

February 2019



2018 – Mothers' Union held 17 events across the whole of Ireland to mark the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

From the MSH website: Members across **All Ireland** were extremely busy with talks, exhibitions, vigils, prayer walks and breakfasts. Members in Derry and Raphoe spoke to over 700 pupils across the area about their support for 16 Days. All Ireland President Phyllis Grothier highlighted the importance of the 16 Days of Activism. She said, "This campaign is at the core of what Mothers' Union is all about as we reach out to families who don't enjoy all that should be in a family relationship." "We seek to stand with people who are in trouble and let them know that we care, to let them know that there is another life out there"

Numerous letters were sent to local and national political representatives resulting in questions being asked in both the Oireachtas and Westminster

Generous donations to many women's refuges have demonstrated in a very practical way Mothers' Union's commitment to helping adult and child victims of domestic violence.

Let us continue to build on this momentum during 2019



UK Government Domestic Abuse Consultation and draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

21 Jan 2019

Mothers' Union welcomes the Government's commitment to addressing Domestic Abuse as a priority and a number of areas of progress through what has been published today. These include provisions to prevent perpetrators of domestic and other forms of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts, and the acknowledgement of economic abuse as a form of domestic violence. We are also heavily in support of the inclusion of the measures needed to enable the UK to ratify the Istanbul Convention, enabling important protections provided by this treaty.

However, we remain concerned about a number of areas. Among them, Mothers' Union believes that more needs to be done to prevent Domestic Abuse in the first place. Although the Government has said that prevention is a key part of what it seeks to address, we maintain that prevention requires significant further attention.

Mothers' Union is closely reviewing the papers published today. We will be working alongside Mothers' Union members, Ministers, and other key stakeholders to help ensure that we use this opportunity to drive forward real and lasting prevention of domestic abuse in the UK, as well as vital support for survivors of Domestic Abuse.

www.mothersunion.org/news



WOMEN'S AID
Making Women and Children Safe

National Freephone Helpline
1800 341 900

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

24 HOUR

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

0808 802 1414

Open to all women and men affected by domestic & sexual violence

text support to 07797 805 839 ■ 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS
ALLIANCE

Uniting Voices For Children



The Children's Rights Alliance and the Irish Times are collaborating on a new initiative, No Child 2020, inspired by the Democratic Programme issued by the First Dáil a century ago.

"It shall be the first duty of the Government of the Republic to... secure that NO CHILD shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as Citizens..."

A hundred years on, the first Dáil's "no child" pledge remains unfulfilled. About one tenth – 105,000 – of Ireland's children grows up in consistent poverty. That means they live in a household with a very low income and go without basics such as heat or nutritious food.

Government has a key role in reducing child poverty, but its eradication will require a broad effort involving all of society.

Poverty isn't inevitable and there are solutions. Our Government and decision-makers are being asked to act upon five key goals:

- 1. Food:** Every child will have a hot nutritious meal every day
- 2. Health:** Every child will have access to basic healthcare when they need it
- 3. Participation:** Every child will have the opportunity to take part in community-based arts and cultural activities
- 4. Education:** Every child will receive free primary education
- 5. Housing:** Every child will live in secure and affordable housing

'As of November 2018, 3811 homeless people are under the age of 18'

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Orla's story- works full-time as a nurse, separated and has 2 young daughters. After paying essential bills including mortgage, house insurance, childminding costs, she's left with €580 a month to survive on. Orla frequently skips meals, telling the children she's not hungry. She receives a food parcel once a month from a local charity. She dreads her children having to see a GP at €50 a visit. The €200-plus cost of going back to school each August, car-tax, car insurance, television licence, Christmas and birthdays are other dreaded milestones.

"You feel that much a failure as a mother."

"People don't talk about how much they're struggling because of the shame."

"...don't want to hear about the poverty of people like me and my children. But it's very real, very real when you're going through it."

"If there was a hot meal in school, that would be absolutely amazing,"

The Irish Times – 'We know that consistent, well-managed and well-resourced services, especially if they are delivered from the beginning of a child's life, can transform the lives of children, families and communities.'

Find out more at:-
www.childrensrights.ie
www.irishtimes.com



Mental health problems affect about 1 in 10 children and young people. They include depression, anxiety and conduct disorder, and are often a direct response to what is happening in their lives



www.place2be.org.uk



<http://www.younghealthymindsni.co.uk/>



www.mentalhealthireland.ie

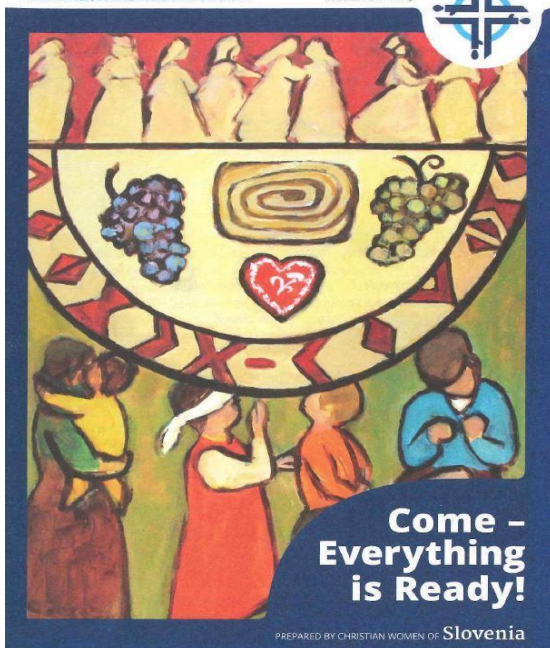


Thinking about Self-Care - These days it's easy to see how life can become overwhelming with all the competing demands and expectations on us. Amidst all the distractions it's possible to lose sight of what's really important. That's why it's a good idea every now and again to hit the Pause button. Taking some time out can help us think about how we can be better at managing our own self-care: keeping or getting well; understanding what helps us lead a healthier, happier life; and learning how to get support from others. Visit the Inspire website for some on how to use the **Power of Pause**:

www.inspirewellbeing.org

World Day of Prayer
A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

1st March 2019



<https://www.wwdp.org.uk>

Mothering Sunday, 31st March 2019



Mothers' Union Liturgy for Mothering Sunday 2019 once more written for us by the staff and students of St Mellitus College

Theme: Nurturing hope in a hurting world



Resources available:-

www.mothersunion.org/mothering-sunday-resources

Useful Contact Details:

Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator: Beth Wortley Tel:02838841126

email:mufaithandpolicy@gmail.com

Southern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Vacant - Contact Beth Wortley

Northern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Jean Thompson Tel:02877765141

Mobile: 07731635627 email:jeanius65@aol.com



Calling all chocolate fans! Join our campaign to ensure that cocoa farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to live a dignified life. This year we are focusing on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much.

£1.82 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income.

. #SheDeserves

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Get Involved – Fairtrade Fortnight 2019: Monday 25 February - Sunday 10 March



Sign the petition:

Fairtrade is calling on the UK Government to make sure that our trade with developing countries puts poverty reduction first, delivering living incomes for all. The petition opens for signatures on Monday 25 February.

Want to know more about –

Church resources?

Putting Fairtrade in your break?

Free samples for community events?

Visit:

www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight

If you can spot
a scam, you can
stop a scam

Stay 4 steps ahead of a
scam by using this scam test

Seems too good to be true

Contacted out of the blue

Asked for personal details

Money is requested

For help and information, or to report a scam visit
midirect.gov.uk/scamwiseNI

scamwiseNI
PARTNERSHIP

*Two Northern Ireland men scammed out of
£40,000 by telephone fraudsters'*

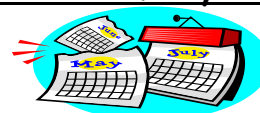
*'Police urge caution after 58 scam reports in
one day'*

*'Scammers steal large sums of money from
Northern Ireland women'*

*'Police issue warning after nearly £80,000
stolen through scam'*

*'Dublin law firm conned out of €97,000 in cyber
scam'*

Useful Dates for your Diary



25th February – 10th March – Fairtrade Fortnight

1st March – World Day of Prayer

5th March – ShroveTuesday

6th March – Ash Wednesday

7th March – World Book Day

8th March – International Women's Day

13th March – National No Smoking Day

17th March – St Patricks Day

31st March – Clocks go forward

31st March – Mothering Sunday

14th – 20th April – Holy Week

21st – April – Easter Sunday