Women's Aid Federation is currently working with Disability Action NI and Queen's University Belfast, on a valuable study of domestic violence and the experiences of disabled women in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that the first stage of the project will begin in autumn 2010.

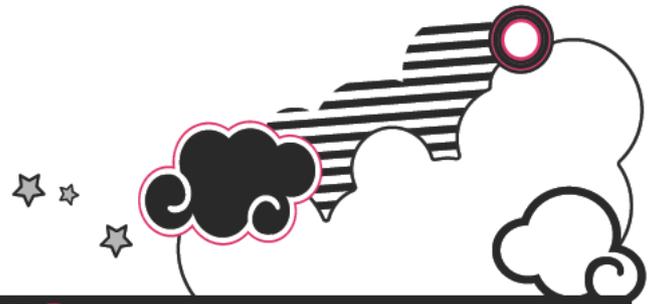
Gillian Clifford, Women's Aid Federation NI's Regional Policy and Information Co-ordinator, is a member of Queen's University's Domestic Violence Special Interest Group, which brings together stakeholders and interested parties to update on existing research, identify gaps in knowledge and to explore potential research opportunities.

POLICY RESPONSES

During the period from March 2009 – April 2010, we responded to 16 policy consultations drawing on the expertise of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland:

- NIO: A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: Next Steps
- The Department of Finance & Personnel: Review of 2010-2011 Spending Plans for Northern Ireland Departments
- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2012
- OFMDFM: Consultation on a Commissioner for Older People in Northern Ireland
- The Public Prosecution Service: Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Rape
- The Department of Education Northern Ireland: Every School a Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion
- Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Consultation on Proposals for the Funding Code
- DSD: Join in, Get involved: Build a Better Future – A Consultation Paper on a Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland
- NIO: Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland: The Recommendations of the Consultative Group on the Past
- Northern Ireland Court Service: Proposal to Increase the Use of Postal Service for Summonses in Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates Court
- DHSS&PS: Legislative Framework for mental capacity and mental health legislation in Northern Ireland
- DOE: Local Government Reform Establishment of Transition Committees in Statue
- NIO: Local Partnership Working on Policing & Community Safety: A Way Forward
- NIO: Draft Strategy for the Management of Women Offenders in Northern Ireland
- NIO: Special Measures: An Evaluation and Review
- NIO: Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

In addition to these responses we contributed, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) to the Rural White Paper which is due to be available for public consultation in autumn 2010. Women's Aid wanted to ensure that the document addressed the issue of domestic violence and violence against women in rural communities in Northern Ireland.



REGIONAL TRAINING

Training Team

- Sarah Mason - Finance and Training Manager
- Debbie Mehaffy - Children & Young Person's Development worker
- Joanne Kelly - Regional Trainer

- Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence. The aim of the work of Women's Aid Federation is to develop effective local support and prevention strategies for women, children and young people affected by domestic violence.

..... Training is a vital part of the work of Women's Aid Federation, both internally for staff development across Northern Ireland and externally raising awareness of domestic violence and Women's Aid services.

The last year has been a busy year within training, with promotion of specialised training programmes to the ten local Women's Aid groups and external agencies throughout Northern Ireland.

Women's Aid has also continued to positively contribute to Skills for Justice in the development and implementation of new National Occupational Standards (NOS) for preventing and tackling domestic and sexual abuse/violence.



Accredited Training Provided

- OCN level 3 New Worker Training
- OCN level 3 Court Support Training
- OCN level 3 Group Work & Facilitation Skills
- OCN level 3 Effective Helping Skills
- Protective Behaviours – accredited by PBUK
- Keeping Safe Child Protection – endorsed by Volunteer Development Agency

Accredited Training

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is an accredited centre with Open College Network (OCN) and continues to effectively deliver accredited courses at level 3. Quality procedures include regular standardisation meetings and ongoing recruitment of new assessors and verifiers.

Internal Training Delivered

April 09-March 2010

Training	Accreditation	Duration	Content	Numbers Attended
New Worker Training	OCN Level 3	6 Days	Core training for all staff, including impact of domestic violence on children and young people	54
Court Support Training	OCN Level 3	6 Days	Develop relevant skills to competently support women through the court process	21
Group Work & Facilitation Skills	OCN Level 3	6 Days	Includes theoretical and practical aspects of group work and facilitation skills	8
Impact of DV on Children & Young People		1 Day	Raise awareness of impact of DV on children and young people	11
Protective Behaviours	PB UK Foundation Certificate	2 Days	A proactive and empowering programme to promote a practical approach to personal safety	21
Keeping Safe Child Protection	Certificate	2 days	This programme reflects Women's Aid Child Protection policy & procedures	53
Prevention Strategies	PB UK Foundation Certificate	4 Days	Outlines best practice delivery of Women's Aid preventative programmes. Includes Protective Behaviours and Impact of DV on Children and Young People	11
You and Me, Mum Train the Trainers		2 Days	Develop skills to facilitate delivery of You and Me, Mum, 10 week self help programme	6
Helpline Volunteer Training (Induction & Shadowing)		6 Months	Develop Skills, ability and knowledge to effectively work on the 24 hour Domestic Violence helpline	16
Managing Challenging Behaviour	Delivered by - ImpactNi	1 Day	Meets Supporting People QAF requirements. Includes dynamic risk assessment, ways to identify anger, aggression, de-escalate violence, incident reporting.	12
Girl Power		1 Day	Increases awareness of causes of low self esteem and explores and promotes practical ways to empower young women.	13

Comic Relief

This joint initiative has created an excellent opportunity for networking with other UK Federations in England, Scotland and Wales as part of a Comic Relief funded project. There are three agreed outcomes for the project which aims to produce a core curriculum for domestic violence training which takes account of the different roles and needs within the sector.

Outcome One

A core curriculum for domestic and sexual violence training will be agreed across the UK, ensuring a consistent approach to meeting the training needs of staff in all relevant sectors.

Outcome Two

Women's Aid staff will be supported through continuing professional development (CPD) to offer the best possible services to women, children and young people with experience of domestic abuse.

Outcome Three

A network of qualified and accredited trainers will be resourced to deliver training to meet the needs of staff in all relevant sectors.

One of the key achievements has been the sharing of training materials, policies, procedures and best practice across all Federations. Women's Aid Federation NI is also working with Open College Network and the Scottish, Welsh and English Women's Aid Federations to develop further accredited units. This project also involves working with Skills For Justice to implement the new National Occupational Standards for Domestic and Sexual Abuse.

We are currently in Year two of a two year contract and are delighted that due to the success of this initiative Comic Relief has agreed to commit a further two years funding for 2010-2012.

External Training Delivered - April 09 – March 2010

Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children and Young People delivered to:

- **Victim Support Volunteers – 12 participants**
- **Eastern Childcare Partnership- 3 events - 34 participants**
- **Regional Training Unit (RTU) Stranmillis Summer School – 27 participants**

Prevention Strategies (4days) delivered to

- **Mayo Children's Initiatives - 13 Participants**

Women's Aid is committed to providing quality training to agencies that in the course of their work come into contact with women and children affected by domestic violence. The aim of our training is to develop the skills and capacity of organisations to respond more effectively to victims of domestic violence.

PSNI Training

We continue to successfully co-ordinate and deliver domestic violence awareness training to PSNI (Police Service Northern Ireland) recruits. A pool of qualified Women's Aid trainers delivers this valuable training which has a direct impact on police response to domestic violence.

In the last year over 450 PSNI recruits received training from qualified staff.

In addition, staff from Women's Aid local groups also deliver training locally to PSNI and other statutory bodies.

Regional Training Initiatives with Local Women's Aid Groups

In the last year trainers throughout Women's Aid have come together on initiatives to develop materials and deliver training to:

- PSNI recruits
- Teacher training within Stranmillis College on 'The Impact Of Domestic Violence on Children & Young People'
- Eastern Childcare Partnership- Supporting those working in Early Years in understanding 'The Impact Of Domestic Violence on Children & Young People'
- Developing specialised prevention programmes aimed at children and young people within the school setting i.e. Helping Hands and Heading for Healthy Relationships

Awareness Raising

We also participate in awareness raising events to ensure that domestic violence is identified as a major issue and should be highlighted within work based policies and staff training.

Events that took place this year included:

- Nursing in Practice Kings Hall event
 - Domestic Violence Can Seriously Damage your Health
 - Approx 123 delegates in attendance
- Nipsa/DARD conference with Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh Women's Aid
 - Domestic Violence in the Work Place
 - Approx 50 delegates in attendance





Preventative Education Project

.....
Women's Aid believes that preventative education work with all children and young people in schools and community settings is essential to ensure that attitudes within society are changed to the point where domestic violence is unacceptable and no child or young person is left without information or support.
.....

This is year two of a three-year project funded by the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit at the DHSS&PS. In April 2009 we put in a successful match funding bid with the Department of Education to further support this work in schools.

Women's Aid have been facilitating preventative education programmes at primary and post primary levels for over ten years; the two programmes delivered are:

- Helping Hands – Primary School
- No Fear (Heading for Healthy Relationships) – Post-Primary

This work was carried out at different levels by local groups and in most instances no secure funding supported this direct work in schools. Therefore the main object of this project was to map the current situation, address the gaps, review the material and develop a strategic way forward to ensure all children and young people in Northern Ireland have access to these programmes.

The project was broken down into three stages:

Stage One: Mapping the Project

Stage Two: Review, design of packs and training programmes

Stage Three: Direct School work

Stage One: Mapping the Project

The mapping exercise was carried out across all ten Local Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland and the following table illustrates the findings:

Primary School

No of Primary Schools in NI 2008-09	Helping Hands delivered in schools 2008-09	Percentage 2008-09
873	72	8.2%

- This very clearly highlighted the extent of the gap in primary schools and when analysed the approximate cost of Women's Aid directly delivering Helping Hands in 873 primary schools each year was £1.1million.
- Agreement was reached between the Department of Education and Women's Aid to build the capacity of teachers in primary schools to directly deliver the Helping Hands programme.
- A new programme – Social Guardian training was developed to support this work with teachers.

Aims of Social Guardian Training

- To assist teachers to understand the context and impact of domestic violence in the lives of children and their families.
- To assist teachers to develop preventative and early intervention strategies in relation to children who do not feel safe, specifically children affected by domestic violence.
- To enable teachers to deliver the Helping Hands Programme linked to the curriculum.

Post Primary School

No of Post-Primary Schools in NI 2008-09	No Fear delivered in schools 2008-09	Percentage 2008-09
223	57	25.6%

- The gap at secondary level was not as great but this was due mainly to the smaller number of schools.

Stage Two: Review, Design of packs and training programmes

This year the following outcomes were achieved:

- Helping Hands and Heading for Healthy Relationships – Workshops across Women's Aid took place to review, update and redesign the material.
- Both training packs have been mapped to the Curriculum.
- Heading for Healthy Relationships was reviewed extensively and therefore required a pilot process with Secondary schools to evaluate the changes. This was successfully piloted in December 2009.

Stage Three – Direct School Work

The Social Guardian training was developed with our ten local groups and completed this year. We are on schedule to begin rolling out this training at primary school level next year.





You and Me, Mum

.....

This year was year two of a three year project funded by the DHSS&PS Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit for three years.

The aim of this programme is to empower, support and develop further understanding of the role of mothers throughout Northern Ireland in addressing the needs of their children and young people who have lived with domestic violence.

Women's Aid believes through its ethos that building the resilience of children and young people is essential. Year two delivered a successful roll out of the programme throughout Women's Aid in Northern Ireland and we continue to address the set project outcomes.

.....

“Glad I did the programme, I feel a lot stronger and more competent as a mother” mother after completing You and Me, Mum

Project Target One

To develop and implement a roll out plan to ten Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland through the You and Me, Mum Train the Trainers programme

Aim of Training

To introduce facilitators to You and Me, Mum – a ten week self help programme.

Project Outcome One

Women's Aid Group	Total Number of Facilitators
Antrim, Ballymena, C'Fergus Larne & Newtownabbey	6
Belfast & Lisburn	20
Causeway	7
Cookstown & Dungannon	5
Craigavon & Banbridge	4
Fermanagh	7
Foyle	11
Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh	11
North Down & Ards	4
Omagh	3
Helpline Staff	2
Total	80

By the end of this programme you will be able to

- Further explore the effects of domestic violence on a mother
- Further explore the effects of domestic violence on children and young people
- Further explore the mother /child relationship dynamic, when domestic violence is prevalent
- Promote and develop effective communication skills with mothers, children and young people
- Promote healthy and non-violent relationships
- Explore key Protective Behaviour messages and strategies for keeping mothers, children & young people safe.

Since the commencement of Train the Trainers for You and Me, Mum we have **trained 80 Women's Aid facilitators throughout Northern Ireland** to deliver the You and Me, Mum programme to mothers. We continue to monitor and evaluate the programme and offer facilitator training to Women's Aid staff on an on-going basis.



“Loved it! Vitally important to share this with as many women as possible” Women's Aid staff member

.....

Project Target Two

Access to You and Me, Mum programme throughout Women's Aid Groups in Northern Ireland, through a ten week programme for mothers.

Aim of training:

To improve the lives of mothers and their children who have suffered domestic violence.

Project Outcome Two

Outcome Two Years	Total Number of You and Me, Mum Groups	Total Numbers of Mothers Attended	Total Number of Children & Young People Indirectly Supported
Year 1 2008/09	13	87	180
Year 2 2009/10	14	102	232
TOTAL	27	189	412

Thoughts from mothers who have taken part in the programme.

“This has opened my eyes and stopped me blaming myself”

.....

“It helped me understand the impact on my children”

.....

“Well worth doing I would recommend it to any woman, who has experienced domestic violence as a mother. I got a lot out of it”

.....

“I looked at myself and realised my family were as normal as the rest”



.....
*"I found it very worthwhile
and it has helped me look
at things differently"*

.....
*"The class made me realise there is light
at the end of the tunnel. We are not alone.
Having the support makes all the
difference"*

A major part of the direct delivery is on-going evaluations and more importantly, mothers feedback on the programme.

Q **When you meet another woman who's thinking of taking part in the programme I'll say.....**

.....
A *"You should go do the course,
very rewarding and helps a lot"*

.....
A *"Go for it - this course will give you
back your self esteem. I have learnt so
much about myself and my children.
It will give you back control of your life"*

.....
A *"It's the best thing you can
do for yourself and your children"*

.....
A *"Without hesitation go and empower
yourself and get the weight of your
shoulders"*

Staff Development Workshops

To further enhance the understanding and learning from delivering the You and Me, Mum programme, we have carried out two review workshops in the last year with **20 Women's Aid staff participating**. This has informed future training and supported staff who directly deliver the programme to mothers.

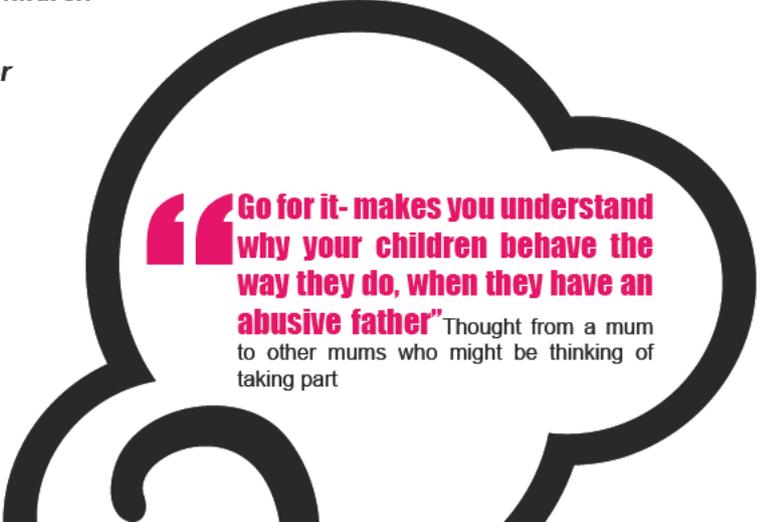
Project Outcome Three

Develop Good Practice guidelines on the delivery of You and me, Mum

Project Outcome Four

To have the programme externally evaluated

Within the last year a strategic working group was formed to support project outcomes three & four. Questionnaires were forwarded to all Local Women's Aid groups to gather information on the experience of delivering the programme to date. Data has now been collected and analysis will inform the strategic way forward for 2010- 2011 and support the development of the Good Practice Guidelines and the external evaluations.



Go for it- makes you understand why your children behave the way they do, when they have an abusive father" Thought from a mum to other mums who might be thinking of taking part



24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline

Helpline Team

Helpline Manager - Deirdre Teague
Volunteer Co-ordinator - Sonya Lutton
One full-time staff and nine part-time staff

The Helpline also has a pool of Bank staff who provide occasional cover and a committed volunteer team.



• The 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is managed by
• Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland and is open to
• anyone affected by domestic violence. This freephone
• service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

• This report covers the fourth successful year of the Service
• Level Agreement with Women’s Aid Federation Northern
• Ireland to manage the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline
• which is funded by the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit,
• DHSS&PS, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the

Community Safety Unit, NIO (now Department of Justice).

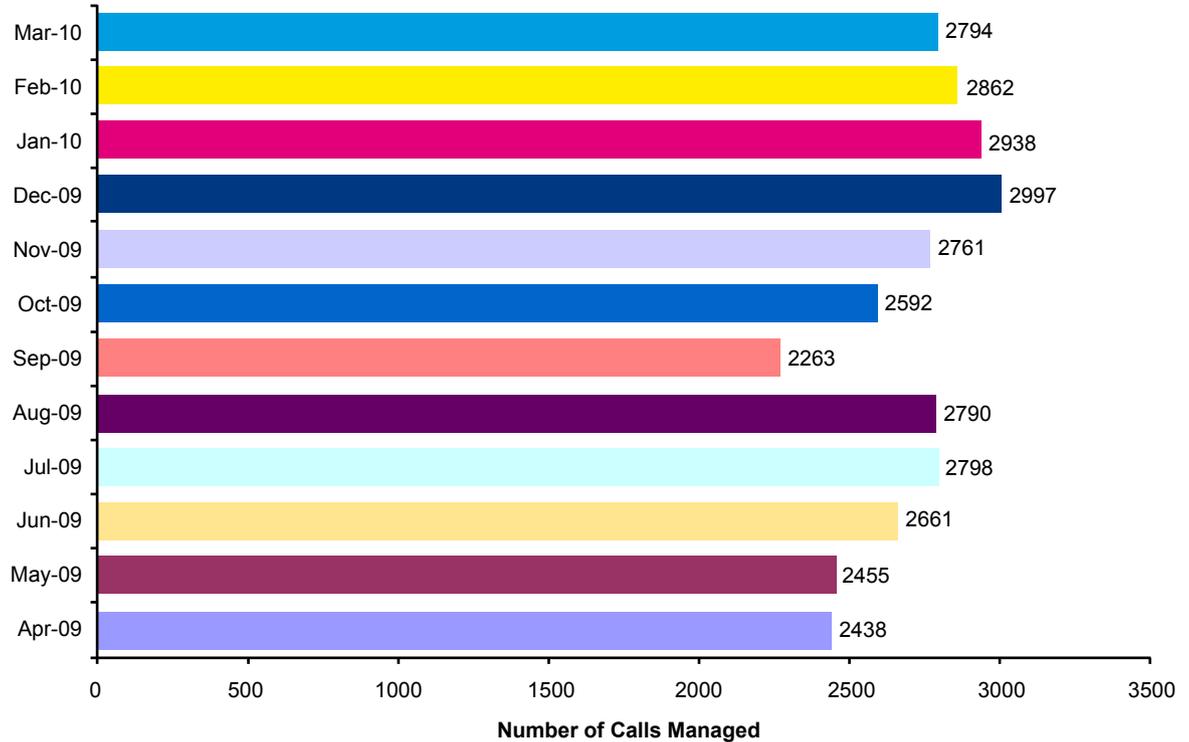
The Helpline is there for anyone affected by domestic violence, no matter where they live, whether it’s up a lane in an isolated part of rural Fermanagh, or in a busy town or city, no matter what time of the day or night it is, they can call the Helpline. They have no appointments to make, no travel to arrange, no distractions – they have the full attention and commitment of an experienced person dedicated solely to them.

This is a rare and valued experience for the majority of our callers whose sense of self-worth has been completely eroded by years of emotional abuse and fear.

Callers value the anonymous nature of our service. They have lived a life, often in humiliation, where facing another human being and telling their story for the first time, is an insurmountable step. Callers open up and tell us about the physical abuse and emotional abuse they experience. Once this trust is built up they mention sexual abuse which is often the most difficult to disclose.

.....
244,564 total calls managed by the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline from 1995 to 2010

Number of calls managed by Helpline: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



A total number of 32,349 calls were managed during the year.

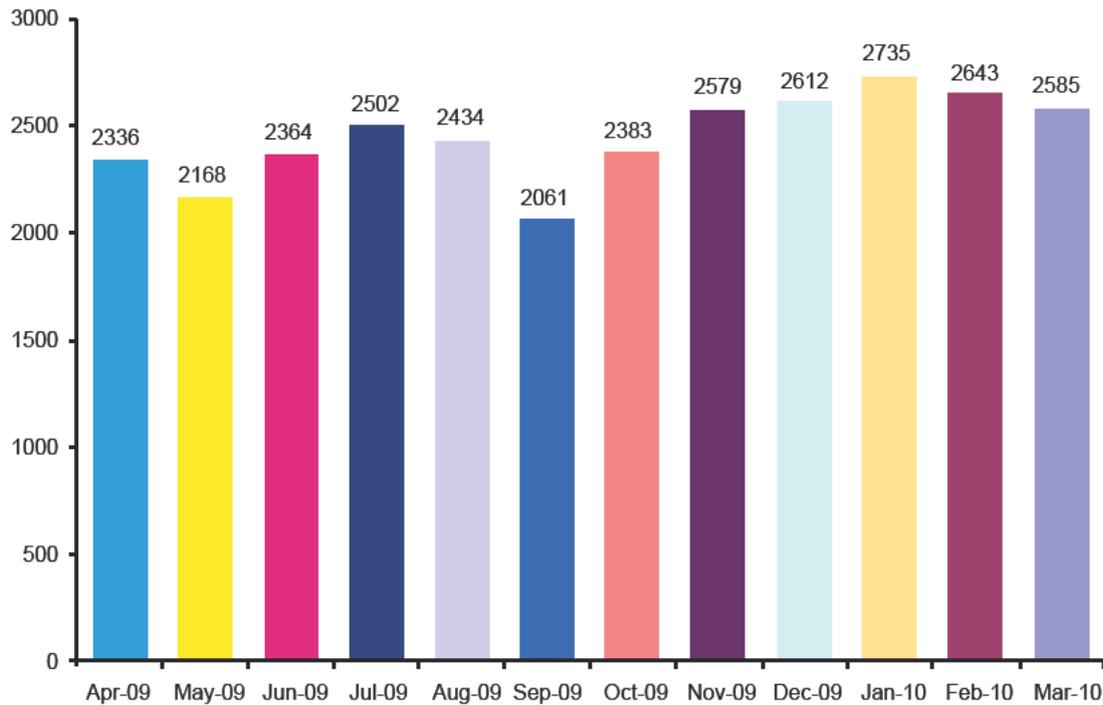
In the previous year, April 2008 - March 2009, the total was 27,663 calls managed.

This is an increase of 17% in calls managed.

(Calls managed include all calls answered and all calls made by Helpline staff to follow up specific support and advice. For example, arranging refuge accommodation for a woman may involve Helpline workers making a number of calls out.)

32,349 calls were managed by the 24-Hour Domestic violence Helpline between April 2009 – March 2010 - an increase of 17% on the previous year.

Number of calls answered by Helpline: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



A total number of 29,402 calls were answered during this year.

In the previous year the total number of calls answered was 25,469.



Strike Rate: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



The majority of callers to the service are from women, which reflects the levels of domestic violence experienced by women.

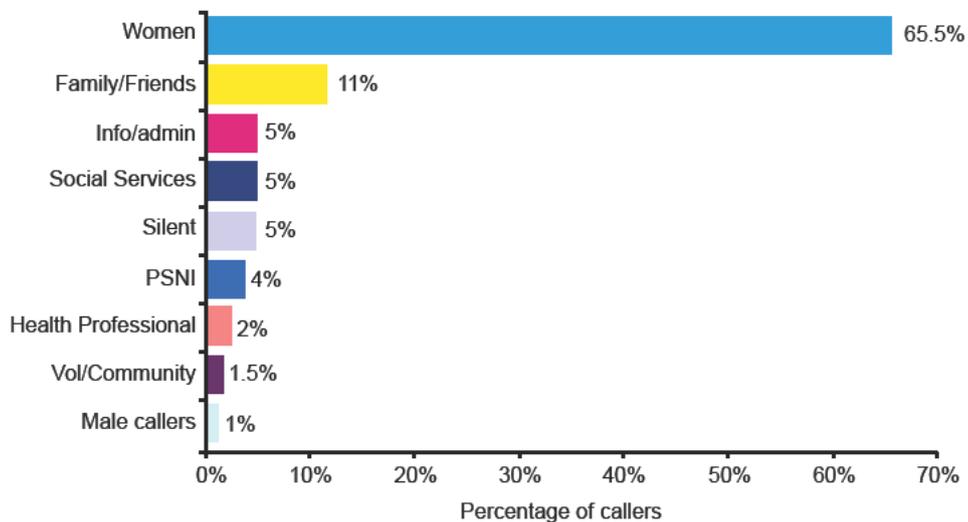
The strike rate is the percentage of incoming calls answered compared to the remaining percentage of incoming callers who find the line engaged.

The Helpline increased its strike rate throughout the year from 79% at the beginning of the year to 81%, which exceeds by 6% the Telephone Helplines Association recommended strike rate of 75%.

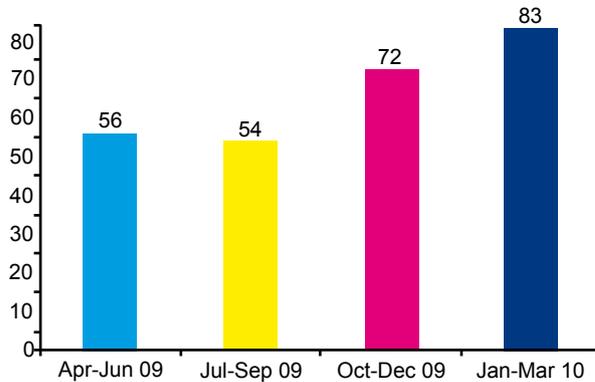
This table outlines the categories of callers to the Helpline.



Breakdown of callers: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



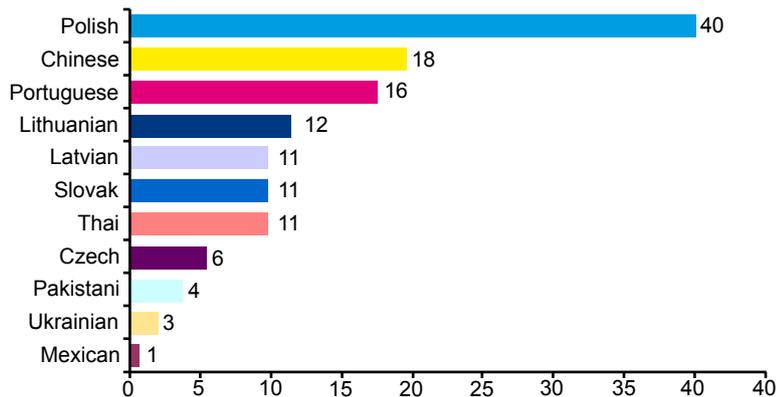
Male callers: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



A total of 265 male callers were signposted to Men's Advisory Project, Men's Action Network, Tara Centre, Aisling Centre and a variety of statutory and support services. This equates to 1% of calls answered. The total of male callers for the previous year was 239, an increase of 26 callers.

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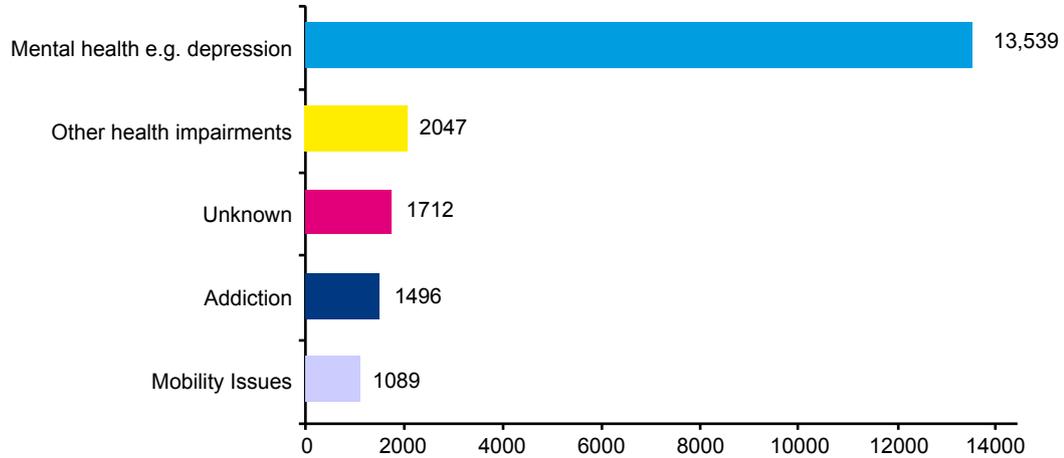
Calls from foreign nationals and black and minority ethnic women: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



A total of 133 calls to the service were from foreign nationals and black and minority ethnic women; the total for last year was 120. This equates to 0.5% of calls answered.

The Helpline uses the Language Line translation and interpretation service.

Health and well-being issues raised by women callers: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



- Mental health: anxiety, suicidal thoughts, panic attacks. A minority of callers have a diagnosed mental illness. (70% of callers)
- Other health impairments: epilepsy, diabetes. (10.5% of callers)
- Unknown: did not disclose. (9% of callers)
- Addiction: alcohol, illegal drugs, prescribed medication. (8% of callers)
- Mobility issues: difficulty walking, wheelchair user. (5.5% of callers)

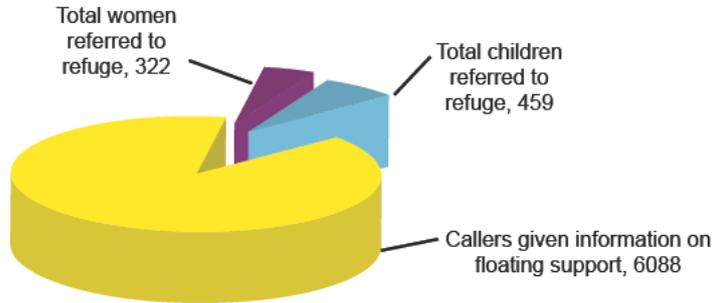
The majority of women callers to the Helpline have experienced a negative impact on their emotional well being as a result of domestic violence.

These categories may overlap e.g. mental health and addiction.

3,337 Hours contributed by volunteers to the Helpline

£31,702 is the total value of the volunteer hours worked in kind

Referrals to other Women's Aid services: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010

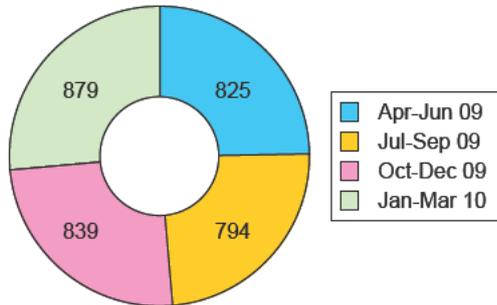


Floating Support is an outreach service to provide support to women victims of domestic violence to enable them to remain in their own homes.

During this period 6,088 callers were given information on Women's Aid floating support services, an increase from the total of 5,307 of the previous year, which is a rise of 15%.



Helpline Volunteers



Volunteers are a core part of the Helpline team: throughout the year they contributed a total of 3,337 hours to the service, an average of 9 hours per day, 365 days of the year.

Volunteers receive training in domestic violence awareness raising, listening skills, child protection, housing issues, legal options, signposting and the impact of domestic violence on children. The Helpline provides new volunteer training bi-annually, in January and September. Volunteering on the Helpline can be demanding but the reward is in knowing that they are part of a team which delivers an essential service.

Helpline calls have increased, with three lines open during busy periods, which would not be possible without the valuable contribution made by our volunteers.



WOMEN'S AID LOCAL GROUPS

Regional Statistics

It is important to recognise that statistical data can never give the full picture of the impact on women and children of living with the devastating effects of domestic violence. Statistics can however give a brief snapshot of the work carried out by the ten local Women's Aid groups operating throughout Northern Ireland, who are members of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.

33 women were supported by Women's Aid in Northern Ireland during their pregnancies between 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010.

Number of Women and Children Staying in Refuge

A total of 1,077 women and 854 children stayed in Women's Aid refuges during this year. These figures have showed slight annual variations over the last few years. What remains constant is that on average every day in Northern Ireland another 5 women and children come to stay in refuge because they are not safe in their own homes.

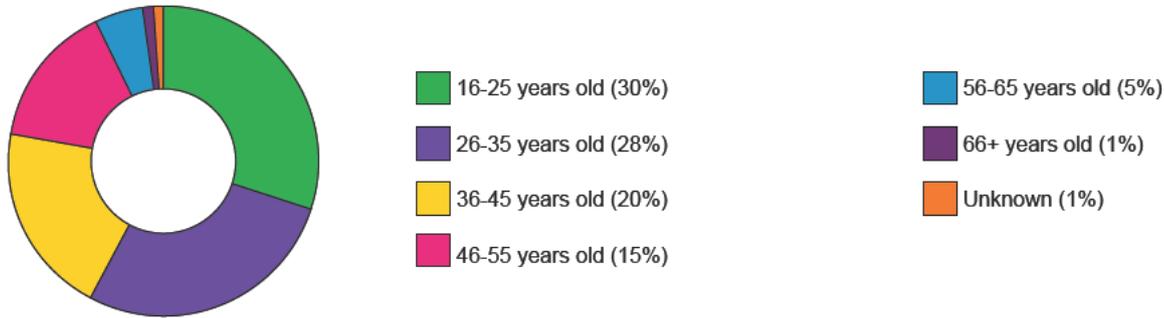
1,077

.....
Women stayed in refuges throughout Northern Ireland between April 2009 – March 2010

854

.....
Children stayed in refuges throughout Northern Ireland between April 2009 – March 2010

Age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010

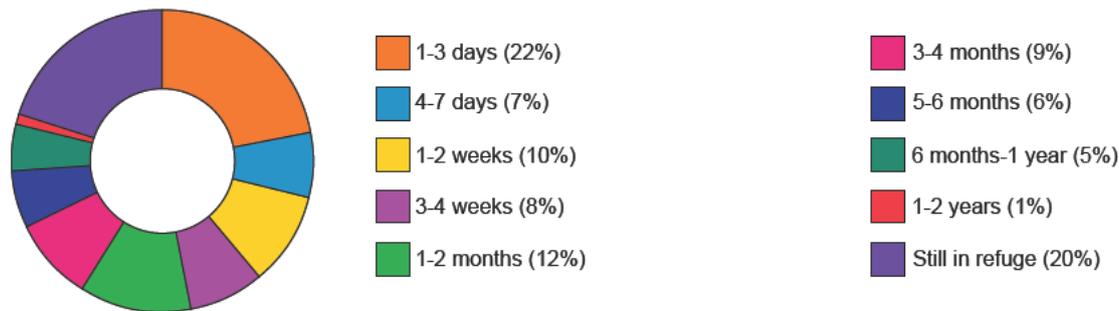


Age Range

The age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges in 2009/10 is illustrated above. The most predominant age group this year is the 16-25 year olds who represent 30% of all women staying in refuge this year. This is evidence of a disturbing trend towards women experiencing domestic violence at an increasingly young age. The second highest group are 26-35 year olds who made up 28% of those staying in refuge. Overall 78% of women in refuge this year were aged between 16 and 45 years old. However, domestic violence impacts all age groups in society. 15% of women were aged between 46-55 years old, with 5% aged between 56-65 years old. 1% of women in refuge in 2009/10 were aged 66 and over. 21% of women in refuge in Northern Ireland in 2009/10 were over the age of 46.

11 babies were born to women staying in refuges throughout Northern Ireland between April 2009 – March 2010

Length of stay of women & children in Women's Aid refuges: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010

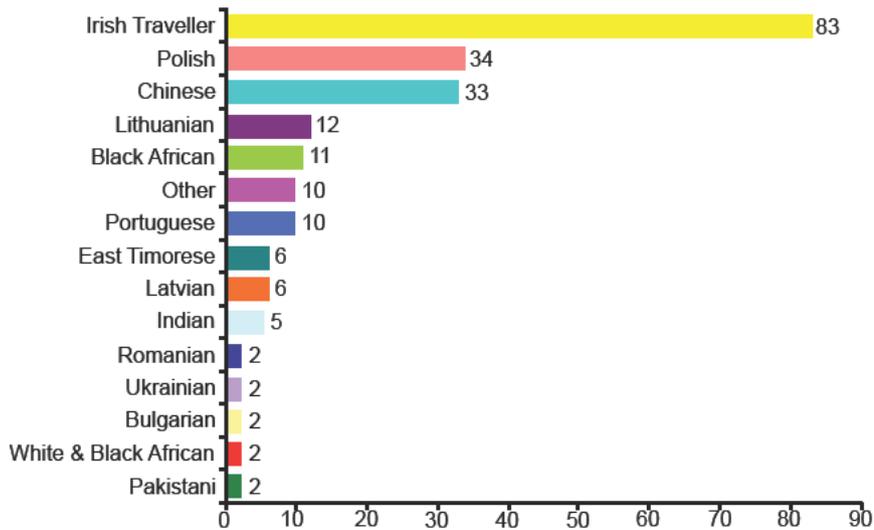


Black & Minority Ethnic Women

As Northern Ireland continues to become an increasingly diverse society, so Women's Aid has responded to the challenges of this changing environment. Women's Aid has published information leaflets in 7 different languages. In addition our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline uses the Language Line translation and interpretation service which all of our ten local Women's Aid groups can access. In 2009/10 220 women from black, minority and ethnic communities, including the travelling community, were accommodated in our local refuges. This represents an increase on 2008/09 from 190 women. 160 women from BME communities accessed floating support services. This figure also represents an increase from 74 women in 2008/09. Women's Aid is actively seeking ways to reach out to women and children who need our services in all communities and offer support.

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Women from black, minority and ethnic communities accommodated in Women's Aid Refuges: 1st April 2009 - 31st March 2010



**220 women from
BME communities
stayed in refuges**

160

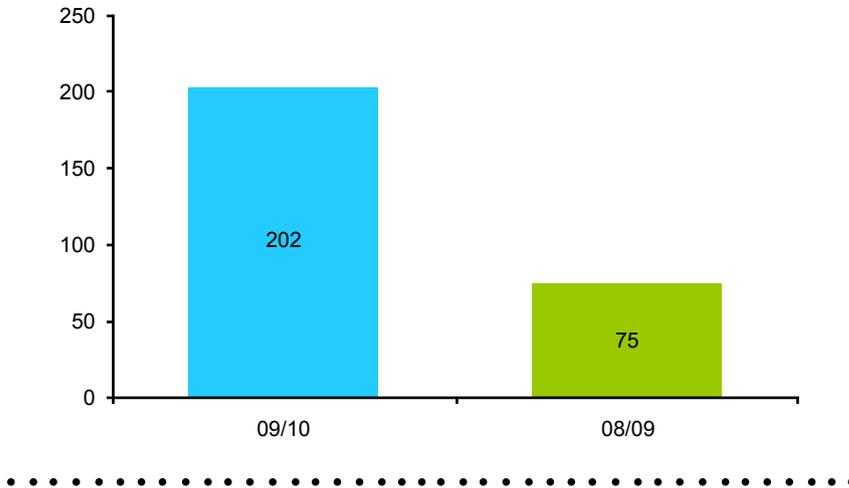
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**160 Women from black minority and ethnic communities
accessed our floating support services**

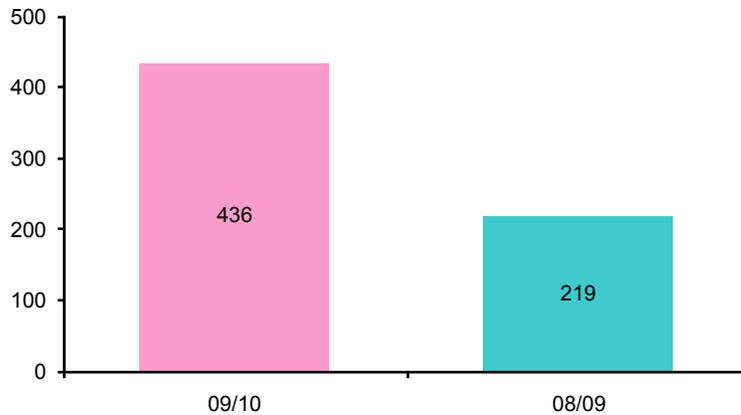
Disability

The number of women coming into our local refuges, who disclosed having a disability, including addictions, was 202. This represents a substantial increase from the figure of 75 in 2008/09. A further 436 women with a disability were helped through Floating Support.

Numbers of disabled women in refuge 2008/09 and 2009/10



Numbers of disabled women using Floating Support 2008/09 and 2009/10



Floating Support

The number of women accessing floating support and outreach work in Northern Ireland has continued to increase significantly. A total of 2,938 women accessed floating support during 2009/10 this represents a 4% increase on 2008/09. 4,489 children were indirectly supported through this service. This growing area of support enables women and their children to access support whilst remaining in their own homes and communities. A wide range of agencies work together to access support for women experiencing domestic violence. As such referrals to floating support can come from a variety of sources including the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline. Among the agencies contacting Women's Aid to refer women to our services are:

- Youth Justice Agency
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Samaritans
- St Vincent de Paul
- Health Visitors
- Mental Health Services
- Community Practice Nurse
- Social Workers
- Solicitors
- Other Voluntary Organisations
- PSNI

2,938

.....
Women were supported through Floating Support throughout Northern Ireland between April 2009 – March 2010

4,489

.....
Children were indirectly supported through Floating Support throughout Northern Ireland between April 2009 – March 2010

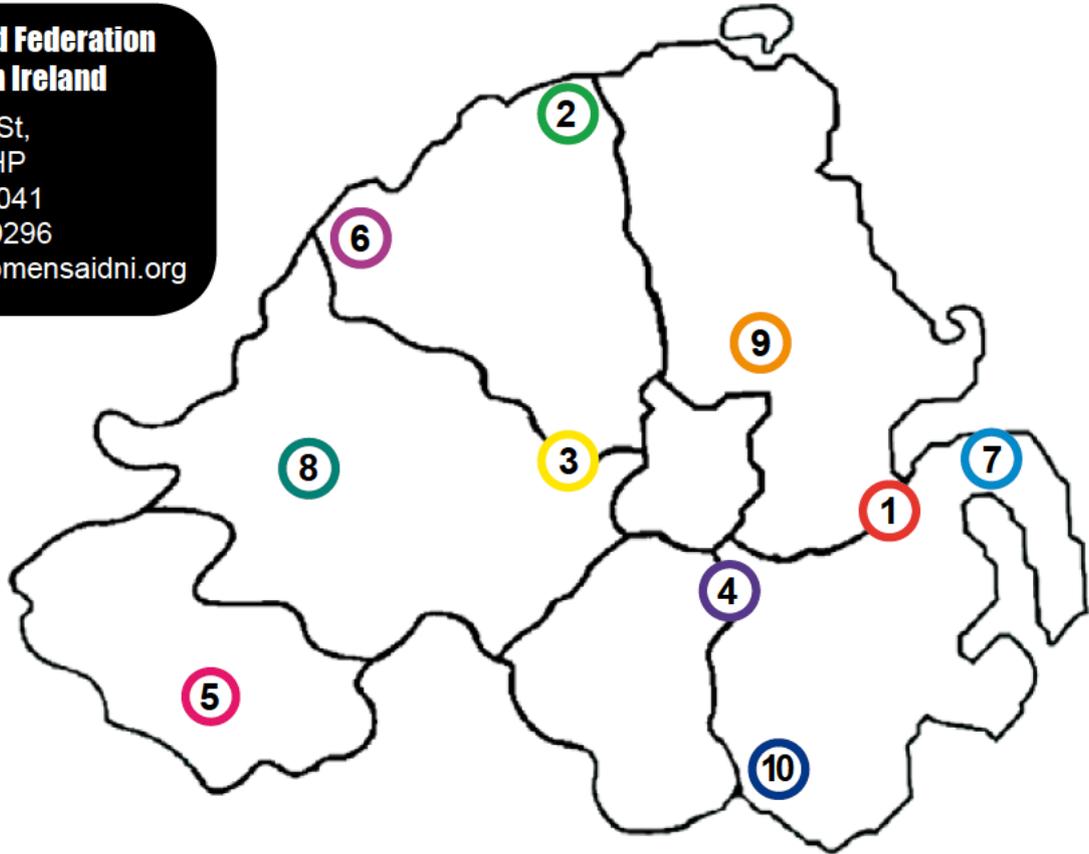
333 Children used Women's Aid crèche facilities throughout Northern Ireland in 2009/10.



WOMEN'S AID LOCAL GROUPS

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

129 University St,
Belfast, BT7 1HP
tel: 028 9024 9041
fax: 028 9023 9296
email: info@womensaidni.org



24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414

open to anyone affected by domestic violence

1. Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY
tel: 028 9066 6049, fax: 028 9068 2874
email: admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk
web: www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk

2. Causeway Women's Aid

23 Abbey Street, Coleraine, BT52 1DU
tel: 028 7035 6573, fax: 028 7032 6949
email: womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com

3. Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid

27 Old Coagh Road, Cookstown, BT80 8QG
tel: 028 8676 9300, fax: 028 8676 9300
email: womensaidcookstown@hotmail.com
web: www.cookstownwomensaid.org.uk

4. Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid

Office 1, Floor 1, Legahory Centre, Craigavon
BT65 5BE
tel: 028 3834 3256, fax: 028 3832 2277
email: info@cabwa.org.uk

5. Fermanagh Women's Aid

27a High Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7DQ
tel: 028 6632 8898, fax: 028 6632 8859
email: womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com

6. Foyle Women's Aid

Pathways, 24 Pump Street, Derry, BT48 6JG
tel: 028 7128 0060, fax: 028 7128 0061
email: marie.brown@foylewomensaid.org
web: www.foylewomensaid.org

7. North Down & Ards Women's Aid

18 Bingham Street, Bangor, BT20 5DW
tel: 028 9127 3196, fax: 028 9145 5245
email: ndawomensaid@hotmail.com
web: www.ndawa.org

8. Omagh Women's Aid

27 Market Street, Omagh, BT78 1EL
tel: 028 8224 1414, fax: 028 8224 1414
email: jill@omaghwomensaid.org

9. Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

2 Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DF
tel: 028 2563 2136, fax: 028 2565 3304
email: womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com
web: www.womens-aid.org.uk

10. Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh

7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road, Newry BT34 1DZ
tel: 028 3025 0765, fax: 028 3026 9606
email: newrywomensaid@btconnect.com
web: www.womensaidnewry.co.uk



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

Governance

- Throughout the year Belfast and Lisburn responded to the continuing high level of demand for refuge, floating support, and children and young people's work from across a large urban and rural population and geographical spread. This year we strengthened our governance structures and recruited new women to the Management Committee who bring new skills that complement existing skills to help us plan and manage into the future and uncertain times.

One Stop Shop

- Our two One Stop Shops, one in Belfast established in 2007, and one in Downpatrick established in 2008, have proven to be a crucial resource for women providing information, advice, and support on a range of domestic violence issues on an interagency basis in the one location. From January 2007-June 2010 820 women used the service. Agencies supporting the One Stop Shops are the PSNI, NI Housing Executive, solicitors and Advice and Benefits Agency.

PSNI Support Workers

- Funding was secured until March 2011 for two PSNI Support Workers located in Belfast Policing Districts A and B Public Protection Units. Through early intervention these posts are ensuring that women get protection, safety and support quickly through Women's Aid and other appropriate services at the point of crisis, with follow up contact that includes support through the civil and criminal justice systems. An independent evaluation is showing that this early intervention is having an impact on the level of repeat crime/incident and victimisation.

Domestic Violence Partnership

- As a key member of the Belfast Trust Domestic Violence Partnership, we provide support and management functions to the Partnership Co-ordinator who is located with one of our teams and have contributed to the development of the strategic and operational plan and action targets, for example Workplace Policy seminars with Business in the Community and Partnership member agencies.

Restructuring

- Ongoing work with North Down and Ards Women's Aid to explore the feasibility of a number of options to restructure as part of the Women's Aid restructuring process.

Causeway Women's Aid

Sustaining the services

- This year Causeway Women's Aid services have been sustained and developed across the Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle District Council areas allowing us to meet a range of needs. We have a high demand for volunteer placements to augment our staff team of twenty staff and have made links with Magee University to ensure Social Work placements which has been a real bonus to our work.
- We currently provide a refuge, floating support, outreach support, Sure Start project, crèche, children's project, advice services and a range of training opportunities.

Big Lottery

- The end of 2009-2010 brought the fantastic news that we had secured four years funding for five staff from the Big Lottery Fund which allows for support for women across our full geographical area, training in personal development, essential skills, Domestic Violence programmes and has the all important crèche provision to facilitate access to these.

Preventative education

- It is also important to note, however, that our very well used Preventative Education programme has come to an end due to the lack of ongoing funding and it is a reminder that work that is in high demand and has excellent evaluations cannot always be guaranteed financial support.

Restructuring

- The Women's Aid restructuring process has led to plans for future partnership working with Foyle Women's Aid and this

has highlighted a number of ways for us to support each other and share skills and knowledge. The full Causeway Women's Aid team intend to face the future with dedication and determination because the women and children who use our services deserve no less.

Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid

International Women's Day

- Dr Janet Gray MBE, the World Disabled Water Ski Champion, winner of the NI Sports Personality of the Year award, novelist and motivational speaker was one of the guests at our International Women's Day celebrations. In conjunction with the local District Policing Partnership and the PSNI, we held a very successful event at Corick House in Clogher, a beautiful setting where over 150 women were treated to free pampering sessions, jewellery making and flower arranging demonstrations. Other guest speakers included Anne McMurray, who conducted a pilot study on 'Women's Experiences of Violence'.

Christmas winner

- Children living in the refuge over Christmas took part in the Christmas Card design competition across Women's Aid run for Minister Paul Goggins, MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. We were delighted when one of our little boys aged just 5 won and his picture was made into a Christmas card which was the official Northern Ireland Office card for Christmas 2009. The family received a large framed plaque of the Christmas card including a personal letter from Paul Goggins, MP.

'Bee Safe'

- In addition to the facilitation of protective

behaviours and prevention programmes in both primary and post primary schools, we were involved in two Community Safety 'Bee Safe' programmes in which a total of 945 primary school children from 39 schools participated. Information was shared with the children on the three themes of the 'Helping Hands' programme which increases children's understanding of feeling safe.

Outside Play area

- Towards the end of this financial year we received a welcome small one off grant from Children in Need to prepare an outdoor area at our Resource Centre for children to play and to erect outdoor play equipment. The funding also covered the installation of an outside access door to the play area.

Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid

Training

- During the year of 09/10 Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid staff team attended training for Protective Behaviours and Child Protection. A number of team members also attended MARAC training and assist training.

Staff changes

- During this period we had a period of staff changes, with some team members moving on, including the Senior Manager. During this period we recruited a Senior refuge worker and Housekeeper and secured the posts of our current staff.

Big Lottery

- We were delighted to be successful in our lottery application which secured the outreach service funding for 3 years. Arrangements were started to recruit

workers for three new outreach posts. We also received welcome funding for a full time child worker from Children in Need. Our team also held a number of bag packing days in Sainsburys and Tesco to raise additional needed funds.

Programmes

- We ran You & Me Mum and Journey to Freedom Programmes this year and celebrated the success of these programmes and the women who completed them by holding a presentation day for the women on International Women's Day.

Refuge

- We were delighted to be able to modernise our refuge kitchens with new tables, chairs and blinds, in keeping with our commitment to make our refuge a welcoming environment for women and their children.

Fermanagh Women's Aid

Rural accessibility

- We have had a very busy successful year in terms of activity.
- 246 women engaged in our floating support services which involved many miles of travel for our staff. Living in a rural area means that accessibility of service can be difficult and we pride ourselves in the efforts we make to reach rural women.

Ministerial visits

- Michelle Gildernew, MP, MLA, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development visited our Children's Services workers at our "whacky art" sessions, this is the grand finale piece of work for our children when they have completed Helping Hands, the preventative education programme which helps keep children safe.

Arlene Foster, MLA, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment presented the winners of our Tesco art competition with their prizes.

The support of our local MLA's and Ministers is greatly valued by Fermanagh Women's Aid.

In total 102 children availed of one to one work while 1098 engaged in our prevention work

Personal Development

- A total of 43 women engaged in personal development courses. These courses consisted of environmental art, creative writing and art; all of them greatly enhanced the lives of the women who had taken part.

Restructuring

- Our involvement in the Women's Aid restructuring process continues as we engage in our due diligence exercises. Staff and the Board of Directors look forward to the future of improved rural services with excitement and a very strong sense of commitment.

Foyle Women's Aid

Rise in need

- During this year Foyle Women's Aid saw once again a significant rise in the numbers of women and children using both our accommodation and outreach services.

Common Purpose

- We won an award with Common Purpose to have two PriceWaterhouseCooper partners come and help us with their professional expertise to co-ordinate financial planning in line with our new strategy which will be implemented within the next five years.

Secret Garden

- We held the official opening of our Secret Garden in Ashleywood House made possible as a result of winning the People's Millions Big Lottery competition. The garden has drawn praise from across Northern Ireland and beyond and is an oasis of peace for the women and children we support.

Training & Funding

- We successfully implemented ILM Management Training and qualifications for all senior staff. We were delighted to secure funding from Neighbourhood Renewal for the roll out of Criminal Justice Workers in Foyle.

North Down & Ards Women's Aid

Refuge Refurbishment

- In March 2010 we began a programme of substantial refurbishment for the interior of the refuge. The refuge has been painted and carpets and bedroom furniture have been replaced.

The improvements to the interior of refuge were very welcomed by both service users and staff. The refuge now provides women and their children with more relaxing and comfortable accommodation. We were generously funded in this work by PSNI- Newtownards. During this year refuge provided accommodation to 32 women and 37 children.

Floating Support

- During this year our Floating Support service continued to remain busy, providing support to 67 women. The Floating Support Team moved offices during this year, to newer premises within the centre of Newtownards which will help us ensure access to our services across the whole area we cover.

Services to Children and Young People

- These services continue to be a primary focus of our work, with “Transformers” and “Helping Hands” very well attended throughout the year.

Schools Prevention Programme

- These programmes continue to be very successful as in previous years, with an increase in number of pupils attending classes. The numbers of primary school pupils attending “Helping Hands” was 648 and secondary school pupils attending “Heading for Healthy Relationships” was 1224. Feedback from these programmes remains consistently positive.

Residential

- Staff, Management Committee and Volunteers enjoyed a weekend away to explore strategic planning. This weekend also provided the opportunity for staff, management committee and volunteers to spend time together and to strengthen team relationships.

Omagh Women’s Aid

MARAC

- Staff at Omagh Women’s Aid were kept busy with several new regional initiatives, including the long-awaited roll out of the MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference).

Women’s Aid regional reviews

- Internally within Women’s Aid we participated in an internal review of Client Link – our data gathering IT system, a strategic review of Women’s Aid’s preventative education programmes and ongoing Women’s Aid’s plans for restructuring.

Raising the Standards

- Members of the senior management team travelled to Jersey in May for the Raising the Standards conference. It was a great opportunity to learn from our near neighbours from right across the British Isles of new initiatives in the fight against domestic violence and the protection of women and children.

Back at home, we continued our partnership working and continued to highlight the issue of domestic Violence and its impact on women and children in a number of forums and partnerships. In June, our team leader was elected as vice-chair of Omagh Community Safety Partnership.

International cross-learning conference

- In December, our team leader was invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin to present a paper at a cross-learning conference in Dilli, Timor Leste on UNSCR1325. There she met delegates from Liberia, Timor Leste, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland who came together to learn from each other on the theme of protection and Violence Against Women.

Women’s Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

Naomi Centre

- This has been a year of great opportunities and a time for seeing the culmination of long held dreams and aspirations become a reality. In June 2009 NIO Minister Paul Goggins, MP officially opened the Naomi Centre, the Women’s Aid Resource Centre in Ballymena, made possible through a welcome funding package from the NIO.

The Northern Health & Social Care Trust are renting office accommodation in the Naomi Centre providing a “one stop shop” response to victims together with sustainability for the organisation through income.

Stormont Charter

- On 25th November 2009 the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is the first day of the 16 Days of Action against VAW, we presented a White Ribbon Charter signed by all 108 MLA's to Mr. William Hay, MLA, Speaker of the Stormont Assembly. This Charter will hang in Parliament Buildings on public display with a copy hanging in the entrance lobby of the Naomi Centre. The pledge declares that each individual commits to “never commit, condone or stay silent about violence against women”.

White Ribbon Champions

- On 30th November at our event in Larne to mark White Ribbon Champions: One Year On, a young champion Matthew McConkey presented NIO Minister Paul Goggins, MP with 5,660 signatures to our campaign collected across the area during the previous year. Speakers on the night included C/S Alan McCrum PSNI, Mervyn Storey MLA, Karen Weir PPS and Stephen Compton AEA.

Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh

Community Support

- Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh this year has experienced huge support from our local community through local business and individuals

providing support through financial help. We have received extremely generous donations both throughout the year and especially at Christmas when we launched the Mystery Santa box appeal for women and children accessing our services.

Volunteer founder

- We were proud and sad when one of our longest serving volunteers, and a founder member of the organisation, retired. Many thanks is due to Patricia Fegan and we wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Zero tolerance

- Throughout the year we have kept up a constant media campaign to highlight the issue of domestic and sexual violence. We have continued our Zero Tolerance campaign by holding a proactive seminar along with the District Policing Partnership on International Women's Day with the aim of shining the spotlight firmly on encouraging more social awareness of violence and abuse in the home.

White Ribbon

- Another important event was held during this year in Newry City – The White Ribbon Campaign – and we were delighted to see all our local MLA's, local ministers, local council and Mayor plus a large number of statutory and community representatives attend. I think we may have the most colourful White Ribbon Poster in Northern Ireland as each signatory seized the opportunity to sign their name in the colour of their choice!



FINANCE

Please note that the accounts that follow are an extract from the original document. A copy of the full accounts is available upon request by calling 028 9024 9041 or emailing info@womensaidni.org

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd

(Company Limited By Guarantee)

Extract from the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2010

Company Information

Management Board	Christine Whiteman (Chair) Lorna McAlpine (Vice-Chair) Anne McMahon (Secretary) Laura McMahon (Treasurer) Stephanie Fox Elsie Jordan Margaret Kennedy Ursula Marshall Margaret McMahon	Solicitors	Flynn & McGettrick 9 Clarence Street Belfast BT2 8DY
Secretary	Anne McMahon	Registered Office	129 University Street Belfast BT7 1HP
Auditors	Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 40 Main Street Moira BT67 0LQ	Charity Number	XN 45049
Bankers	First Trust Bank Donegall Square North Belfast	Registration Number	NI 021741
		Governing Document	Memorandum and Articles of Association
		Legal Status	Company Limited by Guarantee

The Management Board (Board of Directors) presents their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2010.

Objects of the Charity

The aims of the Charity (which has ten member groups throughout Northern Ireland) have been encapsulated in the following mission statement:

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence. We seek, through our work, to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

The following are key aims of the Organisation:

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women and children. We recognise domestic violence as one form of violence against women. Women's Aid seeks to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence and, through our work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

To oversee the delivery of a strategic and operational plan and development of a new strategic plan post 2010.

The core work of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is structured under the four key aims:-

1. Challenge attitudes and beliefs / policy

Challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence by lobbying, campaigning and influencing the policy agenda

- To educate and inform the public, media, police, courts, social services and other agencies of the impact of domestic violence.
- To advise and support all relevant agencies in the development of domestic violence policies, protocols and service delivery.
- To work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure a joined up response to domestic violence.

2. Prevent Domestic Violence

Promote healthy and non-abusive relationships through research, education and training

- To provide a range of support services to enable women who are leaving a violent situation to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children.
- To provide a range of support services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
- To run preventative education programmes in schools and other settings.

3. Support grassroots work

Support the work of local Women's Aid groups

- As the umbrella body tackling domestic violence in Northern Ireland we co-ordinate and lead local Women's Aid groups on all regional initiatives and developments.
- Develop and support local Women's Aid groups to provide refuge accommodation to women and their children suffering mental, physical or sexual abuse within the home.

- To manage the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline which provides the key co-ordination role for women accessing refuge and other services. (Funded under a separate Service Level Agreement)
- Develop and deliver a range of child protection training through Regional Children's Planning meetings with Women's Aid local groups. This supports the provision of services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
- Work with local Women's Aid groups to develop and sustain a regional fundraising strategy.

4. Manage and Develop Resources

Manage and develop resources – personnel, financial resources, estate – to meet the challenges of a changing political, economic and social policy environment

- To ensure effective leadership and management through good governance and support to our Board of Trustees.
- To manage, supervise and train all staff and volunteers on a continuing basis.
- To maintain rigorous financial auditing and accounting systems.
- To consider the impact of the Review of Administration on the Federation and local Women's Aid groups. A change process is currently being facilitated by the Federation.
- To identify and secure funding for new premises for Women's Aid Federation NI offering disabled access, safety of night workers access, secure parking

and adequate space for training and development.

- To oversee the delivery of the current strategic and operational plan and development of a new strategic plan post 2010.

Decision Making Structures

The governing body of Women's Aid Federation, the Management Board, is drawn from membership of our affiliated groups and expertise from external co-options. The Management Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of the activities are carried out by a staff team, lead by the Director and Management Team, who also report regularly to the Board.

Identified Risks

Uncertain and short term funding continues to make future planning extremely difficult. We will continue to negotiate with government departments to extend their commitment to ensure that our core work can effectively continue and secure the sustainability of all our projects. Some projects continue to be at risk with short-term funding.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a key role in all the services of Women's Aid. We are able to sustain our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline with the vital support of our volunteers. The Management Board members (Directors) also volunteer their time freely to attend regular monthly Board meetings, sub groups and offer ongoing support to the organisation.

Review of the transactions and financial position of Women's Aid Federation

Women's Aid Federation's funds have mainly been applied to the objects specified by each project's funders. It is policy to meet all restricted fund deficits by transfers from the accumulated unrestricted funds.

The Statement of Financial Activities indicates that the Organisation had incoming resources of £890,645 in the year which exceeded resources expended of £851,294 by £39,351 and this amount has been transferred to the Organisation's accumulated funds.

The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2010 shows a net Accumulated Funds balance at that date of £415,226.

No significant events have occurred since that date of the Balance Sheet which affect the Organisation or which materially affect these financial statements.

Fixed Assets

Additions to fixed assets are per note 11 of the Accounts.

The following persons were members of the Management Board at some time during the year to 31 March 2010: -

Donna Coyle	Stephanie Fox
Elsie Jordan	Margaret Kennedy
Ursula Marshall	Lorna McAlpine
Anne McMahan	Laura McMahan
Margaret McMahan	Margaret McMurrin
Monica Patterson	Christine Whiteman

The Management Board in each year shall consist of one member nominated by each affiliated group. If a Group has no-one able

to serve, its committee may ask a second member of another group to act on their behalf. In the event that there are insufficient nominations and/or an identified skills deficit, the Management Board will seek co-options.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to six months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

Charitable Status

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd enjoys charitable status by the authority of the Inland Revenue under reference XN 45049.

Members

The members of the company at 31 March 2010 were as follows: -

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
Causeway Women's Aid
Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid
Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid
Fermanagh Women's Aid
Foyle Women's Aid
North Down & Ards Women's Aid
Omagh Women's Aid
Women's Aid in Antrim,
Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne &
Newtownabbey
Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down &
South Armagh

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

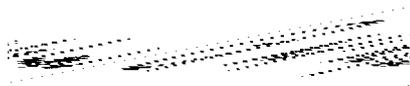
So far as the Board of Directors are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Management Board



Anne McMahon

Secretary

11 September 2010

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Ltd.

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Ltd for the Year Ended 31 March 2010 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies are set out on page 11.

This report is made solely to the charity's Members, as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the management board and auditors

The management boards' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Northern Ireland law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair

view, are properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether, in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of directors remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read the report of the management board and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management board in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the

financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularities or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2010 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and

- the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.



Alistair Wells (Senior Statutory Auditor)
11 September 2010

For and on behalf of Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered
Auditors

40 Main Street

Moira

BT67 0LQ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

<i>all amounts are in pounds sterling</i>	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
Incoming Resources					
Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objectives:					
Grants Receivable	(1,747)	-	846,835	845,088	827,061
Income from charitable activities	44,898	-	-	44,898	35,491
Activities for generating funds:					
Interest receivable	659	-	-	659	4,550
Total Incoming Resources	<u>43,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>846,835</u>	<u>890,645</u>	<u>867,102</u>
Resources Expended					
Costs of generating funds:	-	-	17,123	17,123	13,490
Charitable Expenditure:					
Costs in furtherance of charitable objectives	478	-	814,988	815,466	700,260
Management and Administration of the Charity	-	-	18,705	18,705	15,969
Total Resources Expended	<u>478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>850,816</u>	<u>851,294</u>	<u>729,719</u>
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources					
Before Transfers	43,332	-	(3,981)	39,351	137,383
Transfer between Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	<u>43,332</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,981)</u>	<u>39,351</u>	<u>137,383</u>
Funds Balance brought forward at 1 April 2009	97,994	89,398	188,483	375,875	238,492
Net Movement in Funds in Year to 31 March 2010	43,332	-	(3,981)	39,351	137,383
Fund Balance carried forward at 31 March 2010	<u>141,326</u>	<u>89,398</u>	<u>184,502</u>	<u>415,226</u>	<u>375,875</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2009*all amounts are in pounds sterling*

	2010	2009
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	53,000	58,478
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Current Assets		
Debtors & Prepayments	271,720	65,604
Bank Accounts	140,812	270,353
Cash in Hand	107	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	412,639	335,957
Liabilities		
Amounts falling due within one year	(50,413)	(18,560)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Current Assets	362,226	317,397
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	415,226	375,875
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Liabilities – Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	415,226	375,875
Provisions and Charges		
Deferred Capital Grant Reserve	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Assets	415,226	375,875
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Represented By: Accumulated Funds		
Unrestricted – General	141,326	97,994
Unrestricted – Designated	89,398	89,398
Restricted	184,502	188,483
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Balance at 31 March 2009	415,226	375,875
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Approved by the Management Board on 11 September 2010 and signed on its behalf by;



Christine Whiteman



Laura McMahon



THANK YOU

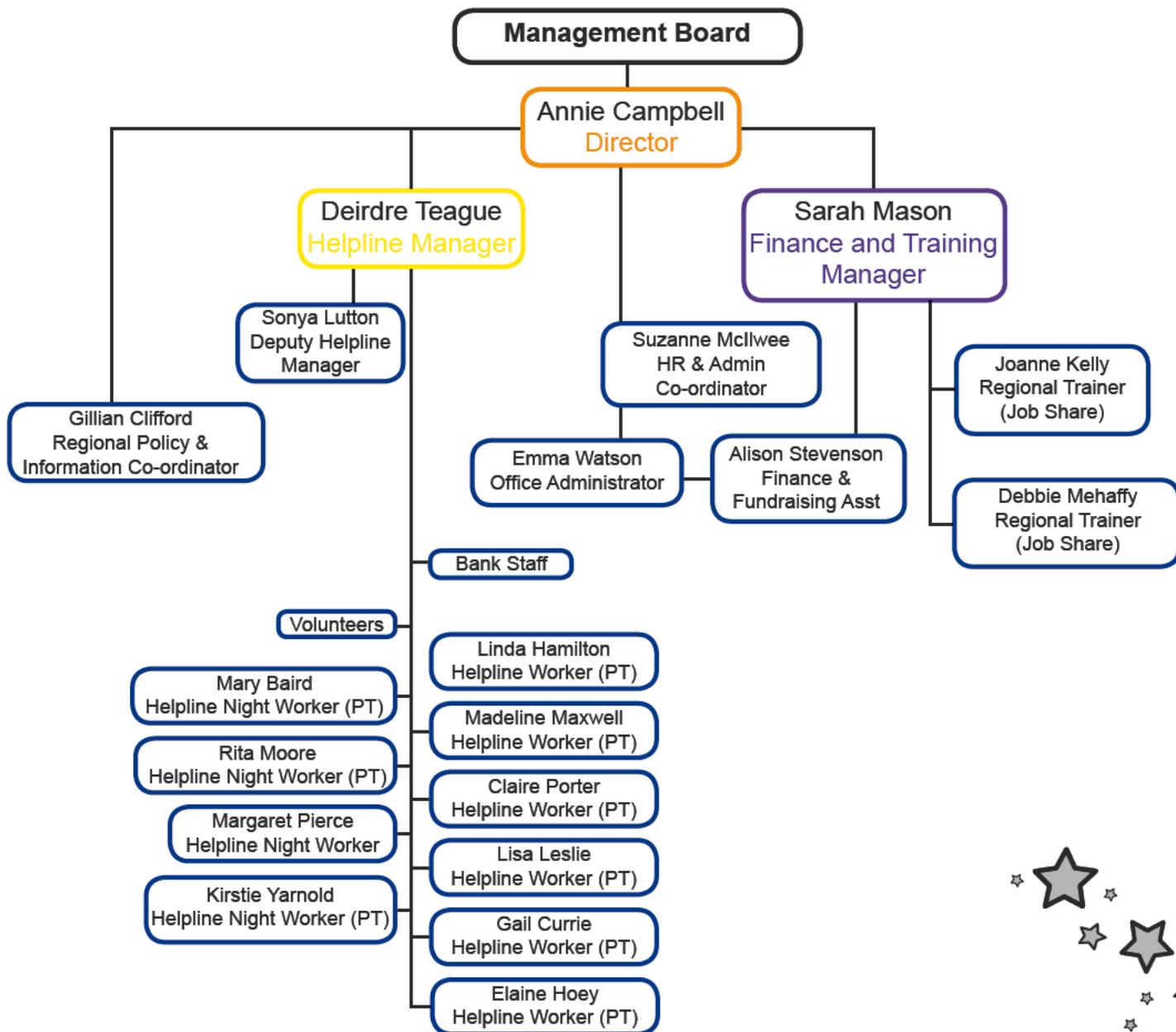
Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland would like to thank all our donors for their ongoing support and acknowledgement of our work and for enabling the continuation of so many vital projects.

- Charities Aid Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Community Safety Unit, Northern Ireland Office
- Department of Education Northern Ireland
- Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
- Eastern Health & Social Services Board
- Individual Donors
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- Volunteers



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WOMEN'S AID FEDERATION NI ORGANISATIONAL CHART



(Current structure as of September 2010)

Reach out. **Help is at hand.**

**24 Hour
Domestic Violence Helpline**

0800 917 1414

Freephone number. Language line and minicom available.

Open to **anyone** affected by domestic violence.
Managed by Women's Aid.

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland