



RCC

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Preventing and healing the trauma of rape and sexual abuse

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

2017



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**The mission of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) is to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and sexual abuse and in this context, 2017 was an exceptionally busy year for the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) on both fronts. Not only did we continue to provide counselling and therapeutic services, education and training, opinion and analysis and a wide range of information, we also dealt with a considerable upsurge in callers towards the end of the year. >>**

While this upsurge did coincide with the birth of the #MeToo movement, it should be noted that the overall growth trend is unchanged since 2015. Any growth in the number of people who have the courage to speak out and seek help is welcome and I am pleased to say that the DRCC was there to offer the support they sought.

Having obtained additional Túsla funding for two additional therapists at the beginning of the year we made significant progress in reducing waiting times for therapy. However, the ongoing increase in demand for our services means that resources remain stretched. Addressing that issue must be a priority for the DRCC in the coming years.

In 2017, we continued to recognise the impediments under which we operate because of the lack of data on the prevalence and trends in sexual violence in Ireland. The last significant report on this was the SAVI Report commissioned by the DRCC in 2002. In 2017, we continued to lobby and press for an updated report, to improve our understanding of the causes and impact of sexual violence. We were pleased with the Government's announcement at the end of 2017 that it would consider an updated survey; something which is urgently needed.

Of course, the long-term goal is to achieve a situation where there is a significant decrease in rape and sexual violence as a result of the elimination of tolerance for it in society; improvements to the criminal justice system, which brings more perpetrators to account; and greater awareness of, and education about issues such as consent, respect, and healthy sexual relationships. In the meantime, however, we must prepare for ongoing increases in demand for our services and this will require additional funding from all sources.

Notwithstanding that, we will continue our work in providing services to victims/survivors of rape and sexual abuse as well as providing expert analysis and contributing to important debates in areas such as Ireland's record on sexual violence against women, and the key importance of consent in sexual activity among young people.

We could not do any of this work without our funders, staff, volunteers and those with whom we work in non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the State and the private sector. It is never a pleasure to write the Chair's statement for an annual report relating to sexual violence including rape, but it does give me pleasure to acknowledge the professionalism and hard work of all the staff, therapists, trainers, counsellors, those working on communications and policy, finance and administration, led in a sterling way by our CEO Noeline Blackwell. I thank my fellow board members for their consistent and dedicated commitment to the organisation and to the elimination of rape and other sexual violence in Ireland.



**Ann Marie Gill**  
Chairperson of the Board

# CEO'S OVERVIEW

In 2017, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) continued to concentrate on supporting those traumatised by sexual violence and on pressing for better systems to counter and prevent the prevalence and harm of rape and other sexual violence. >>

As this review shows, the numbers who contacted us for phone and face-to-face support increased. The spike in callers in the final months of 2017 was closely correlated to the massive public response to perceptions of victim-blaming comments made on national media and the emergence of the world-wide #MeToo movement on social media.

We were glad to be there to support those who were outraged, hurt or determined to speak out.

What we heard from callers and clients helped inform our policy work over the course of the year. In 2017, we saw the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act and Victims of Crime Act pass into law, both containing protective measures for vulnerable victims of crime as well as a long-sought legislative description of consent in sexual activity.

As 2017 ended, another long-sought objective of the DRCC was realised. In December, the Government committed to scope out a survey on sexual abuse and violence in Ireland. The first and only such survey was commissioned by the DRCC in 2002, and since then we have consistently highlighted the evidence gap created as a result of having nothing more recent.

## | SUPPORT

At the DRCC, we aim to provide a comprehensive suite of clinical and volunteer services, which provides support for victims of sexual violence from the first moment they make contact with our Centre. The DRCC support services comprise the National 24-Hour Helpline, crisis counselling and long-term therapy services in Leeson Street and in three outreach services, (Coolock, Tallaght and Dóchas Women's Prison), as well as accompaniment services for those attending the Rotunda Hospital's Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU), Garda stations, and court.

There was a significant increase in calls to the National 24-Hour Helpline in 2017. Calls to the Helpline, specifically about adult rape, increased by a third between 2016 and 2017. It is important to note that this is a continuing trend, with the number of calls relating to adult rape increasing by 65% since 2015. Callers to the National 24-Hour Helpline were male, female, transgender, aged from 16 to 80 plus, and were of 64 different nationalities.

The increase in calls to the Helpline also led to an increase in numbers of people seeking crisis appointments in the DRCC. Crisis appointments are offered to people who have experienced sexual violence within the previous six months. These appointments are prioritised, and crisis clients are generally seen within a week to ten days.

In 2017, 48% of all appointments were crisis in nature, compared with 39% in 2016. We welcome the fact that more and more victims of recent sexual violence are coming forward to seek counselling in the immediate aftermath of the trauma, and we believe the highlighting of consent issues and the solidarity shown by a number of public campaigns have influenced this positive development.

However, the increase in demand for crisis appointments has resource implications for the DRCC. While 48.5% of the total number of clients sought crisis appointments in 2017, 51.5% needed long-term therapy for past sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse. We gratefully acknowledge the additional support received from Túsla, the Child and Family Agency in 2017, which has enabled us to meet the growing demand for our services.

## **CAMPAIGNING AND ADVOCACY**

In addition to our support services, the DRCC works to improve Ireland's legal, justice, healthcare and education systems, so that they deliver effective support to survivors of sexual violence and, where appropriate, that they are working to eliminate sexual violence.

This sees us contributing to, and advocating for, legislative and policy changes improvements to better serve survivors of sexual violence.

Our overall aim is to improve systems so that victims of sexual violence get the support and the justice they deserve and, to the greatest extent possible; to ensure that sexual violence is prevented through effective relationship and sex education and that perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

Behind the stark statistics are the thousands of women and men who have shared their story with us on our helpline, through the accompaniment services and in the counselling rooms. Through those contacts, we are reminded time and again how rape and sexual abuse are silent, often invisible crimes.

Those callers and clients provide us with an understanding of the issues that need to be addressed and help inform our policy work. We in turn provide information and make recommendations to government and other relevant agencies on the nature and prevalence of sexual violence.

Throughout 2017 we made a number of submissions, both nationally and internationally, identifying the barriers to, and the gaps in, existing systems and legislation faced by victims of sexual crime.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

In January, the DRCC made a submission to the Geneva-based UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), highlighting the low rate of reporting and prosecutions in cases of sexual violence.

Our submission showed that the rate of reporting sexual violence crimes may be as low as 8% – cause for serious concern. Effective justice structures are required where victims of sexual violence can safely and confidently report and where those reports then lead to prosecution of these terrible crimes. This would benefit the whole of society, as perpetrators who are not brought to account remain free to harm again.

In this context, a particularly welcome development during 2017 was the signing into law of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 which finally saw the EU Victims Directive being legislated for in Ireland. Now, for the first time, victims are defined in legislation and they have a legal right to information, support and protection.

In July, we made a submission to the UN's expert Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, highlighting the slow roll-out of Garda Protective Services Units specialising in investigating sexual crimes, the lack of special protection for victims in court, and the absence of sufficient training for lawyers and law enforcement personnel.

The legal system should take special care of the victims of sexual violence. They are almost unique in the justice system because they have two roles: they are the victim of the crime, and the main person to give evidence in most cases.

The Committee's report, issued in August, expressed a concern that some Irish laws and systems are such that victims of sexual violence could be at risk of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and even of torture.

Among the key recommendations were calls for a guarantee that allegations of sexual and domestic violence are “promptly, impartially and effectively investigated”; for the Irish State to ensure that those responsible are “prosecuted and punished in accordance with the gravity of the crime”; and that sufficient State funding be provided to ensure that victims, including migrants and the indigent, have access to medical and legal services, counselling, safe emergency accommodation and shelters.

## NATIONAL

The DRCC was also active in relation to Irish legislation during the year. During the debate on the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 we called on politicians to ensure that victims are recognised as having rights in the justice system, even if they have not made a formal complaint.

In addition, we made submissions to the Citizens’ Assembly, the Courts Service, the Policing Authority, the Law Reform Commission, and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Eighth Amendment.

## AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness raising is a key component of our campaigning and advocacy activity. If we are to successfully combat sexual violence, our society has to become better at acknowledging the harm that it does and what is being done to counter that violence.

In this regard, the DRCC actively seeks to prevent sexual violence by eliminating its tolerance in society. We do this by exposing rape myths, challenging stigmas and a culture of victim blaming, and by supporting all people as equal members of society.

We continuously work to achieve these aims through radio and television interviews, print and online articles or opinion pieces, and an active social media presence. Through these channels, the DRCC seeks to make different stakeholders or audiences aware of the services we provide, our key messages on topics such as consent, current events, legislative or policy matters and any breaking news or research. We also aim to ensure that those who want to support our work know how to do so, be it as a trained volunteer, as a community fundraiser or by engaging in a social media campaign.

This work was augmented in November by the launch of the new DRCC website.

The visit in May of HRH the Duchess of Cornwall to the DRCC was particularly significant in this context. On her visit, the Duchess met privately with some victims/survivors of rape and sexual abuse to hear how the therapy provided by the Centre had helped them to cope with the grievous impact of sexual violence on their lives and to manage their lives in spite of it. The Duchess also met with staff and DRCC volunteers, along with colleagues from other Rape Crisis Centres.

The visit of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall was a positive endorsement of the work of our staff, our volunteers and our colleagues, and we are very grateful that she gave us this time.

September saw an outpouring of national outrage and revulsion following comments made on national media. The DRCC joined with many other organisations and individuals in condemning these comments and calling for the introduction of guidelines for the media when reporting on rape and sexual crime. Media organisations have the power to influence how sexual violence is perceived. They have the power to help raise awareness and destroy myths. With their support, we can substantially reduce tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society by changing the narrative and ensuring that harmful myths no longer dominate the headlines. Such guidelines still do not exist and we continue to campaign for their introduction.

The Broken Spiral, an anthology of short stories by Irish authors, collated by our volunteer RM Clarke in aid of the DRCC, was launched in November. Named for the DRCC’s symbol – which is emblematic of

the winding, re-winding and often circuitous journey towards healing faced by those who have experienced trauma – the aim of the collection was to bring hope to the reader, and to re-establish a belief that healing can, and does, happen.

Proceeds from sales of *The Broken Spiral* raised much-needed funds for the centre. The collection also acted as a restorative to survivors of trauma who have spoken out and survivors who remain in silence through the redemptive power of storytelling.

## | DAYS OF ACTIVISM

2017 was the second year that the DRCC actively participated in the #16DaysofActivism campaign, a global initiative to end violence against women and girls around the world. The campaign ran from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, International Human Rights Day.

We asked the Irish public to join us in creating a better, safer society by eliminating sexual violence against women and girls. The aim was to raise awareness of sexual violence in Ireland, primarily through social media, where we covered a broad range of topics, from survivor stories to responding to harassment in the workplace, to reminders about the DRCC's services.

We attracted 100 new social media followers and engaged hundreds of people with our guest blogs featuring journalists, writers, musicians and other supporters during the 16-day campaign.

## | CONSENT

A particular focus of our activity during the year was the vitally important issue of consent. Consent is at the heart of every lawful sexual act and the inclusion of a definition in the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 reinforced that fact and provides a clear statement of the circumstances in which consent would not be given. This is a welcome statement of the existing legal position and one which provides much-needed clarity.

Women are entitled not to be forced or coerced in any way into having sex and we marked International Women's Day in March with a special one-day campaign on the theme 'Ask Consent, it's a woman's human right'.

We were delighted that Minister Katherine Zappone TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, agreed to launch the campaign at Government Buildings on the day. Third-level students from the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) also attended the launch along with Young Social Innovators of the Year award winners, second-level students from Eureka Secondary School in Kells, who created the 'It's the Yes, not the Dress' campaign.

The campaign concentrated on using social media to spread awareness of the meaning of consent and was kicked off by a Consent Canvas, where the Minister and others wrote their descriptions of consent.

## | EDUCATION AND TRAINING

People who have experienced sexual violence access many services and supports in the community. Our Education and Training Department offers training to those providing these supports both on courses at the DRCC, which individuals can attend, and through bespoke training for particular organisations. In 2017, training was delivered to psychotherapists and counsellors, consular staff, staff of services for people experiencing homelessness, mental health professionals, college staff, prison staff, those working with refugees and asylum seekers, staff working with young people in and after care, student unions, documentary filmmakers, humanitarian workers, those working with people with intellectual disability, researchers and many others.

The DRCC also provides training to student Gardaí at the Templemore Garda Training College. This training involves an initial introductory lecture and, later, a workshop on working sensitively and effectively with people who have experienced sexual violence. During 2017 the DRCC visited the Garda Training College on eight occasions and met with approximately 780 students. We also provided three two-day training programmes for staff of the two women's prisons at the Irish Prison Service Training College, Portlaoise.

In addition, many of our volunteers deliver outreach workshops for schools, community groups and third-level institutions, educating young people about the importance of consent and about the sharing of personal information or images online and via text message.

## FUNDING

Like others, our ambition is often tempered by lack of resources. Nonetheless, in 2017 we were able to increase therapy services, extend the hours of our policy officer and undertake additional training through increased funding.

Since the DRCC was established in 1979, we have depended on the generosity and goodwill of the wider community, without whom we would not be able to maintain our services for survivors of rape and childhood sexual abuse or our education and research programmes. We greatly appreciate the work of all our fundraising volunteers whose support has made such a difference to our work. The DRCC is proud to have the support of a growing number of corporate partners, who not only recognise sexual violence as one of the most frequent forms of trauma but also demonstrate outstanding leadership by working to eliminate its tolerance in society. We remain deeply grateful to all our funders for their investment in our work.

## CONCLUSION

The work outlined in this review is only possible through the efforts of many who should be mentioned as I conclude my report.

Our expert and committed staff remained constant and dedicated to the care and the rights of the victims of sexual violence in a very busy year. Their work was complemented by the similarly expert commitment of our volunteers who play such a vital part in the work of the DRCC.

I want to thank most sincerely all of those that put their trust in us during the year by using our services or sharing their stories, trusting us to assist them in healing their trauma or in amplifying their voices and maintaining their rights as victims and survivors of sexual violence.

I want to close with thanks to our ever supportive and insightful Board of Directors led by Chairperson Ann Marie Gill for their vision and wise counsel throughout 2017. Together, we will continue to work to accomplish the DRCC mission: to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and sexual abuse.



**Noeline Blackwell**  
Chief Executive

# SUPPORT

## SECTION I HELPLINE

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*With media coverage of well-known celebrities and professionals on charges of sexual abuse and assault, calls to the National 24-Hour Helpline increased dramatically towards the end of the year. We were overwhelmed by the intensity of the calls and the courage survivors continue to display; they were in equal parts heart-breaking and inspiring.*

**MICHELLE GREHAN, TELEPHONE COUNSELLING TEAM LEADER**

“

*So many times I hung up.  
I couldn't say the words.  
It's been so lonely.*

*Thank you so much for not  
giving up on me.*

**HELPLINE CALLER**

*It's hard to put into words the  
feeling of connecting with our  
callers and being allowed to walk  
a few paces of their journey with  
them, to witness them working  
through their feelings and  
emotions and helping them to  
stay safe while they do it.*

**TELEPHONE COUNSELLOR**

“

# NATIONAL 24-HOUR HELPLINE KEY STATISTICS

# 12,855

Total Helpline contacts

## HELPLINE COUNSELLORS RESPONDED TO:



# 10,818

Counselling calls



# 1,019

Text messages



# 645

Emails



# 373

Social media

## SECTION 2

# COUNSELLING AND THERAPY

**2017 was a very busy year for therapists in the DRCC. The role of social media and dating sites in everyday life was a notable trend. A number of clients have reported being raped by people they met on a dating platform.**

In addition, a victim can be further traumatised by group 'chat' on social media sites with contacts often taking 'sides' when both victim and perpetrator are known.

Other trends include an apparent increase in the incidence of rape at house parties or in the home of friends or acquaintances. Anecdotally, more clients are reporting use of date rape drugs.

There is also an increase in the reported level of violence, use of weapons and rape by multiple perpetrators.

Increases have also been recorded in referrals from mental health agencies and in the number of refugee clients.

Overall, there is a lack of knowledge of the impact of sexual violence and this leads to many difficulties for clients with their family, friends, schoolmates, workmates and others, who often expect them to 'get over it' a lot sooner and more easily than is possible. Recovery is possible, and it is what we work towards with all our clients, but for some it can take a long time.

## COUNSELLING AND THERAPY KEY STATISTICS

A total of **4,940** individual appointments were made available by the Therapy Team in 2017.

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Of these, **3,883** individual client sessions were delivered in 2017.

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Of the **3,883** completed sessions, **48.5%** were crisis appointments for men and women who had experienced a recent rape or sexual assault.

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A total of **51.5%** were assessment appointments for past rape, sexual assault and past child sexual abuse.

## SECTION 3

# VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Volunteer Services Department coordinates and manages the recruitment, training, assessment and supervision of all volunteers. Our volunteers commit to a two-year service period and are the backbone of our service. Without their dedicated service, the DRCC would be unable to provide a round-the-clock service to survivors of rape and sexual assault. >>

“

*Working as a volunteer for the DRCC is by far one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences. The initial and ongoing training is comprehensive and professional, as is the support offered by all staff throughout. Supporting people in times of crisis can be challenging and emotional, and at times you can doubt yourself in your ability to truly support this person. However, despite the trauma people are going through, it is so often the case that just having someone to truly listen is a huge relief and step in the direction to healing. As a volunteer I feel very humbled that I can be part of an organisation that is so committed to providing an invaluable service.*

**DRCC VOLUNTEER**

The DRCC volunteers demonstrate outstanding commitment to supporting survivors of sexual violence, completing an initial 72 hours of intensive training, regular supervision and debriefing sessions, as well as giving their time.

Our volunteers are trained to staff our National 24-Hour Helpline outside of office hours and at weekends and public holidays. Their commitment to providing this service ensures that, whenever someone calls for support, a trained telephone counsellor is ready to listen and to provide information.

Our volunteers provide crucial support to clients attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in the Rotunda Hospital, making a statement to Gardaí or attending court.

Volunteers have access to 24-hour support from one of the three accredited psychotherapists who run the Volunteer Services Department, and who also facilitate debriefing and provide guidance on difficult situations. This service means that our volunteers are never on their own when supporting others.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES KEY STATISTICS

### 2017

**42**

New volunteers recruited and trained

**105**

Total active, trained volunteers

### HOURS OF WORK DELIVERED BY VOLUNTEERS

**251**

Number of accompaniments to SATU

**172**

Number of family and friends supported

**28**

Number of survivors supported – court/Garda station

**53**

Numbers of days accompaniment provided – court/Garda station

## SECTION 4

# TRAINING TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Our Education and Training Department provides training to those involved in the provision of support to survivors of sexual violence. Individuals can attend courses held at the DRCC, whereas specific bespoke courses and programmes are developed for organisations such as An Garda Síochána. >>**

Among the course offered at the DRCC are:

## | 12-DAY COURSE

This course is for counsellors and psychotherapists or those offering in-depth support who wish to enhance their understanding and skills in working with adolescent and adult clients who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

*The training is very invitational, with a good mix of theory, case studies, slides and videos. I always felt that I could discuss each subject. It is very relevant to my work.*

“

## | SUPPORT IN THE AFTERMATH OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

This one-day introductory workshop is intended for those who come into contact in their work with people who have experienced rape and sexual assault and who want to increase their understanding of the impact and their ability to respond appropriately in the aftermath.

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

*As a mental health social worker, I come across clients with trauma/PTSD. I was not trained to deal with this, but now I feel able to meet a client's need in relation to trauma.*

“

## | WORKING WITH ISSUES OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

This one-day introductory workshop is for staff and volunteers who wish to increase their understanding of the dynamics and impact of childhood sexual abuse, and to enhance their capacity to support clients affected by this issue

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

*I really understand how working to support people who have had traumas can be traumatising. I realise I have some of the signs myself, which should be no surprise given the work my organisation does. I understand much better how important protective and reparative practices are, and also how we can stay balanced and even absorb resilience from our clients if we resist always being crisis and trauma focused.*

“

## | TRAINING THOSE WHO SUPPORT VULNERABLE PERSONS

The DRCC delivered specialised training to staff from organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers and in organisations that provide services to those experiencing homelessness.

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

*It is so important to know what refugees have been through, what they are fleeing from and what may have happened to them on their journey here. Also, how worried they are for families and friends still in danger – how can they relax or settle down while that is going on for them? I understand much better why and how they are affected and I will be much better able to support them.*

“

# SOCIETY

**In addition to the DRCC's National 24-Hour Helpline, counselling, and accompaniment services, we work to change society through media contacts, campaigns and through education. >>**

## SECTION I

# MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS

Sustained media engagement throughout 2017 resulted in the successful delivery of many DRCC key messages to the wider public. This supports our overall aim of preventing sexual violence by eliminating tolerance for it within society.

Young people lost when it comes to consent

Calls of media outlets to develop guidelines on rape comments

CHARITY CALLS FOR UPDATED RESEARCH INTO EXTENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN IRELAND

OVER 60 CALLS A DAY TO RCCs

Calls to DRCC about adult rape UP 24%

DRCC asks UN to examine Ireland's response to child abuse

Sexual consent legislation will protect both men and women

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall visits DRCC

## SECTION 2

# CHANGING SOCIETY THROUGH TRAINING

Training also has a role to play in the achievement of societal change. The DRCC runs a number of programmes designed to equip participants with the tools required to deal with issues relating to sexual violence, consent, and other issues. >>

These programmes include:

## BODYRIGHT

BodyRight is a four-day training programme that enables teachers, youth workers and other professionals working with young people to address issues relating to consent, bodily integrity and healthy sexual relationships.

In 2017, we trained 70 participants from 56 organisations to deliver BodyRight to young people in their communities.

Organisations whose staff have attended BodyRight training include mainstream second-level schools, Youthreach, homeless services, youth work organisations, Garda Youth Diversion projects, community training centres, residential childcare settings, School Completion Programmes, drug and alcohol services, and domestic violence services.

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### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

*I feel this information should be made available/compulsory to all practitioners working with young people.*

## DIGNITY AT WORK

The DRCC has provided Dignity at Work training for 30 years. This training equips staff, managers, HR personnel and support contact persons to prevent and deal with sexual harassment, other types of harassment and bullying in the workplace.

The DRCC also developed a bespoke training programme for the HSE entitled Managing for a Positive Workplace for All, which following a successful pilot, is being offered nationally to managers in the HSE.

In 2017, the DRCC delivered 34 training courses with wide-ranging impact.

“

### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

*The DRCC provided an excellent training programme that was very practical in nature. We wanted our managers to gain skills that they could use in confidence, the ‘how to manage’ [an allegation] when it is disclosed by a staff member ... We would highly recommend the training provided by the DRCC*

# SUSTAINABILITY

**The DRCC is dependent on the support of a range of benefactors and other funders for its continued operation.**

**Our Fundraising and Events team aim to bridge the shortfall between the statutory funding received from Government – which covers our minimum running costs – and the cost of delivering our full range of services. We run an ambitious schedule of events every year in order to generate the funding required to maintain our high-quality services and programmes. >>**

We are committed to demonstrating best practice and donor care by:

- | **MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF FUNDRAISING PRACTICE**
- | **PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY TO OUR DONORS AND THE PUBLIC**
- | **PROVIDING CLARITY AND ASSURANCES ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION**

## **SECTION I**

# **KEY FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2017**

- | **MARCH CORPORATE QUIZ**
- | **MAY GOLF CLASSIC**
- | **JUNE VHI WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON**
- | **SEPTEMBER WOMANKIND LUNCHEON; INTERNATIONAL FASHION LUNCH; ROYAL TARA GOLF DAY**
- | **OCTOBER ANNUAL BUCKET COLLECTION**
- | **NOVEMBER LAUNCH OF THE BROKEN SPIRAL, IN AID OF THE DRCC**
- | **DECEMBER LET'S DO LUNCH CAMPAIGN**

During the year other smaller community events took place, which raised awareness as well as funds.

## SECTION 2

# KEY EVENTS AND MILESTONES PHOTOS



Noeline Blackwell (back row second from right) and Ann Marie Gill (front row second from left) present to UN Committee Against Torture in Geneva 2017



CEO Noeline Blackwell introduces HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to DRCC Board members Neasa Kane-Fine, Keith Harman and Anne-Marie James



Ms Candy (right) and model Taylor at the International Fashion Show and Charity Lunch 2017



Pat Kenny (centre) awards trophy to William Fry for winning 2017 Corporate Quiz



DRCC Consent Stand at DIT 2017



DRCC Volunteer Remie Clarke (second from left) at launch of book The Broken Spiral 2017



Leonie O'Dowd and Jane Baird with graduates of 12 Day Course 2017



Noeline Blackwell was keynote speaker at UCC Law Society Annual Conference 2017



Team DRCC prepares for VHI Women's Mini Marathon 2017

## SECTION 3

# FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

The DRCC is committed to meeting the highest standards of transparency, fiscal management and governance. >>

## THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTER (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARENTEE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	DESIGNATED FUNDS €	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS €	RESTRICTED FUNDS €	TOTAL 2017 €	TOTAL 2016 €
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>DONATIONS &amp; FUNDRAISING INCOME</b>					
DONATIONS		1,100,086	30,000	1,130,086	48,740
FUNDRAISING INCOME		234,004	4,000	238,004	329,627
<b>INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>					
GOVERNMENT GRANTS			1,253,427	1,253,427	1,088,650
EDUCATION, COUNSELLING & OTHER SERVICES		238,231	2,399	240,630	218,165
<b>INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>					
OTHER OPERATING INCOME		15,960		15,960	15,960
<b>INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</b>					
INTEREST RECEIVED		1		1	8
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		<b>1,588,282</b>	<b>1,289,826</b>	<b>2,878,108</b>	<b>1,701,150</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>					
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		188,880	1,169,026	1,357,906	1,283,557
COST OF RAISING FUNDS		126,416	34,000	160,416	136,205
ADMINISTRATION		244,565		244,565	235,113
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>559,861</b>	<b>1,203,026</b>	<b>1,762,887</b>	<b>1,654,875</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		1,028,421	86,800	1,115,221	46,275
<b>TRANSFER TO/BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	1,464,663	(1,222,349)	(242,314)		
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>	1,464,663	(193,928)	(155,514)	1,115,221	46,275
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>		872,097	155,514	1,027,611	981,336
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	1,464,663	678,169		2,142,832	1,027,611

## THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTER (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARENTEE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	NOTES	2017 €	2016 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
TANGIBLE ASSETS	13	1,344,195	1,319,196
		<b>1,344,195</b>	<b>1,319,196</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
DEBTORS	14	32,163	10,269
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	20	1,415,864	347,159
		<b>1,448,027</b>	<b>357,428</b>
<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	15	(83,765)	(87,150)
<b>NET CURENT ASSEST</b>		<b>1,364,262</b>	<b>270,278</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSEST LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,708,457</b>	<b>1,589,474</b>
<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR</b>	16	(565,625)	(561,863)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,142,832</b>	<b>1,027,611</b>
<b>RESERVES AND FUNDS</b>			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS - UNRESTRICTED	21	678,169	872,097
ACCUMULATED FUNDS - RESTRICTED	21		155,514
ACCUMULATED FUNDS - DESIGNATED	21	1,464,663	
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND FUNDS</b>		<b>2,142,832</b>	<b>1,027,611</b>

Approved by the board of directors on the 7th March 2018

## EMPLOYEE SALARY RANGE

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

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES EARNING	2017	2016
<b>€85,000 TO €100,000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>€70,000 TO €85,000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

The DRCC's remuneration package includes salary and employer pension contributions.

## REMUNERATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

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

## ABRIDGED AUDITOR'S REPORT\* TO THE MEMBERS OF DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

We have audited the financial statements of The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of financial position, the Statement of Cash Flows and 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 2017 and of its profit 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.

**JPA Brenson Lawlor - 7th March 2018**

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2017

Ann Marie Gill (Chair)	Cathy O'Donohoe	Keith Herman
Anne-Marie James	Grace O'Malley	Neasa Kane-Fine
Aibhlín McCrann	Helen Jones	Caroline Crowley (resigned Jan 2017)
Carol Keane	John Fanning	

## 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 AND 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).

\* For full details, please refer to the 2017 audited accounts, which are available on the DRCC website.

 Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
McGonnell House, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

**NATIONAL 24 HOUR HELPLINE**  
**1800 77 88 88**

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 www.youtube.com/user/DublinRapeCrisis