

# Navigating 2020

## Dublin Rape Crisis Centre





# Contents

<b>Message from Chair</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>CEO Overview</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Achievements and performance under strategic goals</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Goal 1: Ensure that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence receive the supports that they need to heal</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Objective 1: Providing high-quality services to victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence .....	12
Objective 2: Building the capacity of Irish society to better understand and guard against the harm of sexual violence, as well as meet the needs of victims/survivors .....	21
Objective 3: Recognising the diversity of those who are victims/survivors of sexual violence, ensuring our services are available to whoever needs them .....	24
<b>Goal 2: Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors</b> .....	<b>26</b>
Objective 4: Building, maintaining and disseminating knowledge and expertise on the topic of sexual violence .....	28
Objective 5: Building greater recognition in the law and throughout society on the key role of consent .....	31
Objective 6: Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence .....	33
Objective 7: Facilitating victims/survivors in making their voices heard and promoting innovation in strengthening protection for victims/survivors of sexual violence .....	35
<b>Goal 3: Be a strong, sustainable organisation</b> .....	<b>38</b>
Objective 8: Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work .....	40
Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan .....	42
Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure .....	43
<b>Financial Statements</b> .....	<b>47</b>
Independent Auditors' Report .....	<b>48</b>
Financial Statements .....	<b>50</b>

# Message from the Chair



A year of living in an emergency pandemic teaches a lot about one's own resilience, about finding tools to keep us as healthy and as balanced as possible under stress and in the midst of change. In many ways, 2020 offered everyone an insight into life under the impact of trauma: what it is to live with perpetual anxiety, to recognise its impact and to seek out the support needed to overcome it.

In the same light, we should acknowledge that while 2020 has been very testing for our organisation, we have learned valuable lessons during the long challenge of COVID-19, and we want to put those learnings to use in creating a safer, more equal society where survivors of sexual violence receive the supports they need.

As an organisation, we are taking steps to ensure we futureproof ourselves, carrying out a review of our clinical services and our education and training services, strengthening our fundraising and administration capacity, building our accompaniment services and better internal systems as well as seeking to ensure we have the capacity to meet the demand on our National 24-Hour Helpline and counselling services. We will continue to work on our own and with valued colleagues in networks and other organisations to provide independent services and an independent voice for those who have experienced sexual violence as well as providing the benefit of our experience and expertise to those creating policy.

It is interesting to see that while so many other of our services had to radically adjust how they were delivered when the pandemic struck, our *Moving Forward from Sexual Violence* programme, being structured as a self-directed online programme with telephone coach support, went ahead precisely as planned. The year 2020 was a pilot, to see if the programme was valuable. The satisfaction rate amongst participants was gratifyingly high and an expanded programme is continuing in 2021 with even more planned for coming years.

While the courts also suffered from COVID disruption, our work supporting survivors to seek justice was as busy as ever in 2020. This is clear evidence of the need for a much more comprehensive support system in what can be a complex and protracted journey through the justice system. The Department of Justice's O'Malley Review, published in August, into how our justice system treats vulnerable complainants, reaffirmed our long-held view that sexual violence will continue to be a scourge and an epidemic in our society unless our whole society addresses the insufficiently discussed topic of what constitutes consensual sexual behaviour. Rather than being a solution, we see the implementation of that report as a significant step in recognising the special vulnerability of victims/survivors of sexual violence. We will therefore continue our work to build a prosecution and accountability system which is safe and fair for victims/survivors. To that end, we look forward to contributing to the development of a new National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence in 2021.

More institutions are recognising that sexual harassment and abuse is harmful, contributing to unsafe work and college spaces. DRCC has been able to offer trauma-informed expertise, advice and training to third-level education bodies around prevention and awareness initiatives, following important work done by stakeholders including students, NGOs, state bodies and the colleges themselves. This is crucial work and credit must go to the institutions for finally taking solid steps towards the thorough reform they need to ensure places of education are safe for students and staff alike. We are determined to support this work however we can.

Much of DRCC's work is already concerned with consent – from our BodyRight training programme for those working with young people, through empowering individuals through counselling to advocating for policies and curricula which promote consensual sexual behaviour. Using our existing expertise and emerging research, we propose to concentrate ever more on delivering a sustained programme of work to advance human rights and equality through national engagement on our society's understanding of consent and its place in preventing sexual violence. We are glad to see a similar Government commitment to building societal awareness in this area.

In 2020, we began a conversation with the Citizens Assembly Chair and secretariat on the relevance of sexual, domestic and gender-based violence to the Citizens' planned discussions on gender equality. While progress was stalled because of COVID-19, DRCC and other specialist organisations looked forward to contributing in 2021 to the Assembly's work. We had also identified a distinct lack of good data on public attitudes to consent, so we commissioned research, to be published later in 2021, on those attitudes.

Things are moving in the right direction. If we look back to where we were 5 years ago, we believe that more people are aware now that non-consensual sexual activity – in plain terms, rape and sexual assault and abuse - should never happen. More people are able to find our supports and state services to get the help and accountability they need. There is a greater focus – though with limited action – on protecting our children and young people from such abuse. However, we know that there are still many barriers to victims/survivors accessing their rights and the services and structures they need and some never will. For as long as that continues, DRCC will continue to press for the implementation of its mission to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of sexual violence.

To end, I want to say thank you to every single person and organisation who contributed to the work set out in this report, too many to mention. In a year that brought serious levels of stress to those we support, we acknowledge the pro-active support we received from statutory sources. Tusla's immediate prioritisation of support for its sexual and domestic violence services, backed up by crucial management and financial support was an important demonstration of the long standing partnership that has allowed us to grow our services to meet the needs of more people year on year. That, together with the Department of Justice publicity campaign and O'Malley Review reform plan, An Garda Síochána's Operation Faoiseamh, and commitments in the Programme for Government 2020, all serve as markers that the rights of those who are victims of sexual violence and who survive it have become a significant government concern. We will seek to build on this to achieve reforms to vindicate the rights of those victims/survivors in the months and years ahead.

During the year, we were humbled by the response from the public and benefactors to our call for financial support and very touched by people's recognition of our work. That support means so much to us on every level and has sustained us throughout this year, quite literally. We will continue to need considerable support in the coming year as emergency measures remain in place, relying strongly on the goodwill of the community and their recognition of the value of our work.

And finally, to our people. Much was expected of the DRCC Board, the staff and the volunteers. All that was expected, and much more was given. My fellow board members were unstintingly generous with their time and their support throughout the year - and we called on that support a lot. I want to pay tribute to the DRCC staff whose well recognised commitment and dedication had to be marshalled in so many new ways to continue the work of the Centre. They did not fail. Nor did our volunteers who are so vital to our work. They were asked to give more than ever this year. They did that, to ensure that victims/survivors were not failed in these extra tough times. To all these, to those who worked with us on projects and ambitions, to the colleagues in other organisations who shared our aims and helped us in our work and, most of all, to those who experienced sexual violence and gave us the privilege of working with them to bring a better society, a heartfelt thank you.

**Anne Marie Gill**

Chairperson

# CEO Overview

As one of our staff put it: 2020 had a different rhythm.

The main priority for Dublin Rape Crisis Centre was to ensure that in spite of the dramatic changes for our whole society, we would continue to support and empower victims/survivors. So much had to be done differently by all of us but particularly by those who were managing trauma through face-to-face therapy and training.



We were therefore extremely grateful that some essential infrastructure was already in place because of investment over the previous few years, made possible by general and philanthropic fundraising. This meant we had technology and telephone systems which allowed us to function remotely. As a result of that, and the determination of our staff and volunteer counsellors, the National 24-Hour Helpline, our first point of contact system, continued without disruption.

Preparatory work done in previous years allowed us to roll out our new online blended counselling programme, *Moving Forward from Sexual Violence*, helping 110 survivors to engage powerful, practical tools for managing their trauma. Serendipitously, that preparation had also built skills in managing counselling remotely which stood to all our therapists when neither they nor our clients could come to the centre for therapy services. In addition, we worked to add a webchat function to our website to expand the ways in which we can offer support to people.

The lockdown showed us once again the unique way in which victims/survivors of sexual violence present and report. While not the first time this has happened, it became very clear that at the height of restrictions, the number of people contacting our Helpline was lower than usual. Conversely, when restrictions eased, when children were back in school, when people had more physical space and more headspace, the number of callers rose. At those times, callers told us how a lack of privacy and safe spaces, or an increase in caring duties, meant that they had to defer their own needs.

Across the board, our therapists, telephone counsellors and others hearing from victims/survivors found that those whom we supported were more anxious and felt more isolated. Fewer client cases were closed in 2020 than in previous years as clients dealt with all the additional anxieties and upsets of COVID-19 and restrictions, as well as the injuries visited on them by sexual violence. One casualty of the COVID-19 restrictions was our capacity to support people attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital. We were very glad that the wonderful team at the SATU continued to provide vital services to those who were raped and sexually assaulted – but we could not provide the usual on-site psychological support through our trained volunteers in that very sensitive health setting. Normal service should eventually resume in 2021 but, in the meantime, we have learned much about alternative ways to offer support in SATU and we continued to take part in the Department of Health's working group overseeing the national plan to implement policy and practical changes in SATUs across the country.

With courts largely closed, our court accompaniment service was limited. Conversely, the numbers accessing our support service for reports to An Garda Síochána increased. Here we supported more victims/survivors than ever before and we expect that this trend will continue. We intend to contribute as best we can to the ambition in the Department of Justice plans for *Supporting a Victim's Journey* that every victim/survivor of a sexual offence would have access to adequate psychological support when attending court.

Throughout the year, we continued to receive requests for training from those working with victims/ survivors of sexual violence in other disciplines, as well as those in either institutions or advocacy groups who seek to prevent such violence from happening in the first place. Initiatives in the Department of Higher & Further Education encouraging greater engagement with third level colleges on issues of sexual harassment and abuse meant those who were rolling out their own training and examining their own processes needed more support. Like our therapists, our small training team had to adjust rapidly to remote presentation. In common with many others, we had to review, experiment and consolidate. While the experience was forced on us by the pandemic, there will be long-term benefits to that work. In particular, the hiatus gave us the chance to expand our youth programme, adding new modules to our BodyRight programme and further building our Youth Advisory Council, which has proved to be a source of great wisdom and innovation.

In March, just before the pandemic hit we were very lucky to work with a gifted bunch of young campaigners to raise awareness around the importance of consent. Our **#100consent** campaign, conceived with pro bono partners Pluto.ie and targeted at young people aged 17-24, marked a first for us and indeed for Irish social media. With the slogan 'if you're not 100 percent, it's not consent' it focused on clarity and communication, with 22 of Ireland's top young TikTokers coming together for a day of training & workshops on consent. They in turn created content on TikTok that spread the #100Consent message using language that really resonated with their audience. We are so grateful to these talented young communicators and to their followers for engaging with the consent message so keenly. Our awareness raising work continued largely online in 2020 and we thank all those who helped with that effort to spread understanding of the various issues we highlighted. In that campaign, we saw the power of the internet to spread positive, healthy messages but we continue to work to highlight and limit the reality of harmful abuse online. Thus we welcomed the enactment of the Harassment, Harmful Communications & Related Offences Act at the end of 2020 and we continued to work on a multi-organisation campaign led by the Children's Rights Alliance on digital regulation and responsibility.

While our policy analysis and submissions cover several aspects of the way our society deals with sexual violence, our focus on the justice system has been a recurring theme over the years. In August, we saw a landmark development with the publication of the O'Malley Review of the Protection of Vulnerable Witnesses and the speedy commitment of Minister Helen McEntee, Minister for Justice to implement its recommendations. In recognising that victims of some types of crime may be vulnerable by virtue of the nature of the crime, such as victims/survivors of sexual offences, and in its scrutiny of how poorly our justice system treats such victims, that review endorsed DRCC's conclusion that our justice system needs significant reform in how it deals with sexual offences. DRCC has engaged and continues to engage with the several initiatives emerging from the Department's plan for implementation of the review recommendations.

As we attempted to prepare in March for the changes COVID-19 would bring, our biggest worry of course was whether we would be able to continue our vital services at all. As events and private fundraising fell away, and as we struggled to understand how to keep services going, and vulnerable people safe remotely, we were greatly reassured by the actions of the State departments and agencies with whom we engage. Tusla's announcement that sexual and domestic violence services would be supported as one of its three priorities, followed by practical management and financial support reassured us that those we work for and with were not being forgotten. The Department of Justice's #StillHere campaign run with frontline NGOs helped to get the word out that services continued, at the time of greatest restriction. Emergency grant funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development to compensate to some extent for lost funding helped us to stay afloat. The recognition by these and other State agencies of the massive hit taken by the voluntary sector when our fundraising and other income sources fell off a COVID-19 cliff was important in allowing us to continue our programmes for victims/survivors throughout the pandemic. Likewise, we were very grateful for the extraordinary generosity of so many individuals and groups who carried out fundraisers for us - often innovating in extraordinary ways online - and for those philanthropic organisations that saw our need and responded

generously and fully. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that our capacity to raise the funds we need to maintain our work was substantially diminished by the onset of the pandemic measures in March 2020. While it was the same for many other not-for-profit bodies as well as for-profit businesses, the ongoing uncertainty which resulted remains a worry for us.

I end with a salute. None of our work would have been possible without the committed support of the people who carry out the work of the Centre. I am very proud to lead the team of staff who accepted what needed to be done and got on with the work in all the strangeness of the times, achieving outcomes that would have been excellent in any year and were particularly so in 2020. I salute the dedicated and flexible DRCC volunteers, on the Helpline, in our fundraising, in our research and communications, who also worked beyond expectations and were so vital to ensuring that we could continue to support victims/survivors. I must pay particular tribute to that band of volunteers who are our leaders, our Board of Directors led by Ann Marie Gill. They have consistently provided us - and me personally - with wise guidance, direction, governance and unwavering support and have been individually and collectively an enormous support to all of us. My thanks and respect to all of them.

**Noeline Blackwell**

CEO

# Achievements and Performance

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is guided by its strategic plan, which has set three strategic goals for the organisation:

- Ensure that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence receive the supports that they need to heal;
- Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors;
- Be a strong, sustainable organisation.

Each goal is to be achieved through delivery of relevant strategic objectives. These are laid out below with an account of the organisations work in each area.



## Goal 1

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

## **Objective 1**

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

## **Objective 2**

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

## **Objective 3**

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

## Objective 1:

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

### Our services to victims/survivors are delivered through:

- The National 24-Hour Helpline;
- A webchat support service;
- Face-to-face counselling and psychotherapy including group therapy;
- An online support programme;
- A client support/ welfare service; and
- Survivor accompaniment services.

For an overview of DRCC's key data for 2020, you can read our Statistical Supplement 2020 - visit our website [drcc.ie](http://drcc.ie) for more.

### National 24-Hour Helpline

The National Helpline 1800 77 8888 is a free and confidential listening and support service for all those who have been raped, sexually assaulted, sexually harassed or sexually abused at any time in their lives. We also support others who have been affected by sexual violence, including families and friends of victims/survivors and frontline personnel who help victims/survivors in the course of their work.

Despite the closure of pubs, clubs and other social venues due to COVID-19 restrictions, sexual violence still happened and still made its terrible mark in 2020, in people's own homes or in other places. Those with past experience of sexual violence who may not have sought help previously also came forward to seek support. We noted, however, some important impacts of the COVID crisis in contacts to the National Helpline.

Our experienced counsellors have reported that many people have felt overwhelmed, anxious and depressed and have been reliving painful aspects of their past abuse. Some people felt triggered and powerless as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and pressures. This, alongside an increased level of isolation from their friends, family, employment and everyday supports and services led many to feelings of despair and desperation, sometimes even suicidal thoughts.

The most stringent periods of restrictions had a dampening effect on contacts, as many callers did not have the time and space to access the National Helpline in privacy, including some who were accustomed to reaching out to us when their pain and anxiety increased. Others could not call us safely because they were confined in the same space as their abuser or former abusers. For others, the needs of family or friends in a time of crisis came first and they felt they had to postpone their own need for support.

We also had contact from those who were reluctant to disclose abuse, including rape. Some victims/survivors blamed themselves for being in the wrong place at the wrong time if, for example, they were not adhering to distancing restrictions and were anxious about being reported to the authorities. These people experienced all of the shock and trauma of what has happened to them, but felt unable to share this for fear of judgement. Counsellors' role in these circumstances was to give them a safe space to ask for help.

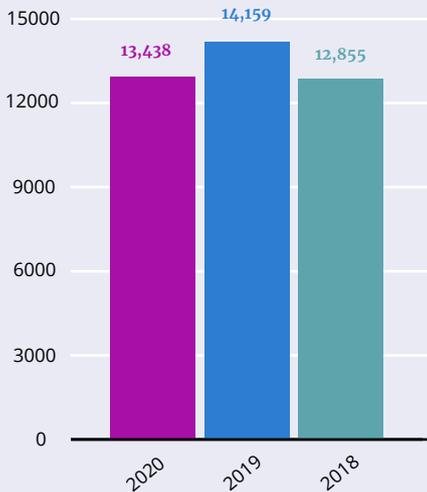
The ongoing challenge for Helpline staff and volunteers was to connect with people in a heightened state of crisis and reassure them that they are not alone.

In 2020, the total number of contacts to the Freephone National 24-Hour Helpline was 13,438 compared with 14,159 in 2019 and to 12,855 in 2018.

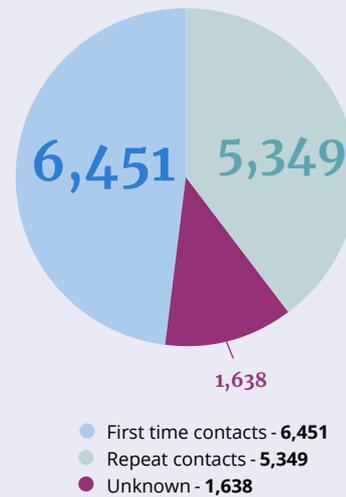
Of those who disclosed the nature of the abuse, 48.75% of contacts related to rape, followed by Child Sexual Abuse at 27.25% and adult sexual assault at 10%. Sexual harassment was cited by 1.5% of those contacting the National Helpline.

The total number of first-time contacts was 6,451, just over half of the total. Some 83% of callers were women, 16.8% were male and 0.2% identified as other. The largest age group was 50-59 years who formed almost 23% of contacts. The busiest months were January (617 contacts) and July (611 contacts).

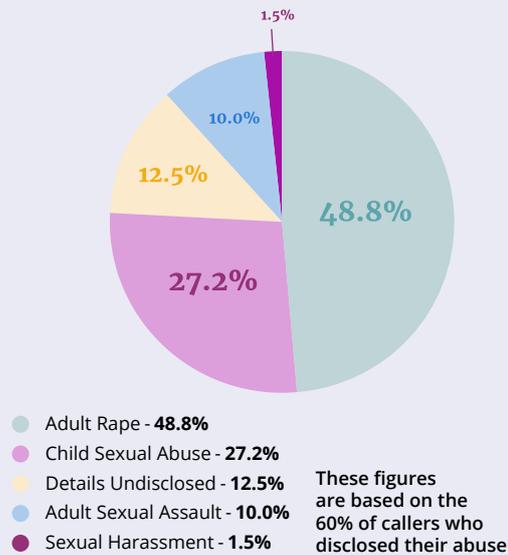
### Contacts to National Helpline 2018-2020



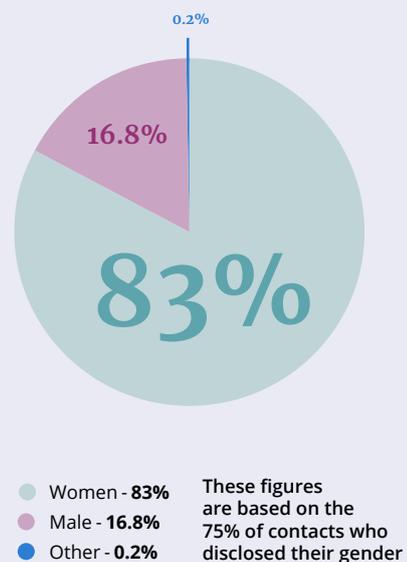
### Who contacted us in 2020?



### Breakdown by type of abuse



### Gender of caller



### Webchat support service

During 2020, we strengthened and developed our website to support more digital contact and we launched our online webchat. Accessible via the drcc.ie website, the webchat links people seeking support via online text with one of our counsellors. The service initially operated on a limited basis; but by the end of 2020 had expanded to five mornings a week. Staff underwent formal training on how to respond effectively to service users through written, as opposed to spoken communication. For those who have experienced the trauma of sexual violence and feel unable to speak about what happened to them, webchat can allow them to communicate their trauma, and to seek help without having to verbally articulate their needs. It is also an added way of communication for people who don't have private space to speak. Demand on the service is currently being monitored and will be expanded according to need and resources.

From October to December 2020, we had 105 support contacts via webchat.

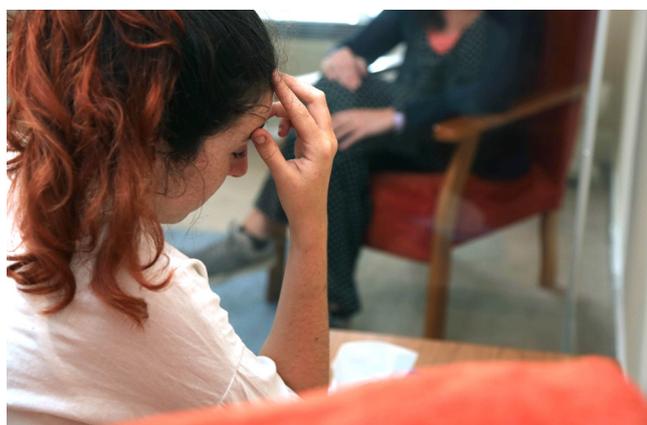


## Counselling and Therapy

Clients who come to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre may have experienced rape or sexual assault in the recent past, some time ago, or as children. The therapy model prior to 2020 was one whereby our team of professional therapists provided one-to-one and group therapy in our city centre offices and in outreach clinics around Dublin. Sessions usually last up to one hour and are by appointment.

Despite the disruption of COVID-19 during 2020, demand for our services continued. It was notable that while the number of new clients taken on in 2020 was down from the previous year, the number of appointments per client offered in 2020 was higher than in 2019, with new and existing clients alike seeking greater support in the new, more anxious times we faced.

The COVID-19 restrictions on face-to-face contact introduced in March 2020 meant a total review and restructuring of how therapy services could be provided. Limits on client movement and lack of access to clinics during periods of high restriction meant that the therapy model had to immediately pivot to remote support. Therapists had to adapt their skills at speed to ensure that engagement with existing clients could continue as well as therapists and clients having to come to terms with a different way of communicating and engaging in healing. As the year progressed, some clients did come back to face-to-face therapy but the ongoing pandemic risks as assessed by clients as well as by the Centre meant that for the most part, the support offered to the Centre's clients was remote.



### Feedback from clients on counselling:

*"It gave me skills to survive, it gave me reassurance and helped me get to where I am today."*

*"Excellent therapist and really understood me, we made great progress very quickly I feel really positive about the future now."*

*"Thank you for everything. You made sense of everything in my head. The only way I can describe it is that I came to [therapist] with a thousand jigsaw pieces and she helped me put it together ... I left feeling I could deal with some emotions/issues personally day to day because I understood where it was coming from and why. I understand now that therapy can help you heal, but also just give you your power back."*

Crisis appointments for victims/survivors of recent sexual violence tripled in July/August, at a time when restrictions reduced, and demand for 'assessment' appointments - for those who had suffered rape or sexual assault in the more distant past - rose by 30% over the same period.

## Overview of therapy in 2020

### Appointments delivered

Out of the 7,375 appointments offered to clients, some 6,010 were delivered, an increase of 30% over 2019, when 4,619 appointments were delivered. The **take-up rate** for appointments was 81% in 2020 after cancellations and no-shows are deducted, which was up from 78% in 2019 and no doubt one of the few positive outcomes of the pandemic.

The **number of appointments** delivered to clients who had experienced a recent rape or sexual assault (within the previous six months) was 3,203 in 2020 compared with 2,523 in 2019. They constituted 53% of total appointments.

The remaining 2,807 appointments was for the 47% of clients who had experienced rape, sexual assault and past child sexual abuse outside of that six-month window.

### Clients seen

In 2020 we saw 570 clients in total, compared with 617 clients in 2019 (2018: 582 clients, 2017: 548 clients). Of these, 268 were first-time clients, while 302 were existing clients, a ratio of 47% new vs 53% existing clients. The overwhelming majority were women (92.5%).



## Innovating in therapist support: Moving Forward from Sexual Violence programme



Over the past year, DRCC has further developed its new e-health initiative, **Moving Forward from Sexual Violence**, in partnership with a UK company, KRTS International Ltd. This is a unique, blended online and therapist-supported programme, designed specifically to help victims/survivors of sexual violence to understand their experience and to develop tools and insights that will help them on their journey of recovery. The programme was piloted in 2020, and some 110 people had the opportunity to take part. The programme handled 300 information calls during the year. A survey of participants conducted during the year indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the support provided during the programme and its flexibility.



All those who responded said they were likely to recommend the programme to others.

### Participants' feedback on Moving Forward programme

*"The content really helped me to name the things I'm feeling and understand what's physically happening to my body + brain while I'm experiencing trauma, which I find very useful to rationalise my reactions and reassure myself in the moment. I learned that a lot of symptoms I live with were actually a result of trauma which has helped me to manage them more appropriately."*

*"I feel it has improved my confidence and my self-esteem to have been able to understand and accept a bit more some of the aspects of my trauma. It literally helped me to move forward."*

*"[Moving Forward] changed and possibly saved my life and hope it will be available to more people in the future."*

## Strengthening our client care provision with the Client Support Service

In 2020, DRCC piloted a Client Support Service to empower and help our clients access their rights and entitlements, find relevant information and seek referral to other services as appropriate. Many of DRCC's clients face multiple barriers in managing their lives which are made worse by the impact of trauma. Conversely, it can be difficult for them to effectively address their trauma through counselling and therapy when they are troubled by practical issues.



Referrals are made internally to assist clients in a holistic manner with any supports they require in relation to issues such as housing/homelessness, social welfare, health/mental health, immigration, the asylum process, education and employment. A large part of the work carried out involves making representations on behalf of clients to statutory bodies and services to ensure clients are accessing their rights and entitlements and appealing any decisions where they have been refused unfairly. The service tries to link clients with other relevant and appropriate supports and provides information on processes and systems to those who may be trying to navigate them without support. By addressing the wider needs of our most vulnerable clients on a practical level, their therapy can remain focused on the trauma they have endured.

In 2020, the CSS helped 40 clients with a range of issues and queries, amounting to 442 interventions and 298 contacts with external agencies. Outcomes from this service include:

- Securing of emergency accommodation to prevent rough sleeping
- Access to regular social welfare payments and exceptional needs payments
- Direct Provision transfers
- Social housing transfers
- Access to priority housing lists
- Access to college courses and fee exemptions
- Financial assistance to those with no income via St. Vincent DePaul
- Access to Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
- Links to specialised services

The work is intensive and can take time to come to a conclusion, with many referrals carrying on into 2021. All communications from March 2020 were remote.

### CSS Case Study: Hannah\*

Hannah lost her part-time job as a carer\* due to the COVID crisis and was struggling to support herself and her daughter. As she had also been on a Community Employment Scheme, this wage was still being paid to her but she had lost the additional earnings brought by her other work.

Initially, she was told to apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and was paid this once before being told that she had no entitlement. She was advised on a further two occasions to apply for different payments, which were subsequently refused.

On being referred to the CSS, we helped Hannah to apply for an Exceptional Needs Payment to cover costs of certain debts that were making it difficult for her to manage her finances. This was granted. She was also linked with St. Vincent de Paul who provided her with vouchers towards household costs.

We assisted her to appeal a request from the Department of Social Protection to repay the single PUP payment she had received, based on the miscommunication and unclear response/refusal from the Department. An outcome is still awaited.

The support from the CSS has allowed Hannah to maintain her tenancy, manage her bills and feed her family, while clearing some of the debt that had been hanging over her. This allowed Hannah to focus much more adequately on her own therapy and recovery from trauma.

*\*Name and role has been changed.*



## Accompaniment services

Our accompaniment services are delivered primarily by volunteers, supported by expert staff. They accompany people who are victims/survivors of rape and sexual assault in difficult situations: when they attend at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) at the Rotunda Hospital, when they report rape or sexual assault to An Garda Síochána, or when they attend court.

The service is one of psychological support. It is non-judgemental and confidential. It is available to all victims/survivors of sexual assault and rape. It is particularly appreciated by those who are especially vulnerable or who are attending alone and have no other support. It is also appreciated by families and friends who often find themselves at a loss when seeking to support those they love.

### SATU accompaniment

Our specially trained volunteers accompany and provide psychological support to victims/survivors attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital. During the year, DRCC supported 85 people attending SATU as well as 47 of their friends and family members. This was a dramatic reduction over the previous year when 300 victims/survivors and 240 family members and friends were supported, showing the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

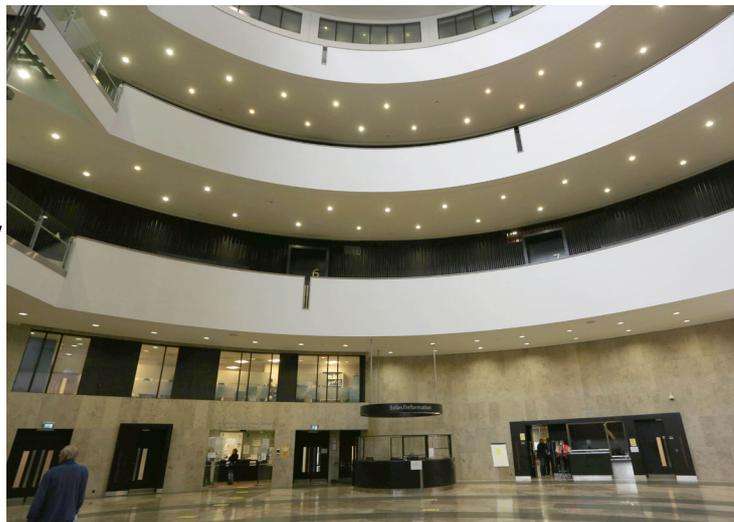
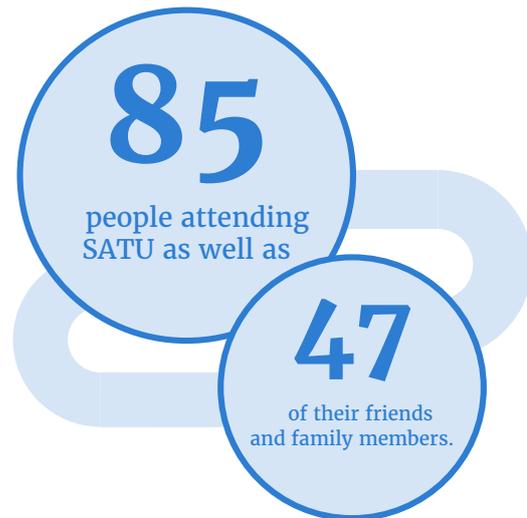
As a result of hospital restrictions, DRCC volunteers did not attend the SATU during Level 5 restrictions but when those were eased to Level 3, DRCC accompaniment supporters returned with strict guidelines in place for everyone's safety. As with other services, our volunteers had to adjust how they carried out their accompaniment work. As well as agreeing and then complying with all the hospital precautions, face time with victims/survivors had to be limited. Experiments with phone contact and video link continued throughout the year. Remote mentoring of more recent volunteers by more experienced ones took the place of physical mentoring. SATU staff provided remote training for new volunteers as a substitute for the previous physical training. As a result, not only were we able to continue a somewhat restricted level of support, but newly trained volunteers were on board by December to attend SATU to support victims/survivors.

In addition to the SATU accompaniment itself, DRCC contributes to a liaison committee which monitors service as well as to a Working Group formed to implement the recommendations of a Department of Health Policy Review of Sexual Assault Treatment Units.

### Justice system accompaniment

DRCC understands that people who have been through the trauma of sexual violence may be daunted by the prospect of reporting and thus reliving their experience to a Garda or in a court. Therefore, our service offers them the reassurance of having someone there who understands what they are going through, can answer their specific questions and help them to navigate what can be a complex criminal legal process. For many, the act of talking through the process or voicing their worries to someone is the first step towards reporting.

The number of people we support in this area has grown steeply over recent years. In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions prevented or delayed court sittings and impacted Garda station visits. The restrictions meant a greater reliance on remote support, but nonetheless the DRCC team accompanied 39 victims/survivors to court or in Garda stations, and provided support to 111 people via phone, text and e-mail. This compares to 45 court/station accompaniments and 49 people supported remotely in 2019.



Our work in this area is carried out by a part-time accompaniment coordinator with a team of skilled and specialised volunteers. The court accompaniment service gives victims/survivors who are witnesses in criminal cases support to negotiate the complexity of the court process through information and support in person or via phone, text and e-mail. For many, the act of talking through the process or voicing their worries to someone is the first step towards reporting.

It also includes court familiarisation, with visits to the courts to become familiar with their layout and procedures as well as support during the case itself. This is very beneficial as it takes away some of the 'fear of the unknown' they may feel around having to go to court. In 2020, we found that there was an increase in serious issues brought to the DRCC by callers who needed some form of advocacy on their behalf within the system.

## Justice system accompaniment

39

victims/survivors

111

people via phone,  
text and e-mail



## Objective 2: Building the capacity of Irish society to better understand and guard against the harm of sexual violence, as well as meet the needs of victims/survivors

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

We aim to help frontline services and professionals become more trauma-aware and better able to understand and support victims/survivors and their needs. As part of that, DRCC provides specialised training and information to staff and professionals who support those impacted by sexual violence.

In 2020, our Education and Training team saw major changes. Our long-standing Head of Education, Leonie O'Dowd, retired in April. Pandemic restrictions from March meant a total re-think of how we could continue to provide training and support in a trauma-informed way while unable to meet with trainees and learners face to face. Many planned trainings had to be postponed or cancelled. That challenge was turned into an opportunity, giving us an opportunity to re-assess our skills, training materials and methodologies, as well as to engage in training with a wider reach through technology and online training.

The immediate review of materials and technology meant that the Education and Training team resumed with modified training programmes in the second half of 2020. At the same time, we began a thorough review of our education and training services which is continuing in 2021, to ensure that the information and support that we deliver continues to be needs-based and effective in preventing the harm and healing the trauma of sexual violence.

In total, DRCC provided training to 653 people over 69 days across all areas of our work in 2020.

### Tailored training for specific work areas

Those we trained included nurses, mental health service workers, prison staff, counsellors, non-specialist psychotherapists, interpreters, and students' union officers. We trained consular staff to equip them to deal appropriately with people presenting at embassies and consulates in the aftermath of sexual violence. We also provided training on vicarious or secondary traumatisation to help those frontline workers to maintain their own well-being while working with trauma.



Training held in IT Carlow



### Educating to address workplace harassment

We provided our Dignity at Work Courses and other initiatives to tackle sexual abuse in the workplace on 11 different occasions to statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations and other institutions. This training aims to educate employees on harassment, bullying and sexual harassment in the workplace and the potential impact on a worker. The training also gives participants an opportunity to reflect on case studies that could possibly arise and navigate the outcome based on their policies and procedures in their organisations.

### Supporting counselling and therapy professionals

From November 2019 to February 2020, prior to the restrictions, we provided a 12- day training programme, *Sexual Violence: The Therapeutic Process*, that was attended by psychotherapists and counsellors working with clients who had experienced sexual violence.

## Youth programmes

We have continued to expand our ability to reach out to young people and develop materials specific to them and their needs in 2020.



Members of DRCC's Youth Advisory Group with Youth Programmes Coordinator Cairtriona Freir in February 2020

### Youth Advisory Group

In February, DRCC held the first meeting of its new Youth Advisory Group. This group of young people aged 16 to 25 years was formed to consult on our youth prevention programmes and raise issues relevant to young people to inform programme development, as well as join in campaign work. During the year the group did trojan work assisting with an animation on communicating consent, discussing new areas of focus and formulating campaign ideas to involve and inform young people – we thank them all for their time and fantastic energy!

### Rolling out our flagship BodyRight programme

Our training for BodyRight facilitators is a four-day programme designed to equip school and youth work staff to use the programme with young people to raise awareness of respect and healthy relationships, consent and online safety and to prevent sexual violence. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we delivered BodyRight facilitator training on 5 occasions in 2020, training 69 staff to act as facilitators.

**BODYRIGHT**

## #LetsGetReal

Our work with young people and youth support services has alerted us to the importance of educating young people to become more critical in their consumption of advertising, popular culture and pornography. Given the lack of programmes in Ireland focusing on this topic specifically with young people, DRCC developed an educational resource for youth workers and school staff called #LetsGetReal. After piloting in early 2020, our planned roll-out of this new programme was disrupted by the pandemic, but the programme was refined and the first trainings were delivered in Autumn 2020 to 20 professionals working with young people. Several trainings will take place in 2021.



## Educational Outreach

The pandemic's impact, and particularly the reduction in educational terms during 2020 made it more difficult to do outreach to schools and colleges. Nonetheless, we were able to link in with some schools and with several colleges. With the development of online training capacity, we were able to deliver training around managing disclosure, enhancing a person's capacity to offer support in the aftermath of sexual violence and to cope with any personal impact that might cause. The disclosure training proved very popular towards the end of 2020 with eight training sessions given to various college staff bodies and students' unions.

## Objective 3: Recognising the diversity of those who are victims/survivors of sexual violence, ensuring our services are available to whoever needs them

In 2020 we continued to have a national reach by operating the National Freephone 24-Hour Helpline and delivering training courses around the country, with all training going online from April 2020.

Throughout the year, we referred those who called the National Helpline to a wide variety of other services including the other 15 rape crisis centres around the country, organisations offering therapeutic and other supports, and Sexual Assault & Treatment Units.

### **Prioritising support for minority & vulnerable groups**

People without homes, those who are suffering from addiction and those who are refugees or seeking asylum are particularly vulnerable as victims/survivors of sexual violence, as are those who come from minority ethnic groups.

Our new Client Support Service was able to offer much needed extra assistance to clients who live in Direct Provision. This group were especially impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, with many dispersed to centres all over the country. They faced problems around access to appropriate supports/services and needed interventions related to transfer of social welfare payments and requests to be moved back to their previous locations. Extra support to deal with these issues allowed the clients to better focus on their own recovery despite the huge stress and upset they faced in this challenging year.

There are particular difficulties in setting up private, confidential and safe spaces for counselling in congregated settings such as Direct Provision, but these were put in place and continued until the end of the year.



Marking International Women's Day on 8 March 2020 at Aras an Uachtarain (l-r): Shirley Scott, Mary Kerwick, Sabina Coyne, President Michael D Higgins, Lavinia Kerwick, Ethan Kerwick and Anne Marie Gill

### Supporting female prisoners

Thanks to the collaboration between DRCC and the Irish Prison Service, we were able to continue to work with those confined to a congregated setting in Dóchas, the Irish Women's Prison. Therapy plays an important role for people in prison, particularly those who have experienced childhood sexual abuse. Many people who attend the DRCC in prison see their criminal behaviour as a consequence of that childhood sexual abuse. The demand for therapy continues to rise and due to the volume of clients the DRCC has increased their clinic to a full day rather than a half day service. There was a short break in our therapist's support while alternative remote contact systems were put in place following the outbreak of the pandemic.



### Supporting the Deaf community, Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers

DRCC is part of the JUSTISIGNS2 project, a collaboration of experts from Ireland, Belgium, Spain and the UK undertaking research within the Deaf, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities to investigate their experiences of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and their interactions with victim support agencies. Building on the work of the original JUSTISIGNS project, its aims include improving access to support services and the legal process through raising awareness and providing accessible information and resources and training for key actors such as police, interpreters and health workers.

### Working with diverse groups

During International Women's Day celebrations in March, it was wonderful to have the opportunity to support the Amal Women's Association as they reflected on and recognised their accomplishments over the previous 12 months. We look forward to many more occasions to support and work with Amal, a Muslim women-led organisation providing front line services to Muslim women and women with a connection to the Muslim community nationwide.

DRCC works to ensure that those supporting these groups have appropriate training on the impacts of sexual violence. During 2020, we provided training to 79 attendees working with minority and vulnerable groups, including 6 free training days to those in services working with homeless people or with refugees or asylum-seekers.

# Goal 2

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



#### **Objective 4**

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

#### **Objective 5**

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

#### **Objective 6**

Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence

#### **Objective 7**

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

# Objective 4: Building, maintaining and disseminating knowledge and expertise on the topic of sexual violence

## GE2020 & Programme for Government: a chance to highlight the endemic problem of sexual violence

The first half of 2020 saw the emergence of a new Oireachtas and extensive talks which led to the publication of a Programme for Government in July. DRCC was glad to note that issues which are central to our work and where we have long called for reform featured in the commitments of the Programme for Government, particularly the recognition of the need to build on the Istanbul Convention to tackle the epidemic of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, legislate against online harassment and harm, to further recognise the rights of victims of crime.



## A National Strategy against Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

The current (and second) national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender based violence was established in 2016 and runs to 2021. As part of that strategy, a Monitoring Committee meets bi-annually to review the Action Plan arising from the Strategy. DRCC took part in the Monitoring Committee's regular meetings in 2020 as well as in special working group meetings held to discuss the development of the third strategy which will replace the current strategy when it ends in 2021. The Programme for Government 2020 also commits to that third strategy, as well as to a much needed review of the plethora of government departments and agencies that all have a part to play in reducing and ending sexual violence as well as domestic and other gender-based violence.

## Sex for rent

In early 2020 we provided our expert input into a tenant survey from the Residential Tenancy Board (RTB) and Amarach Research, on foot of reports that some landlords were offering accommodation in exchange for sex. Given the very sensitive nature of this topic, the RTB wanted to ensure that the research conducted would help them to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of the issue.

## Ensuring a reliable evidence base for action

It is now almost 20 years since the Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) report, the last large-scale national survey on the topic of prevalence and trends in sexual violence, commissioned by the DRCC, was published in 2002. DRCC has repeatedly flagged the need for more up to date information. In late 2018 the government agreed to undertake a follow-up report, the **Sexual Violence Survey (SVS)**, to be conducted by the Central Statistics Office. Throughout 2020, DRCC continued to provide input as part of the SVS Liaison Group contributing to the survey design and ensuring it took into account the voice of survivors through some survivor feedback. The pandemic unfortunately resulted in the suspension by the CSO of pilot surveys planned for later in the year. This unavoidable delay in roll-out means the gap in our knowledge will continue to hinder our society from tackling sexual violence effectively and holding perpetrators to account. As the CSO settle on a new approach to data collection, DRCC will continue its work on the Liaison Group to ensure this vital initiative proceeds as soon as possible.

## Research

### Furthering our understanding of trauma via CONTEXT research partnership

DRCC was a non-academic partner in the TCD Centre for Global Health CONTEXT (The Collaborative Network for Training and Expertise in Psycho Traumatology) project. The main goal of the project was to better understand the contextual factors at play in psychological responses to trauma, its prevention, assessment and treatment. CONTEXT concluded with an online conference in November, during which each of the 12 researchers spoke to the results and learnings from their own projects. That included the two doctoral researchers who had been based in DRCC.

The University of Limerick's Law School students provided valuable assistance in drafting information and law reform resources on the topic of Harmful Communications – continuing its assistance to DRCC even as they were obliged to move entirely online at a crucial stage of their work. We were very grateful to them for their valuable inputs, supervised by Dr Susan Leahy as discussions on law reform on harmful communications became current in the later part of 2020.

NUI Maynooth also supported the work of DRCC through its valuable student placement programme. In 2020, Bebhinn Ní Chiosáin provided valuable general support to our policy and research work in the first semester of 2020 and helped advance many of our projects – again at a very difficult time for all students.

### Istanbul Convention

Following on its ratification of the Convention in 2019, Ireland has a number of obligations to implement the terms of the Convention. In 2020, we worked with a scholar at the Irish Centre for Human Rights in NUI Galway to better understand the Convention Framework and how it can help our society to reduce and even eliminate sexual based violence.

In addition, we had expert support from a number of volunteers who worked to develop papers, submissions and expertise. While they are not named here, the submissions made and advocacy done for law reform would not have been as extensive or sometimes even possible without them and we truly value this resource.

## Working with others

### Joining forces for bigger impact

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

- DRCC is a committed member of the National Women's Council of Ireland – with our Policy Manager Shirley Scott joining the NWCI Board during the year – and also of the Observatory against Violence against Women, which NWCI chairs.
- We are a member of the Rape Crisis Centres Forum, a collective of nine of the country's 16 Rape Crisis Centres, which meets regularly for information sharing, pooling of experience and expertise and development of mutual objectives. We are also part of the Turn Off the Red Light Campaign and part of the Victims' Rights Alliance.
- DRCC is part of the Children's Rights Alliance and submits feedback on its annual Score Card which evaluates the state's performance in upholding children's rights in Ireland. In 2020, DRCC also took part in the CRA-led campaign for law reform and increased safety in online communications as set out below.
- DRCC is also a member of The Wheel, which represents community & voluntary organisations around Ireland and engages with a wide range of organisations on an ad-hoc basis.

### Campaigning to reduce harassment and abuse

DRCC continued to support the Department of Justice and Equality *No Excuses* campaign in 2020, aiming to increase awareness and reduce incidences of sexual violence and harassment. The campaign was paused with the onset of the pandemic, but resumed in the autumn with new messaging for our lockdown times. *No Excuses* was supported by inputs from DRCC on national and local radio as well as to the Department's stakeholder advisory group.

### Highlighting domestic, sexual and gender-based violence support services during COVID-19

As COVID-19 made its impacts felt, more people were required to stay home and avoid travel for non-essential purposes. DRCC was a partner in the government's *Still Here* campaign, spearheaded by the Department of Justice, to highlight state and voluntary support services to people experiencing domestic violence including sexual violence. The campaign collected important contact details and information in a dedicated website at [www.stillhere.ie](http://www.stillhere.ie). A series of radio and TV ads were created and a media campaign launched to get the word out throughout 2020.



### Prioritising safety of children and young people online

In collaboration with the Children's Rights Alliance, DRCC and other member organisations Barnardos, CyberSafeIreland, One in Four, ISPCC, and SpunOut.ie joined forces to ensure that protecting children and young people online was a priority in the next Programme for Government in progressing regulation, empowerment/education and enforcement. We called for the following actions:

1. establishing a Digital Safety Commissioner;
2. ensuring that digital rights and online safety are central to the next Children and Young People's Strategy;
3. introducing a comprehensive digital literacy programme in formal and non-formal education; and
4. effectively resourcing the Gardai to investigate crimes involving images of child sex abuse.



Work in relation to all of those actions continued in various ways throughout 2020. The year ended with the publication of the General Scheme of the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill which will bring the establishment of a Digital Safety Commissioner into sharp focus for the coming year.

## Objective 5: Building greater recognition in the law and throughout society on the key role of consent

### Setting the scene for a national campaign to promote consent to prevent sexual violence in Irish society

Following on from a two-day brainstorming workshop of seasoned campaigners in November 2019, which explored the foundations of a campaign on Zero Tolerance of sexual violence, DRCC resolved to commit to a sustained focus on the topic of consent in order to identify sexual violence, prevent its occurrence and crucially, recognise that a more in-depth knowledge of consent in sexual behaviour will contribute to gender equality. To this end, DRCC commissioned research to be completed in 2021 and, in September, we convened a second, online gathering of activists and experts presenting plans for a wide-scale campaign. Feedback from the online assembly has confirmed the ongoing need for such a campaign. Work continues to secure funding and other resources for the campaign.

We are heartened to note the commitment of the Departments of Justice and of Higher & Further Education, Research Innovation and Science to engage in consent awareness raising at government level, as well as excellent initiatives of academic institutions and NGOs. The task of building a thorough understanding of consent in the context of equality is a substantial one and will require the energetic contribution of many actors.

### Reforming education on sex and health relationships

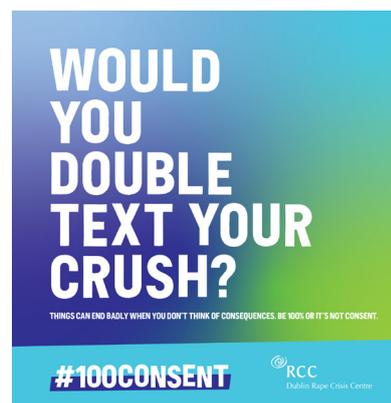
Having contributed in 2019 to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's review of Relationship and Sex Education, in 2020 DRCC worked with the Council to develop content for the NCCA's portal on RSE delivery around topics such as sexual consent, based on our existing work on the BodyRight programme.



### Campaigning with Gen Z: #100consent

With our *pro bono* communications partner Pluto, DRCC created the #100consent campaign, which involved the new TikTok platform beloved of many in the 16-24 age group. The campaign encouraged young people to understand and engage on consent using their own language and creativity, focusing on clarity and communication - on the idea that when it comes to sexual consent, the slightest uncertainty can lead to devastating consequences – if you're not 100 percent, it's not consent.

Some 22 of Ireland's most popular TikTokers came together to launch the campaign on 6 March, with a day of workshops and brainstorming sessions to help educate them on consent and inspire their content. It seems this was the first time that Irish TikTokers had taken on an important social issue from a campaign perspective. It was a totally new way for DRCC to spread the consent message and to get young people to think about how consent really features in their lives. The campaign was very popular on social channels, with a reach of over 5 million in the first weeks after launch and wide media coverage. It was also the last pre-COVID event organised by DRCC, with restrictions coming into force less than a week later.



### Ending Sexual Harassment & Violence in Third Level Education

DRCC is a member of the National Advisory Committee (NAC), set up following the 'Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Third Level Education' project and the findings of the Framework for Consent in Higher Education Institutions. The NAC has a cross-sectoral approach, bringing together institutions and other relevant stakeholders including the Union of Students in Ireland with specific expertise and experience to address collaboratively the issues arising from sexual violence and harassment in third level education. In 2020



DRCC's Caitriona Freir with Minister Simon Harris TD

DRCC provided expertise, advice and training to colleges working to enact the recommendations of the Consent Framework with a particular focus on using a trauma-informed perspective in both prevention and awareness initiatives and in changes to policies, practices and culture which would ultimately improve the points of impact for victims/survivors of sexual violence.

DRCC engaged with Dr Eavan O'Brien in her role managing the implementation of the National Framework for consent within the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA). We provided feedback and commentary on policy documents shared with us.

### CEO appointed to UCD Governing Authority

In September, following on revelations of sexual harassment at University College Dublin, Minister for Higher Education Simon Harris announced he was appointing DRCC Chief Executive Noeline Blackwell to the university's Governing Authority. Noeline said she was honoured to be given the role and hoped to "support efforts to rid the tolerance of sexual abuse and harassment that exists in all higher-level institutions".

### Working towards a safer comedy environment

During the year, DRCC engaged with a group of comedians working on the Irish comedy scene, who described considerable sexual harassment and abusive behaviour going unchecked. Together we developed online training to raise awareness of consent and related issues as well as to support those impacted and develop a code of conduct for venues. This had its first pilot session in November 2020 and will be launched and rolled out in 2021.

# Objective 6: Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence

## Improving the process for victims/ survivors in the criminal justice system

DRCC is providing therapeutic support, counselling and accompaniment support to increasing numbers of people who are reporting sexual offences and giving evidence as witnesses in court. We are constantly struck by the multiple barriers and indignities they must encounter within the justice system.

Thus DRCC was glad to welcome the publication of the *Review of Protections for Vulnerable Witnesses in the Investigations and Prosecution of Sexual Offences* in August. This was the long-anticipated interdepartmental review chaired by Professor Tom O'Malley of NUI Galway. In our 2018 submission to the working group, DRCC set out a number of recommendations that were accepted in the report, including specialist training for all professionals, including An Garda Síochána, the judiciary, and all officers of the State dealing with sexual offences. The potential to re-traumatise victims/survivors can be compounded at all stages of the criminal justice process if professionals are not trauma-informed: sensitive to and respectful of the needs of victims/survivors.

The use of pre-trial hearings to deal with legal issues such as cross-examination on previous sexual history, disclosure and the admissibility of evidence - this will promote efficiency and lessen delays in the trial of sexual offences. The report crucially recognises that those who are victims/survivors of sexual offences may be vulnerable simply by virtue of the crime done to them, and the way that they have to describe that crime in the justice system. This recognition is important in understanding the difference between giving testimony in a crime of intimate violence and most other types of crime.

Justice Minister Helen McEntee committed to the implementation of those recommendations and a detailed implementation plan, *Supporting A Victim's Journey* was published in October 2020, following discussions with stakeholders, including DRCC. The implementation plan contains many positive measures, some of which DRCC has insisted require rapid implementation, such as

- specialised training for those interfacing with victims/survivors in the justice system;
- provision for wide-scale specialised accompaniment of victims/survivors to court and appropriate physical court spaces;
- provision for free legal advice to give victims/survivors the information they need in a timely way; and
- provisions for reducing delay.

In a social media 'snapshot' survey done after the launch of the Review, and before the publication of the implementation plan, victims/survivors indicated that they have hopes – but not necessarily expectations – that reforms will be implemented. They also identified the issues of delay, supports and training as the most crucial to make the system a better one.



DRCC volunteer Anne Bugler at the Central Criminal Court

The O'Malley report had over 50 recommendations for reform, many of which are now reflected in the Minister's implementation plan. DRCC welcomes the significant engagement of the Minister and the Department with relevant frontline services, including our own, but also recognises that this scale of reform involves significant resources from our frontline services and researchers, which has consumed considerable energy from DRCC in the second half of 2020.

**Engaging with An Garda Síochána**

DRCC has consistently called for the establishment of specialist Protective Service Units in every Garda division as vital for dealing with traumatised and vulnerable victims/survivors. It was positive to hear that by the end of September, roll-out to all 28 Garda Divisions nationwide was complete. We continue to note the need to fully resource such units as well as to effect greater consistency of approach among Gardaí and specialist Garda training.



Throughout the year, as required, DRCC had meetings with members of An Garda Síochána. These meetings are an opportunity to raise issues and concerns and also for each to better understand the work of the other. DRCC is also represented on the Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee of An Garda Síochána.

**Retrospective Reporting of Childhood Sexual Abuse**

During 2020, DRCC collaborated with Dr Joe Mooney, lecturer in social work in UCD on a piece of research to examine adults' experiences of disclosing childhood sexual abuse to child protection services in Ireland. The study will involve a survey of adults who access supports via NGO services. The research also involves our colleagues in One in Four and RCNI. The research report should be available in 2021.

# Objective 7: Facilitating victims/survivors in making their voices heard and promoting innovation in strengthening protection for victims/survivors of sexual violence

## **Working with law enforcement**

Identification and recognition of victims' rights is important to establish those who suffer sexual violence as rights-holders and entitled to their own voice. Victims' rights are being recognised more and more in law. DRCC both leads and works with others to drive this focus. During the year, we met and corresponded with the Chief Superintendent of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau and his team to discuss issues of interest to both organisations.

## **Engagement with the Citizens Assembly**

The Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality commenced work in early 2020 chaired by Dr Catherine Day. Although it was tasked with bringing forward proposals to advance gender equality, the Assembly did not originally include gender-based violence as a specific topic, but this was added in March. DRCC and other NGOs with expertise had initial discussions with the Chairperson and Assembly personnel. The pandemic forced the Assembly to suspend its work until 2021.

## **Familicide & Domestic Homicide Review**

This Review was commissioned by the Minister for Justice & Equality in 2019. DRCC is a member of the Advisory Committee and attended meetings of the Committee during the year. During 2020, its chairperson, Norah Gibbons sadly died and DRCC sympathies were sincerely tendered to her family and many friends. Its work continues under its new chair, Maura Butler.

## **Reforming the legal system for victims/survivors**

As mentioned above, there was significant progress in long-awaited review of the systems facing victims/survivors of sexual offences in the trial process in Ireland. Ahead of our annual report 2019 launch, we ran a short online survey to garner public feedback on the O'Malley review findings and proposed implementation process. We fed this back at the launch of our annual report in September – many respondents expressed scepticism around its potential for action and change. Minister for Justice Helen McEntee, who launched our annual report, was surprised by the negative tone but understood that many respondents had been disappointed by progress to date and vowed to ensure speedy action, which she undoubtedly did in the following month, with her *Supporting a Victim's Journey* plan to implement O'Malley's Review recommendations.

## **Research into rape trials**

In January, DRCC presented at and participated in a conference hosted by the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies at the University of Limerick which focused on research by Dr Susan Leahy on the realities of rape trials, showcasing innovative research from leading national and international experts in the area. DRCC contributed to the research being showcased at the event, with direct inputs from volunteers and others. The work includes the impact of trials on justice personnel, as well as how evidence is collected and used. The research is due for publication shortly.

## DRCC policy submissions during 2020

Quarter 1	1. Submission on gender-based violence to the Advisory Group of the Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality.
	2. Submission to the UN Committee against Torture on reliable data, training of law enforcement personnel and effective right to redress (as part of List of Issues in advance of Ireland's forthcoming examination).
Quarter 2	3. Briefing paper on sexual violence and prevention for party leaders in response to the Framework Document for Government Formation.
	4. Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women in advance of her report to the UN General Assembly on rape as a grave and systematic human rights violation.
Quarter 3	5. Submission to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau on training material for Gardaí & Garda Staff engaging with victims/survivors of sexual violence.
	6. Submission to the Department of Justice & Equality's Strategy for the Criminal Justice System.
	7. Written commentary on Review of the Child Care Act 1991 as part of Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth's consultation.
	8. Submission on review of Part 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017.
Quarter 4	9. Submission to Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) towards its proposed strategic priorities in new Statement of Strategy.
	10. As part of the Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women, submission of amendments to the Harassment, Harmful Communications, and Related Offences Bill.





## Goal 3

Be a strong, sustainable  
organisation



## **Objective 8**

Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work

## **Objective 9**

Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan

## **Objective 10**

Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

# Objective 8: Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work

## State funding

Most of our funding for the National 24-Hour Helpline and for our therapy services comes from Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, which is in turn funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Further annual grants from the Department of Justice in 2020 contribute to the cost of accompaniment services and the provision of some BodyRight programmes for youth workers.

In view of additional demands of COVID-19 and the sudden and substantial change in how such services were delivered, we were also pleased that the frontline Sexual and Domestic Violence Services were recognised as frontline services by Tusla and the Department of Justice and were supported with additional emergency funding.

Further additional emergency funding, associated with COVID-19, was granted by the Department of Rural & Community Affairs as part of a Stability Fund, recognising the severe economic impact of the pandemic on organisations in the community and voluntary sector.

## Public fundraising

Even before COVID-19, state funding did not meet the full cost of DRCC's frontline services. In addition, costs associated with education and training programmes, administration and governance, engaging with survivors and research were not funded by the State. In a normal year, DRCC must



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[idonate.ie/cookupastorm](https://idonate.ie/cookupastorm)

raise over a million euro each year to meet its costs. Much of this has traditionally come from fundraising events.

In 2020, the pandemic meant DRCC was unable to run its usual fundraising events to make up the shortfall. While the WomanKind fashion event in February and Corporate Quiz in March were able to proceed as normal, other staples in the DRCC funding calendar, like the Golf Classic, the VHI Women's Mini-Marathon and Miss Candy's Fashion Lunch, had to be reimagined for the new reality. Thanks to incredible support from the public, we were able to transplant these important fundraisers to an online format. Our 'Cook Up A Storm' event in June saw celebrity chefs ably led by Miss Candy and Derry Clarke create their favourite dishes and showcase them online in aid of DRCC. In November, we marked the international 16 days of activism against gender-based violence with our #16stats campaign that highlighted key statistics on sexual violence while inviting people to support our healing and prevention work with a donation.

## Other public donations

We were also very fortunate to also benefit from a large number of supporters organising their own events and fundraisers, for which we are incredibly grateful. Our Text Donate number is another way for people to easily donate small amounts towards our work

- Text **DRCC** to **50300** to donate €4
- Texts cost €4.00. DRCC will receive a minimum of €3.60.  
*Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278.*
- Or text **HELP** to **50300** to donate €4 per month
- This is a subscription service. Text cost €4 per month.  
DRCC will receive a minimum of €3.60.  
*Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278*

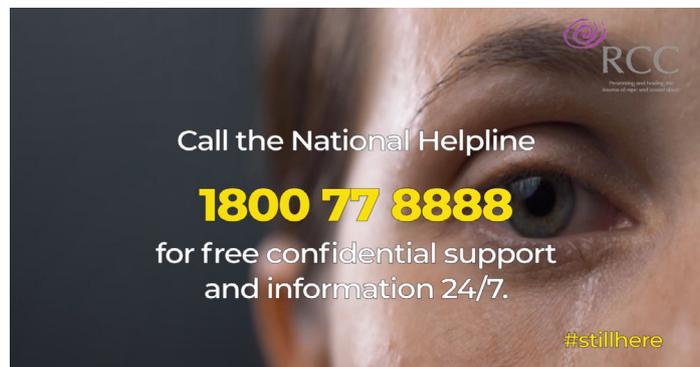
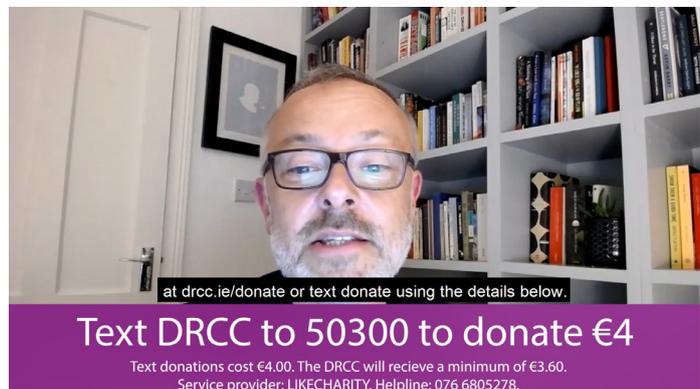
We depend very much on the generosity of the general public to supplement our finances as we attempt to keep pace with demand for our services and for our advocacy and campaign work on prevention of sexual violence.

## Philanthropic funding

Thanks to investment from philanthropic and institutional funders, we were able to advance projects which require a far-sighted understanding of how we aim to advance our goals. This encompasses the development of our *Moving Forward from Sexual Violence* programme as well as hiring expert staff to advance our work on youth programmes, communications and policy, carrying out research into sexual harassment and developing our long term campaign on consent.

We have also been gratified by the support we receive from companies and businesses who recognise the importance of our work for general society and also for their employees, friends and families.

The need for DRCC's services, analysis, research, and general support is far greater than we can meet, and we will therefore continue to seek the energy and good will of the general public and corporate donors, and to explore and seek additional funding to carry out our mission.



# Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan

All through 2020, we continued to develop our communications capability, with the objective of ensuring that we can communicate externally and internally as needed.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a significant challenge to our work, with an urgent need to move key services to a remote footing and maintain clear lines of communication with survivors, the general public and internally with staff and volunteers. We relied on key communications outputs to support our work and mission throughout 2020.

## Website

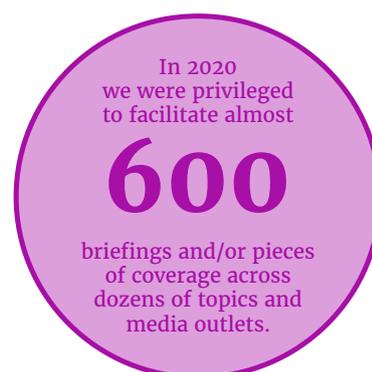
In 2020 we upgraded our website ([www.drcc.ie](http://www.drcc.ie)) and added new resources and functionality, including an online webchat and searchable news items and documents.

## Spreading our news

DRCC has a regular electronic newsletter for its supporters, with sign-up available via our website, that provides updates on our work and campaigns. We revamped the newsletter and streamlined content with the aim of increasing its reach.

## Harnessing the power of social media:

Our social media channels continued to be instrumental in disseminating key messages of the organisation throughout 2020. We saw steady growth in followers across our profiles on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, gaining more than 4,000 new followers during the year to bring our overall following to over 25,000. Our major campaigns on social in 2020 – #100Consent, #16stats and #CookUpAStorm – attracted wide interest, totalling over 6.7 million in reach and approx. 525,000 engagements.



## Working with media to highlight issues

DRCC recognises media as a vital channel for information on sexual violence and how to prevent it. Thus we seek to provide up to date and accurate media briefings as requested. In 2020 we were privileged to facilitate almost 600 briefings and/or pieces of coverage across dozens of topics and media outlets.

## Campaigning for awareness, action and change

Throughout 2020 DRCC ran targeted campaigns, mainly on raising awareness of sexual violence or prevention or to raise funds for the organisation's core work, as mentioned elsewhere in this report. In November, DRCC marked the start of the annual 16 days of global action against gender-based abuse with a new campaign highlighting sexual violence in Ireland and seeking public support to maintain its work. With the **#16stats** campaign, DRCC spotlighted a different & stark statistic each day between 25 November and 10 December to show the scale of sexual violence in Ireland, alongside our own work to support survivors and prevent sexual violence. These figures reminded people of the sheer scale of sexual violence in Ireland: the frequency and variety, the numbers affected, and the need for diverse supports for victims/survivors across our health and justice systems.



# Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

## DRCC Staff



Our staff are a core resource, essential to carrying out the mission and goals of the DRCC. In 2020, much was expected of our dedicated personnel. Everyone was required to change. Some were required to make significant adjustments in how they did their work: particularly those who provided face to face services in therapy, volunteer and staff support and in training.

During the year, we took on three additional staff: a new Head of Fundraising Kirsty Cawthron, a new Head of Operations and Administration Suzanne McMullen, and a Data Officer, Liam van der Spek.

At the same time, two treasured staff members died following illnesses bravely borne: Irene Walsh in January and Rachel Farrell in October. Our sincere sympathies to their families and friends from all their colleagues at DRCC.

Staff also retired during the year, including our head of Education & Training Leonie O'Dowd, a role that will be filled following a review of how we address education and training to best accomplish our goals and objectives in the light of all of the recent changes.

A review has also been undertaken of the clinical services of the Centre with the similar aim of ensuring the best possible services for all those we support in a future where we know that more people than ever will need our services.

## DRCC Volunteers

As will be clear from the report above, many of the supports and services supplied by DRCC depend not just on our committed staff but also on dedicated and passionate volunteers. Our volunteers are essential to delivering Dublin Rape Crisis Centre services to victims/survivors of sexual violence in conjunction with our core staff. Thanks to their commitment and skill, key assistance is provided across a range of areas.



DRCC volunteer Kay Lynch in the Victim Support Suite at the Central Criminal Court

- **Counsellors on National 24-Hour Helpline:** Trained volunteers provide a listening service so that whenever someone calls the Helpline outside of office hours, a trained telephone counsellor is ready to listen, support and provide information.
- **Accompanying victims/survivors:** Our volunteers accompany victims/survivors in the justice system, to court and on visits to Garda stations. They are on call 365 days - and nights - a year to go to the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin to provide psychological and emotional support to those attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit for medical and forensic examinations.
- **Providing public information:** Volunteers help raise awareness around prevention of sexual violence through public talks and information sessions on school and colleges.
- **Board membership:** Our Board is composed of volunteers from various walks of life who provide leadership and ensure governance oversight.
- **Fundraising:** In our fundraising work, we have been very fortunate to see large numbers of volunteers come forward to assist us and support our work.
- **Policy:** We have also had valuable skilled support from volunteers working with us on policy issues and in our administrative work.

### Recruitment & training:

Volunteer recruitment and training drives for Helpline and accompaniment services normally take place twice annually to ensure sufficient numbers of trained volunteers are always available. Each volunteer completes **72 hours** of training followed by a final assessment. This training usually takes place over the course of four weekends and includes a visit to SATU and input from the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. Volunteers on duty are supported by access to expert advice and attend supervision facilitated by the Volunteer Services team.



DRCC volunteer Michelle Bevan at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit in Dublin's Rotunda Hospital

In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions caused considerable disruption to our volunteer induction and training, which had to move to an online format. However, despite this, our new recruits were able to complete their training and join the volunteer team.

Our volunteers on the National Helpline showed extraordinary fortitude and commitment during 2020. It is remarkable that in this very challenging year, on top of all their own personal adjustments and circumstances, DRCC's volunteers maintained their invaluable support to those seeking help, and in many cases actually took on further duties or extended their commitment. We are profoundly grateful for their steadfastness and integrity.

## Reflections of a Volunteer

*Because of the scourge that is COVID-19, this past year has been very difficult for many of us. However, for those members of our community who use our 24-hour helpline it has been particularly arduous. I am a volunteer telephone counsellor with DRCC since November 2019. I have found the experience of the last twelve months to be very rewarding and at the same time very demanding. The volume of calls from people within our communities who feel that they have no one else to turn to and have expressed feelings of great distress and despair has been harrowing.*

*To bear witness to the obvious pain of a caller, to offer solace, to sooth the hurt, to help heal the wound, and most importantly to listen and for the time that I may be on the line with a caller to walk with them on their journey, is for me a privilege. The sense of loneliness and hopelessness expressed by callers particularly during this most recent lockdown shines a light on the need for us all to reach out to those who are in distress and in need. The availability of our 24-hour helpline brings assurance to our callers knowing that they can call at any time, late at night or early morning knowing that there will always be a volunteer who will be there for them.*

*As alluded to earlier, we have received a large number of calls over the last twelve months and at times these calls have been very distressing. However, I received a call recently from a person who rang the line to just say thank you and to express their gratitude to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and in particular to all the volunteers who give of their time to be there for those who are most in need.*

*Mark Wynne*

## DRCC Board

DRCC is led by a voluntary Board. The full DRCC board met on seven occasions during 2020 (see next section). There are three board sub-committees: Audit & Finance; Human Resources and Remuneration and Fundraising which also met as required during the year.

During the year, three new members joined the DRCC Board: Síona Cahill, Philip Hyland and Madeleine McCarthy. One member resigned, Helen Jones, although Helen continued to work in a voluntary capacity to give us assistance throughout the year.

## Meeting governance obligations

DRCC complies with the Charities Governance Code published by the Charities Regulatory Authority and in 2020, it engaged in a review of all policies, procedures and evidence of compliance to ensure that it meets each core standard.

DRCC continued to meet legal requirements, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Children First, providing relevant training to staff and ensuring all requirements were incorporated in organisational policies. Lobbying returns were submitted in a timely way to the Regulator of Lobbying in Ireland.

## Satisfying funder duties

The organisation fulfilled its targets and reporting obligations for all funders during the course of the year. The financial accounts attached give a detailed picture of the income, expenditure and activities of the organisation for 2020.

Members of the Board of Directors in 2020	Meetings attended (Total=7)
Ann Marie Gill (Chair)	7
John Fanning	6
Keith Herman	7
Anne-Marie James	5
Helen Jones (resigned in October)	4
Neasa Kane-Fine	5
Carol Keane	6
Aibhlín McCrann	7
Cathy O'Donohoe	4
Grace O'Malley	7
Siona Cahill (joined in Oct)	2
Philip Hyland (joined in Oct)	2
Madeleine McCarthy (joined in Oct)	2

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

### Commitment to best practice

The DRCC complies with the standards contained in the Charity Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public. The DRCC is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (The Governance Code).

### Company & Charity Registration

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

# Financial Statements

- Independent Auditors Report
- Financial Statements
  - Independent Auditors Report
  - Statement Of Financial Activities For Year Ended 31 December 2020
  - Statement Of Comprehensive Income
  - DRCC Employee Salary Range
  - Statement Of Financial Position For

Year Ended 31 December 2020

## Independent Auditors Report

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of financial position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014**

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that in our opinion:

- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of director's remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

### **Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/International-Standards-on-Auditing-for-use-in-Ire/International-Standards-on-Auditing-\(Ireland\)/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/International-Standards-on-Auditing-for-use-in-Ire/International-Standards-on-Auditing-(Ireland)/ISA-700-(Ireland)). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Thomas McDonald  
for and on behalf of JPA Brenson Lawlor  
Chartered Accountants  
Argyle Square  
Morehampton Road  
Donnybrook  
Dublin 4  
D04 W9W7

Date: 19 May 2021

are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Financial Statements

### Statement Of Financial Activities (Incorporating An Income and Expenditure Account) For Year Ended 31 December 2020

Income and Expenditure 2020					
	Designated funds €	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
<b>Income:</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations	-	341,435	187,853	529,289	563,558
Fundraising income	-	275,052	53,257	328,309	341,588
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Government grants	-	-	1,496,632	1,496,632	1,326,454
Education, counselling and other services	-	117,084	40,405	157,488	251,325
<b>Income from other activities</b>					
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	3,170
<b>Total income</b>	-	<b>733,571</b>	<b>1,778,147</b>	<b>2,511,718</b>	<b>2,486,095</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>					
Cost of raising funds	-	155,217	-	155,217	151,464
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	224,026	1,780,317	2,004,343	1,731,688
Administration and other expenditure	-	200,800	-	200,800	227,748
<b>Total expenditure</b>	-	<b>580,043</b>	<b>1,780,317</b>	<b>2,360,360</b>	<b>2,110,900</b>
<b>Net income/ (expenditure)</b>	-	<b>153,528</b>	<b>(2,170)</b>	<b>151,358</b>	<b>375,195</b>
	Designated funds €	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €

Transfer to/ between funds	62,589	(64,759)	2,170	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	62,589	88,769	-	151,358	375,195
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward	2,413,720	458,609	-	2,873,329	2,497,134
Total funds carried forward	2,476,309	547,378	-	3,023,687	2,872,329

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Total 2020	Total 2019
Surplus for the financial year	151,358	375,195
Total Comprehensive Income	151,358	375,195

## DRCC Employee Salary Range

A total of three employees earned remuneration in excess of €70,000 per annum as follows:

	2020	2019
€60,000 to €70,000	1	1
€70,001 to €80,000	2	1
€80,001 to €90,000	1	1

*Alice Marie Gill*

*Heidi H*

# Statement Of Financial Position For Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 €	2019 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	1,202,567	1,260,065
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	15,482	25,299
Cash at bank and in hand	2,755,863	2,346,700
	<b>2,771,345</b>	<b>2,371,999</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(138,417)</b>	<b>(124,593)</b>
Net current assets	2,632,982	3,507,471
Total assets less current liabilities	3,835,495	3,507,471
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(811,808)	(635,142)
Net Assets	3,023,687	2,827,329
<b>Funds of the charity</b>		
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	547,378	458,609
Accumulated funds – designated funds	2,476,309	2,413,720
<b>Total funds of the charity</b>	<b>3,023,687</b>	<b>2,872,329</b>

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

Ann Marie Gill

*Director*

DRCC Annual Report 2020

Date: 19 May 2021

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Keith Herman

*Director*

Date: 19 May 2021

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*Preventing and healing the  
trauma of rape and sexual abuse*

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 @dublinrapecrisis