The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (A Company Limited by Guarantee) Trading as DRCC

Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statements
For the financial year ended
31 December 2020

Registered Number: 147318 Charity Number: CHY 8529

Charity Registration Number: 20021078

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) CONTENTS

Directors' report	1-29
Directors' responsibilities statement	30
Independent auditors' report	31-33
Statement of financial activities	34
Statement of comprehensive income	35
Statement of financial position	36
Statement of cash flows	37
Notes to the financial statements	38 - 55

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) COMPANY INFORMATION

Chair Ann Marie Gill

Directors Ann Marie Gill

Aibhlin McCrann Carol Keane Cathy O'Donohoe Grace O'Malley Keith Herman Neasa Kane-Fine John Fanning Anne Marie James

Siona Cahill (appointed 15/10/2020)
Philip Hyland (appointed 15/10/2020)
Madeleine McCarthy (appointed 15/10/2020)

Chief Executive Noeline Blackwell

Company Secretary Keith Herman

Auditors JPA Brenson Lawlor

Brenson Lawlor House

Argyle Square Morehampton Road

Dublin 4

Bankers Permanent TSB

70 Grafton Street

Dublin 2

Allied Irish Banks

40/41 Westmoreland Street

Dublin 2

Ulster Bank

130 Baggot Street Lower

Dublin 2

Solicitors LK Sheilds

38 Mount Street

Dublin 2

Registered Office 70 Lower Leeson Street

Dublin 2 D02 VW13

The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102. Although not obliged to comply with the Charities SORP, the organization has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. The main activities of the organization are charitable.

The content of the director's annual report is set out in the following headings:

- Objectives and activities,
- Achievements and performance;
- Financial review;
- Structure, governance and management;
- Reference and administrative details:
- Exemptions from disclosures and
- Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) exists to provide counselling, psychotherapy and support to victims of sexual violence and strives to eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society. We also aim to:

- Provide education and training services for professionals and agencies who encounter sexual abuse in the course of their work.
- Help people who have been traumatised physically and mentally by sexual abuse.

Activities in support of these aims include:

- The operation of a National 24-Hour Helpline in support of men and women who have experienced sexual violence, including rape and other sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse, or sexual harassment/bullying;
- The provision of outreach services in Coolock, Tallaght University Hospital and the Dóchas Centre Women's prison;
- Advocating on behalf of survivors of sexual violence, to ensure that they have appropriate access to health
 and justice systems, and that their rights and dignity are respected when accessing these services;
- The provision of training services that help to both prevent and deal with sexual violence when it occurs;
- Working to eliminate tolerance of sexual violence through awareness-raising campaigns and through education and training activities;
- The collection and dissemination of data to advance understanding of the prevalence and incidence of sexual violence and the services provided to those who suffer it.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our goals

The DRCC is guided by its strategic plan, which has set the 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;
- To be a strong, sustainable organisation.

Each goal is to be achieved through delivery of a number of 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.

This goal will be achieved through the delivery of the following objectives:

- 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.

Goal 2

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

This goal will be achieved through the delivery of the following objectives:

- 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 on 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.

Goal 3

Be a strong, sustainable organisation.

This goal will be achieved through the delivery of the following objectives

- 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

Goal 1: Ensuring that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence received the supports that they need to heal

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 and group therapy;
- An online support programme;
- · A client support/ welfare service; and
- Survivor accompaniment services.

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.

It is worth noting that despite the closure of pubs, clubs and other social venues, sexual violence still happened - whether at home or in other places. People with past experience of sexual violence also came forward to seek support. Nonetheless, in 2020, we experienced a drop in the number of contacts, albeit alongside a rise in intensity of contact. This past year has been challenging for so many people and this has been reflected in the contacts we have received to the helpline. Our experienced counsellors have reported 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.

In addition, many callers did not have the time and space to access the Helpline in privacy, including some who were accustomed to contacting 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.

We also had contact from those who were reluctant to disclose abuse, including rape. Victims 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 gain their trust and give them a safe space to ask for help.

The ongoing challenge for Helpline staff 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 11,401 compared with 14,159 in 2019 and to 12,855 in 2018. Of these, 48.75% 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 who formed almost 23% of contacts. The busiest months were June (605 contacts) and July (611 contacts).

Webchat support service

During 2020, we strengthened and developed our website to support more digital contact and in October 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 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. For the period it was open in 2020, we had 105 support contacts via webchat.

Counselling & 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 clinic 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 the previous year, 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.

Client feedback on therapy:

"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 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.

Innovating in therapist support: 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. A survey of participants conducted during the year indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the support provided during the programme and its flexibility. Almost 90% of participants surveyed felt the programme had given them a better understanding of trauma and its effects, 82% felt better able to express themselves and 94% felt more hopeful about the future. All those who responded said they were likely to recommend the programme to others.

Feedback from participants in Moving Forward from Sexual Violence 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.

Overview of therapy in 2020

Appointments delivered

Out of the 7,367 appointments offered to clients, some 6,006 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 3,200 in 2020 compared with 2,523 in 2019. They constituted 53% of total appointments.

The remaining 2,806 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 of 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%).

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 420 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 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 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 attended, 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 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 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 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.

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 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 student 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.

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 & therapy professionals: Supporting counselling & 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.

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.

#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 it was further workshopped and refined during the year and will be rolled out more fully 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 student 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 of sexual violence, as are those who come from minority ethnic groups. 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.

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 places for counselling in congregated settings such as Direct Provision, but these were put in place and continued until the end of the year.

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.

Working with the Deaf and hearing-impaired community: DRCC is part of the JUSTISIGNS 2 project, a collaboration led by a consortium of European experts from Ireland, Belgium, Spain and the UK who are undertaking research within the Deaf community. The project investigates the experiences of victims of sexual violence and crime when they interact with the police and the legal process. Research in many spheres (not just policing), shows that deaf and deaf-blind people are 2-3 times more likely to be victims of sexual abuse, and are estimated to be twice as likely to experience domestic violence than their hearing counterparts.

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.

Goal 2: Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors

This goal will be achieved through the delivery of the following objectives:

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 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 in the Turn Off the Red Light Campaign and in 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. 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.

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: 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. We understand 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 physical event organised by DRCC, with the COVID-19 restrictions coming into force less than a week later.

Ending Sexual Harassment and 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 with specific expertise and experience to address collaboratively the issues arising from sexual violence and harassment in third level education. In 2020 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 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 UCD, Minister for Higher Education Simon Harris announced he was appointing DRCC Chief Executive Noeline Blackwell to the university's Governing Authority. Noeline says she is honoured to be given the role and hopes 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 women 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 Siochána, the judiciary, and all officers of the State dealing with sexual offences. The potential to re-traumatise victims 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 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 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, 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.

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. 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 also involves One in Four and RCNI and results 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 victim/survivors: As mentioned above, there was significant progress in long-awaited review by the state of the systems facing victims 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 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:

- Submission on gender-based violence to the Advisory Group of the Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality.
- 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).
- 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.
- 5. Submission to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau on training material for Gardaí & Garda Staff engaging with victims 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.
- 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

This goal will be achieved through the delivery of the following objectives:

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, education and training programmes, administration and governance costs, engaging with survivors and research were not funded by the State. In a normal year, DRCC must 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, 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. 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) and added new resources and functionality, including an online webchat and searchable news items.

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 — #100onsent, #16stats and #CookUpAStorm — attracted wide engagement, totalling over 6.7million 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 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 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.

- 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 victim/survivors: Our volunteers accompany victim/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 survivors 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.
- 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.

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, the volume of calls we received over the last twelve months has greatly increased and at times these calls have been very distressing. However, I received a call recently from a man who rang the line to just say thank you and to express his 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)	_
doning 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 REVIEW

The directors report the following financial events during the year.

The financial results for the year ended 31 December 2020 are shown in the Statement of Financial activities on page 26 and are considered satisfactory by the Board.

Income has increase by 1% to \leq 2,511,718 (2019: \leq 2,486,095). An analysis of the various income streams is included with the accounts as a supporting schedule.

In accordance with the results, expenditure is up by 12% to €2,360,360 (2019: €2,110,900). Apart from normal expenditure increases the principal items relating to this increase are wages and salaries increase of €99k, rent increase of €28k, repairs and maintenance increase of €19k, forum costs of €25k, an increase in legal and professional costs of €32k, an increase in consultancy costs of €27k and increase in cleaning costs of €9k and bank interest costs of €13k.

RESERVES STRATEGY

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre has a responsibility to ensure that it uses the funds and resources it receives for its charitable purpose of supporting the services it provides. There are uncertainties around most sources of funding and resources. To this end, The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre has a reserves policy in place where reserves are to be maintained at a level which ensures that The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

As at 31 December 2020, the directors have designated reserves of €2,413,720 for specific purposes. An amount of €1,186,200, representing approximately six months day-to-day expenditure, has been reserved to ensure we can continue our core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A sum of €900,000 has been allocated to a capital project regarding the charity's premises. A total of €327,520 has been set aside to cover the Centre's outstanding mortgage balance.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANGEMENT

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital. The organisation has a constitution. The directors are volunteers to The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is committed to openness and transparency both within the organisation and externally with donors, funders, supporters and the public. The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is signed up to the Governance Code and to the Guiding Principles for Fundraising, as first developed by ICTR.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANGEMENT (Continued)

New guidelines for fundraising practice and the Charities Governance Code were published by the Charities Regulator in September 2017 and November 2018 respectively. The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is on the journey to full compliance with these new guidelines in additional to the original code.

The Board of Directors are responsible for governance and developing and approving policies and strategies. The directors have responsibility for managing risk and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of the organisation. The key risks include operational and safety risks; financial risks; the ability of the organisation to guarantee sufficient funding from voluntary and other sources to maintain its activities; general economic factors and compliance with a range of legislation and regulations. The directors review these risks on a regular basis. The directors are satisfied that adequate systems of governance, supervision and internal controls are in place and that these controls provide reasonable assurance against such risks.

The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies and efficient and effective use of the Company's resources. They also safeguard the Company's assets and maintain the integrity of the financial information produced. Financial information is subject to detailed review allowing for continuous monitoring of the organisations operations and financial status.

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital incorporated in the Republic of Ireland under the Companies Acts 2014. As the company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as many be required not exceeding one Euro (€1).

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its constitution and managed by a board of directors.

Directors and secretary and their interests

The directors do not hold any beneficial interest in the charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new directors

Directors are required to stand down at their third Annual General Meeting but may stand for re-election. However, no Director can serve for more than nine consecutive years. During 2020, the board passed a special resolution that provided always that in special circumstances those directors who would ordinarily be required to retire, under Article 46 of the Constitution, shall be eligible for re-election for a further three years. The decision as to what constitutes special circumstances shall be at the discretion of the Board.

Directors may appoint any person to be a Director so long as the total number of Directors shall not at any time exceed 15. Any Director appointed shall hold office until the next annual general meeting, at which point he or she will be eligible for re-election.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANGEMENT (Continued)

Induction and training of new directors

There is an induction pack for new Directors, which includes copies of the governing document and strategic plan, introduction of Board vision and remit, Board Director job description, Board Director declaration and confidentiality agreement, conflict of interest policy and Board Director code of conduct.

Organisational structure

The Directors of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, who are also the organisation's only members, are responsible for the running of the organisation. The day-to-day running of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre operations is overseen by the Chief Executive Officer, Noeline Blackwell, to whom all staff report and who, in turn, reports to the Board of Directors. Other senior managers include Head of Clinical Services, Angela McCarthy, Head of Education and Training, Leonie O'Dowd (retired April 2020 and not replaced in 2020), Office manager, Eimear Kehoe (resigned January 2020 and replaced by Suzanne McMullen Head of Operations) and Communication and Campaigns Manager, Yvonne Woods.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have identified that the key risk and uncertainty the charity faces is the risk of its funding being reduced and the consequent impact that this would have on the ability of the charity to provide its services.

The charity mitigates these risks as follows:

- The charity continually monitors the level of activity, prepares and monitors its budgets, targets and projections.
- The charity closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an ongoing basis.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of financial policies and procedures which controls the authorisation of all transactions and projects.

The charity has no currency risk and no credit risk. The charity has interest rate risk due to the fact that the charity has borrowings but the charity continues to work with its bankers to manage this risk.

The directors are aware of the key risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that there are appropriate systems in place to mitigate these risks appropriately.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Charity number CHY 8529

Charity registration number 20021078

Company number 147318

Address 70 Lower Leeson Street,

Dublin 2.

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Ann Marie Gill Aibhlin McCrann Carol Keane Cathy O'Donohoe Grace O'Malley

Helen Jones (resigned 15/10/2020)

Keith Herman Neasa Kane-Fine John Fanning Anne Marie James

Siona Cahill (appointed 15/10/2020)

Phillip Hyland (appointed 15/10/2020)

Madeleine McCarthy (appointed 15/10/2020)

Chief Executive and senior management to whom responsibility for the day to day management of the Charity during 2020 was delegated

Chief Executive

Head of Clinical Services

Head of Education and Training

Noeline Blackwell

Angela McCarthy

Leonie O'Dowd (re

Head of Education and Training Leonie O'Dowd (retired April 2020 and not replaced)

Head of Operations and Administration

Communication and Campaigns Manager

Finance and HR Manager

Suzanne McMullen

Yvonne Woods

Naomi Patton

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (Continued)

Names and address of professional advisors

Auditors:

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

Solicitors:

LK Sheilds, 38 Mount Street, Dublin 2.

Management

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is managed by a Chief Executive who is supported by: a Clinical Services Department, Education and Training Department, a Fundraising Department, Policy and Research, a Finance Department, and an Administration Department.

EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE

The charity has availed of no exemptions, it has disclosed all relevant information.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds or other assets by way of custodian arrangement.

Likely future developments

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in its objectives and activities in forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

Covid 19

Covid-19 Pandemic and all associated control measures that have been and are being implemented throughout the island of Ireland at this time. The charity is taking all required measures to protect its staff, volunteers, contractors and service users including the temporary closure of our offices, the temporary cessation of all face to face meetings and observing best practise to combat infection. Despite these changes the charity continues to operate and provides as full a service as is possible in the current circumstances. It continues to do all in its power to advance its mission of preventing the harm and healing the trauma of rape and other sexual violence. From a financial perspective the charity retains strong cash reserves and despite the Covid-19 related issues still has a strong pipeline of funding for 2020. In these circumstances the directors do not anticipate any material financial issues and reconfirm that the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Likely future developments

There were no post reporting date events which require disclosure.

Political donations

The charity did not make any political donations during the year.

Accounting Records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at the charities premises, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

Directors' compliance statement

The Board of Directors acknowledge that they have a responsibility to ensure that the organisation is fully compliant with their obligations under the Companies Act 2014. To this end, the audit and finance subcommittee review the internal controls in place on an annual basis. They confirm that:

- Adequate controls are in place in order to meet the obligations of the company,
- Appropriate arrangements and structures are in place that is, in their opinion, designed to secure material compliance with the company's relevant obligations.

Statement on relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- (a) so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- (b) each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, JPA Brenson Lawlor, will continue in office as auditors of the charity.

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

Ann Marie Gill

Director

Date: 19^{re} Acry 2021

Keith Herman

Director

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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

Ann Marie Gill

Director Hay 2021

Keith Herman

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

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.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

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

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.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

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). 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.

Date: Kth Sptamber 21

Thomas McDonald

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

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Tota 2019
	€	€	€	€	2018
Income:					
Donations & Legacies					
Donations	-	341,435	187,853	529,289	563,558
Fundraising income	-	275,052	53,257	328,309	341,588
Income from charitable activities					
Government grants	-	-	1,496,632	1,496,632	1,326,454
Education, Counselling & other services	-	117,084	40,405	157,488	251,325
Income from other activities					
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	3,170
Total income		722 574	4 770 447	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\
		733,571	1,778,147	2,511,718	2,486,095
Expenditure:					
Cost of raising funds	_	155,217		455.047	454 404
Expenditure on Charitable activities	_	224,026	- 1,780,317	155,217	151,464
Administration & other expenditure	-	200,800	1,700,317	2,004,343 200,800	1,731,688 227,748
Fotal expenditure		580,043	1,780,317	2,360,360	2 440 000
			1,700,317	2,300,300	2,110,900
Net Income/ (expenditure)	-	153,528	(2,170)	151,358	375,195
Fransfer to/between funds	-	(2,170)	2,170	-	
Net movement in funds for the year	-	151,358	-	151,358	375,195
Name and the state of the state				-	
Reconciliation of Funds otal Funds Brought Forward	2,413,720	458,609	_	2,873,329	2 407 424
	7			2,010,029	2,497,134
otal Funds Carried Forward	2,413,720	609,967	_	3,023,687	2,872,329

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		€	€
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,202,567	1,260,065
Current Assets			
Debtors	13	15,482	25,299
Cash at bank and in hand	18	2,755,863	2,346,700
		2,771,345	2,371,999
Creditors: amounts falling due within			
One year	14	(138,417)	(124,593)
Net current assets			
Net Current assets		2,632,928	<u>2,247,406</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		3,835,495	3,507,471
Creditors: amounts falling due after			
More than one year	15	(811,808)	(635,142)
Net Assets		3,023,687	<u>2,872,329</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	19	609,967	458,609
Accumulated funds – designated funds	19	2,413,720	2,413,720
Total Funds of the Charity		<u>3,023,687</u>	2,872,329

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

Ann Marie Gill

Director

Date: 19th May 2021

Keith Herman

Director

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes €	2020 €	€	2019 €
Cash flows from operating activities Cash generated from operations Interest paid	27	477,121 (13,309)		642,069 (14,308)
Net cash flows from operating activities		463,812		627,761
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for tangible fixed assets	(25,402)		(48,309)	
Net cash flows from investing activities		(25,402)		(48,309)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Bank loan repayments	(26,504)		(25,504)	
Net cash flows from financing activities		(26,504)		(25,504)
Net Increase in cash and cash equivalents		411,906		553,948
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of fir	nancial year	2,343,834		1,789,886
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial	year	2,755,740		2,343,834
Relating to: Cash at bank and in hand Bank overdrafts included in current creditors		2,755,863		2,346,700
Constant moladed in current creditors		(123)		(2,866)

1. General Information

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Ireland is a Charity limited by guarantee and having no share capital, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The Registered Office is 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2, which is also the principal place of business of the Charity. The nature of the Charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Director's Report on pages 1-20.

2. Going Concern

The charity is substantially dependent on discretionary income to cover its operating expenses and to meet its stated objectives as stated in the director's report. Such income normally takes the form of grants, donations and other funding. The company has secured commitments for most of its funding for 2021. The directors believe that income will continue at an adequate level for the foreseeable future so that the company can continue in operational existence. In these circumstances the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

3. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014, although not obliged to comply with the Charities SORP, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Accounting

The following funds are operated by the charity:

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for the specified purposes as laid down by the donor/grantor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted Funds

General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

Designated Funds

Directors can designate part or all, of the unrestricted funds for specific purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations and fundraising income

Donations and fundraising income are credited to income in the period in which they are receivable. Donations received in advance for specified periods are carried forward as deferred income.

Grants and Donations

The charity receives government grants in respect of certain projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred income.

Fundraising, education & counselling

Income is recognised when the event or service has taken place or been provided and the amounts can be reliably measured.

Donated Services and facilities

Where practicable, donations of goods and services are included in donations in the financial statements at their fair value. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh the benefits, then the income and associated expenditure is not recognised.

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met. The receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market, a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Investment income

Interest and investment income is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably, this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- · Costs of raising funds;
- · Expenditure on charitable activities; and
- Administration & other expenditure.

Costs of raising funds

Cost of raising funds includes expenditure directly associated with generating fundraising income, including attracting voluntary income and grant income.

Expenditure on charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the pursuit of the charities objectives and in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly such as wages and salaries and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support the delivery of its activities and services.

Administration & Other expenditure

Other expenditure represents the costs of administrating the charity and those items not falling into the categories above.

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Income (continued)

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the activities and services of the charity. Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Costs relating to a particular project are allocated directly others are apportioned on an appropriate basis such as staff time.

Retirement benefit costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. Retirement benefit contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to the retirement benefit scheme are treated as assets or liabilities.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at historic cost. This includes legal fees, stamp duty and other non-refundable purchase taxes, and also any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, which can include the costs of site preparation, initial delivery and handling, installation and assembly, and testing of functionality.

A review for impairment of tangible fixed asset will be carried out if events or changed in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any tangible fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of tangible fixed assets and their recoverable amounts will be recognised as impairments. Impairment losses will be recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, on a straight line basis, as follows:

Freehold buildings - 2% Straight line
Computer equipment - 20% Straight line
Furniture & equipment - 20% Straight line

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

An amount equal to the excess of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets over the notional historical cost depreciation charge on those assets is transferred annually from the revaluation reserve to the income and expenditure reserve.

The residual value and useful lives of tangible assets are considered annually for indicators that these may have changed. Where such indicators are present, a review will be carried out of the residual value, depreciation method and useful lives, and these will be amended if necessary. Changes in depreciation rates arising from this review are accounted for prospectively over the remaining useful lives of the assets.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists, in which case they are measured at present value of future receipts discounted at a market value. Subsequently these are measured at amortised costs less any provision for impairment.

A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the agreement.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in statement of financial activities unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade and other creditors

Trade creditors are measured at invoice price, unless payment is deferred beyond normal business terms or is financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate. In this case the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, and the financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Loans and borrowings

All loans and borrowings, both assets and liabilities are initially recorded at the present value of cash payable to the lender in settlement of the liability discounted at the market interest rate. Subsequently loans and borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate model. The computation of amortised cost includes any issue costs, transaction costs and fees, and any discount or premium on settlement, and the effect of this is to amortise these amounts over the expected borrowing period. Loans with no stated interest rate and repayable within one year or on demand are not amortised. Loans and borrowings are classified as current assets or liabilities unless the borrower has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the financial year end date.

Deferred Income

The charity recognised deferred income, where the terms and conditions have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet the terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is then deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms and conditions imposed can be met.

Some of the grants received are subject to performance related conditions or time periods, when these performance related or other conditions are met the deferred income is released to income in the statement of financial activities.

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits for example holiday pay to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The directors consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgements:

Going Concern

The directors have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the directors consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

Comparative Figures

Where necessary comparative figures have been regrouped on a basis consistent with the current year.

Taxation

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable status under Section 207 and 208 of the Tax Consolidation Act 1997.

4. Income

The charity's income is generated in Ireland apart from income from the Moore Family Grant which is based in the U.K.

An analysis of the charity's income is as follows:	2020 €	2019 €
Tusla grants Other grants Fundraising activities Donations Education, counselling & other activities Other operating income	1,426,486 70,146 328,309 529,289 157,488	1,279,458 46,996 341,588 563,558 251,325 3,170

5.	Other operating income	2020	2019
		€	€
	Government grant income	-	3,170
			-
6.	Interest Payable and similar expenses	2020	2019
		€	€
	Interest payable	13,309	14,308
7	Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		
	Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):		
		2020	2019
		€	€
	Depreciation of tangible assets Audit Remuneration (including VAT)	82,900	69,125
	-Audit Fees	9,708	9,708

8. Directors' remuneration and transactions

The Directors did not receive any remuneration or expenses from the charity.

Key Management Personnel

The aggregate total of Key Management Personnel salaries for the year was €284,250, ER PRSI €54,121 in addition to €13,363 which was paid as employer contributions into pension funds on their behalf. Key management personnel include all heads of departments and the CEO.

9. Staff costs

The average monthly number of persons, full and part-time, employed by the company (excluding directors) during the financial year analysed by category, was as follows:

	2020	2019
Administration	4	2
Reception	6	3
Policy and Communications	2	5 2
Therapists	18	15
Volunteer Services	4	4
Telephone counsellors	8	8
Education	4	4
Fundraising	3	2
	1/2	
	49	43
Their aggregate remuneration comprised:		
	2020	2019
	€	€
Wages and salaries	1,581,519	1,414,210
Social security costs	139,423	124,964
Pension Costs	66,927	72,804
Death in service	5,280	5,280
	1,793,149	1,617,258
	-	-

All the amounts stated above were treated as an expense of the company in the financial year. Holiday pay is not provided for as a liability at the end of the year as annual leave is not allowed to be carried forward unless exceptional circumstances arise.

10. Staff costs (continued)

The CEO's gross salary for the year (excluding employer pension costs) was €86,850 (2019: €86,850). Total pension costs for the year for the CEO were €13,020.

Including the CEO, the following number of employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than €60,000:

Salary Band	2020	2019
€60,000 – €70,000	1	1
€70,001 – €80,000	2	1
€80,001 – €90,000	1	1

11. Retirement benefit schemes

Defined Contribution Schemes

	2020 €	2019 €
Charge to statement of financial activities	72,207	78,084

Defined contribution scheme

The company operates a defined contribution scheme, 'Pension Scheme Fund', for its employees. The scheme is externally financed in that the assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land & Building €	Long Leasehold €	Fixtures & Fittings €	Total €
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 January 2020 Additions	1,214,833 ———————————————————————————————————	477,234 	470,183 <u>25,402</u>	2,162,250 <u>25,402</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>1,214,833</u>	<u>477,234</u>	<u>495,585</u>	<u>2,187,652</u>
Depreciation: At 1 January 2020 Charge for financial year	97,197 <u>24,300</u> =	421,633 <u>24,600</u>	383,355 <u>34,000</u>	902,185 <u>82,900</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>121,497</u>	446,233	417,355	985,085
Net Book Value At 31 December 2020	<u>1,093,336</u>	<u>31,001</u>	<u>78,230</u>	<u>1,202,567</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>1,117,636</u>	<u>55,601</u>	<u>86,828</u>	<u>1,260,065</u>

The freehold property relates to the property from which the charity operates from at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The charity purchased this property in December 2015 at a cost of €1,214,833 and was part financed by a loan from its bankers in the amount of €450,000. The loan attracts an interest rate of 3.9%. The loan is repayable by way of 180 monthly instalments and is secured by way of fixed charge over the property at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

Funding receivable Prepayments		€
	7,704	15,869
	7,778	9,430
	15,482	25,299
14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Note	2020 es €	2019 €
Bank loans and overdrafts 16	26,627	28,371
Trade creditors	17,178	14,965
Taxation creditors	40,832	36,269
Other creditors	2,205	10,621
Accruals	51,575	34,367
	138,417	124,593
15. Creditors: amounts falling due after more one year		
,	2020 €	2019 €
Bank loans 16	300,893	328,396
Deferred Income 17	510,915	306,746
	811,808	635,142
	1 <u></u>	

16. Bank loans	
An analysis of the maturity of the bank loan is given as follows:	2020 €
Amounts falling due within one year Payable within one year	<u>26,504</u>
Amounts falling due between 2 – 5 years Payable between two and five years	<u>106,014</u>
Amounts falling due after 5 years Payable after five years	<u>194,879</u>

In December 2015, the company obtained a loan from its bankers in the amount of €450,000 in order to part-finance the purchase of its registered office. The loan attracts an interest rate of 3.9%. The loan is repayable by way of 180 monthly instalments and is secured by way of fixed charge over the property at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

17. Deferred income

	2020 €	2019 €
Deferred Income	510,915	306,747
	7	
18. Components of cash and cash equivalents		
	2020 €	2019 €
Cash at bank and in hand	2,755,863	2,346,700
		1

19. Reserves and funds

	Designated Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total €
Balance at 31 December 2020	2,413,720	458,609	-	2,872,329
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	153,528	(2,170)	151,358
Transfer between funds	Ξ	(2,170)	2,170	<u> </u>
Balance at 31 December 2020	2,413,720	<u>609,967</u>	-	3,023,687

- Restricted funds refer to income received which is restricted for a specific purpose.
- **Designated funds** refer to designated reserves of €2,413,720 for specific purposes. An amount of €1,186,200, representing approximately six months day-to-day expenditure, has been reserved to ensure the Charity can continue its core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A sum of €900,000 has been allocated to a capital project regarding the charity's premises. A total of €327,500 has been set aside to cover the Centre's outstanding mortgage balance.

20. Restricted Funds

	1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	31 Dec 2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Project					
Tusla	_	1,353,136	(1,353,136)	-	-
Other projects	_	307,770	(308,588)	818	-
CONTEXT	-	40,868	(40,868)	-	-
SATU	_	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Power to Recover	-	24,503	(24,503)	-	-
Bodyright	_	23,536	(24,888)	1,352	-
Sexual Harassment Survey	-	3,334	(3,334)	-	-
		 			
Total	=	1,778,147	(1,780,317)	<u>2,170</u>	=

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

	1 Jan 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	31 Dec 2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Project					
Tusla	-	1,264,458	(1,264,458)	-	-
SATU	_	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Bodyright Training	-	36,996	(37,422)	426	-
Power to Recover	-	36,905	(36,905)	-	_
Other Projects	_	135,937	(143,156)	7,219	-
CONTEXT	-	38,875	(38,885)	10	-
Sexual Harassment Survey	-	3,333	(3,760)	427	-
	(-	
Total	=	<u>1,541,505</u>	(1.549,587)	<u>8,082</u>	=

22. Membership

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a company limited by guarantee not having share capital. Every member is liable for the debts and liabilities of the company in the event of a winding up, for such amounts as may be required but not exceeding €1 each.

23. Events after the end of the financial year

There were no post reporting date events which require disclosure.

24. Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties that require disclosure.

25. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments by the company as at the 31st December 2020 which require disclosure. (2019: Nil).

26. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at the 31st December 2020 (2019: Nil).

27. Cash generated from operating activities

	2020 €	2019 €
Surplus for the financial year	151,358	375,195
Loan interest	13,309	14,308
Depreciation on tangible assets	82,900	69,125
Decrease/ (increase) in debtors	9,818	16,037
(Decrease) in creditors	15,568	30,077
Increase in deferred income	204,168	137,327
Total cashflow generated from operating activities	477,121	642,069

28. Analysis of changes in net funds

Analysis of changes in net funds			4
	1 January 2020	Cash flows	31 December 2020
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	2,346,700	409,163	2,755,863
Bank overdrafts	(2,866)	2,743	(123)
	2,343,834	411,906	2,755,740
Borrowings excluding overdrafts	(353,901)	26,504	(327,397)
	1,989,933	438,410	2,428,343
			-

29. Grant Disclosures

The charity receives the following grants and are disclosed in line with the circular 13/2014:

	Name of Grantor	Actual Name of Each Individual Grant	Purpose for Which Funds Are Applied	Amount and Term of the Total Grant Awarded	The Amount of the Grant taken to final Income in Financial Statements	Amount of Grant deferred to 2020
1	Department of Justice	RCC Forums 2020	Funding for focusing on effective communication with client in time of distance.	€50,000 Term: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021	€25,000	€25,000
2	Department of Justice	Victims of Crime Grant	Funding towards the accompaniment to Garda interviews and Court Accompaniment for victims of sexual crime. Also, for funding for accompaniment at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit.	€25,000 Term: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020	€25,000	-
3	POBAL	Covid-19 Stability Scheme	Funding towards securing the charity's future and the delivery of critical supports and services.	€132,847 Term: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021	€83,510	€49,337
4	TUSLA Child and family agency	Service level agreement	Funding for the provision of the ongoing services of the charity.	€1,352,136 Term: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021	€1,352,136	-

29. Grant disclosures (continued)

5	TUSLA Child and family agency	Change of control	Once-off additional grant to cover the 2020-2021 ongoin services of the charity.		€11,836	€40,421
6	TUSLA Child and family agency		COVID-19 Grants	€20,100 Term: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021	€9,868	€10,232
6	TUSLA Child and family agency		A project	€1,000 Term: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020	€1,000	-
Cos	Employee Benefits, excluding Employer Pension Costs			Overall figure for Contributions	Total Employe	r Pension
We Em	do not provide a ployer Pension o	any employee b contributions	enefits other than	€ 72,207		

No capital grants were received during the year ended 31 December 2020.

30. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements and authorised them for issue on 1 April 2020.