



40 years
of preventing
harm and
healing trauma

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Message from the Chair



In 2019, we took the opportunity for reflection on how far the campaign against sexual violence has come – and how far it has yet to go. We marked the Centre’s 40th year of existence with a conference examining DRCC’s work and impact in the past, present and future. Looking back with some early founders of the Centre – Evelyn Conlan, Barbara Egan and Anne O’Donnell – and with Olive Braiden who was there a little later, we were struck by the level of commitment and care that these campaigners showed for the victims of sexual violence. They spoke out against rape and sexual abuse in an era before any investigation of institutional abuse, at a time when there was no such crime as marital rape and many people in their own social circles were probably by turns puzzled and horrified at their involvement. These women kept faith with victims of sexual violence through some very dark days, to the extent that the Helpline they established now runs 24/7 and the number of people it helps has grown from under 80 in 1979 to more than 14,000 in 2019.

Our dual mission – to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and other sexual violence – is delivered through three strategic goals. They are to ensure supports for victims/survivors, to eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in our society and to support survivor rights and finally, to ensure that DRCC is a strong sustainable organisation. No one of these is more important than another as they blend and build on one another in the way that DRCC does its work.

Our first priority is and always has been to ensure that the needs of those who have experienced sexual violence are met, and that their rights are respected. The 2019 annual report shows an increase again in the capacity of the organisation to sustain constant, empathetic, non-judgemental support to people who are coping with the impact of sexual violence. Thus we registered a rise in the number of clients for face-to-face therapy and in people contacting the National 24-Hour Helpline. We saw a substantial 42% increase among people we supported at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital. We also accompanied more people on their pathway through the justice system, either in Garda stations or in court.

Brave survivors continue to speak out about their experience, to us, to other Rape Crisis Centres and in public. At our anniversary conference, survivors stated plainly how they lack basic supports and even understanding from state and other structures. Hearing daily from survivors and understanding the enduring harm they suffer because of sexual violence, we are more determined than ever to challenge the continuing tolerance of such violence in our society, our second key goal.

A major focus for us for the past decade has been to build the capacity of our young people to understand healthy relationships and consensual sexual behaviour. We were able to advance our work with young people in a significant way in 2019. However, it is not just young people who need to better understand that the core of sexual assault, including rape, is the absence of consent. The Centre is committed to building a wider community understanding on this topic.

As well as popular culture, our laws and systems remain challenging. However, Ireland’s ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence marked a significant advance in our country’s recognition of the scale of violence against women. It offers a framework for government to reform where it is needed. In 2019, we continued to contribute to public policy in areas such as harmful communications, rape defences, police resources, victim rights and on how victims of sexual violence and vulnerable witnesses are treated in our court system.

Finally, but not least, we can only continue our work if we accomplish our third objective of a strong, sustainable organisation. While the state funds around 85% of the cost of our therapeutic services, the remaining 15% and all our other work in education and training, awareness-raising, research and more must be paid for through public and corporate fundraising and philanthropic grants. We are grateful to each and every one of our funders, from our State funders Tusla and the Department of Justice and Equality through to corporate and individual donors and event organisers. We rely on every cent to ensure our vital services and activities are not only maintained, but expanded to meet growing need.

Equally our people are a tremendous asset and resource. I would like to thank my fellow board members for their wisdom and commitment to the work of the Centre during 2019 and for all their selfless support. I would like to thank the staff and interns of the Centre for their continued and dedicated commitment to the mission and work of the Centre. I want to recognise in a special way the volunteers who gave of their time and hearts in many functions and ways throughout the year. And I would like to also thank all those with whom we collaborated in 2019. It took everyone to make the progress we undoubtedly did during the year.

Anne Marie Gill
DRCC Chairperson



CEO Overview

I am proud to present the annual report of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for 2019.

Based as we are in Dublin, we have a number of direct services for the people of Dublin and the surrounding areas. In addition, we have a national remit where we engage with people all over the country. We aim for a holistic approach where we offer direct and indirect support to those who experience sexual violence and we use the expertise and experience of our Centre and its personnel to impart both skills and understanding to a wide variety of others who work with victims of sexual violence. And through what we learn, and analyse, we aim to inform government, policy makers and society at large about how our systems and our culture need to reform and improve in order to support the rights of survivors.



Thanks to the sustained and committed effort of many, we were pleased to say that in 2019, we were able to achieve our intended outcomes and objectives across all our areas of work.

Most of our staff and of our budget attaches to our clinical services. For many people, the first port of call is the confidential, freephone National Helpline. This 24/7 service was maintained each day and night through 2019 and had 14,159 contacts. Some people use the Helpline as a regular support mechanism, but in the past year 7,704 people contacted it for the first time. From the Helpline, people may be referred to other services, including the other 15 rape crisis centres around Ireland and services in areas such as domestic violence, homelessness, mental health and immigration and asylum. This was the first year of operation of our new telephone system, acquired through public fundraising, thus making it more reliable and easier for the support staff and volunteers. It will allow us to build in new features over the next couple of years. We continued to modernise across our in-house systems, including installing new software to replace tech so outdated that it could literally no longer be maintained.

In 2019, we saw 617 people for face-to-face therapy, up 6% on the previous year. In addition to our Leeson Street premises, that service was delivered at Coolock, Tallaght, Dóchas the Women's Prison, and for the first time, in North County Dublin where a joint initiative is beginning with colleagues from both Sonas and Aoibhneas domestic violence support services. We could see more clients because we could recruit new staff, thanks to an increased grant from our State funder, Tusla, which recognised the ever-increasing need for survivors to access such therapy. While pleased to be able to offer more support, we remain concerned that demand for help far outstrips supply, as disclosures increase and as people recognise their right—and need—to access healing services.

For this reason, we were also glad to put the finishing touches to preparations for a brand new, innovative on-line counselling service: *Moving Forward from Sexual Violence* is being rolled out on a pilot basis from January 2020. During 2019, staff carefully prepared materials for assessment and for the five online modules as well as training coaches. When piloted, we believe that this will add a valuable new resource for those who cannot or will not access our traditional services, which can also be scaled up to meet demand. We are sincerely grateful for the far-sighted philanthropic investors who understood our vision and were there to support the first year of the project.

Hard as it is to disclose the traumatic experience of rape and sexual abuse, many victims/survivors of sexual violence engage in other processes where they welcome our support. DRCC personnel assisted 300 victims of sexual violence and 240 friends and family attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital. There, those who have been raped and sexually abused can receive medical care and can opt to undergo a forensic process to gather evidence for a future prosecution. Even with the empathetic care of dedicated staff, this can be a difficult process; thus the DRCC service offers practical and emotional support to the victim and their supporters. DRCC

welcomed the Department of Health's publication of a SATU Policy review, setting out actions to ensure a consistent, sustainable and co-ordinated SATU service countrywide, and was pleased to join the implementation group set up in 2019 to carry its recommendations into effect.

The past year also saw continued growth in the number of people we support through the justice system, helped greatly by a new part-time co-ordinator for our trained justice accompaniment volunteers. Quite apart from the ordeal of going to a Garda station or to court, this service can give solid information to victims about what can often be an intimidating court system. While it is a welcome help for victims, we echo their fervent calls for reform of a system which has been acknowledged by the Minister for Justice as unfit to deal with sexual offences. An interdepartmental review of the judicial system, first promised for December 2018, had still not been published at the end of 2019. As we go to print, that report, authored by NUI Galway academic and barrister Tom O'Malley has just been published and is welcome.

It is impossible for our state to formulate a coherent and effective response to what has been named an epidemic of sexual violence in Ireland when it lacks up-to-date, comprehensive information on the issue. The Sexual Prevalence Study, commenced by the Central Statistics Office in early 2019 after repeated calls for action from DRCC and others, and where we are represented as a stakeholder, will bring valuable information – but not for perhaps three years. That is too long to lack vital data and we will seek to address this information gap in 2020.

Because of what survivors tell us, we believe that we are duty bound to identify and highlight where state services are failing them. We participated in seven different policy discussions, making five written and two oral submissions to the Oireachtas and Government, and issuing 10 press releases. Driven by the voices of survivors, in November we marked the DRCC's 40th anniversary by bringing together founder members, current supporters, survivors, activists and visionaries for an extraordinary conference event in the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. A main topic of that event was DRCC's long-standing commitment to building public understanding on sexual consent as key to preventing sexual violence. We convened an intensive two-day workshop on consent later in November that concluded that while there is an appetite for more knowledge right across our society, there is a crucial lack of information about attitudes to consent. This is firmly on our 2020 agenda.

Inadequate information and formation for young people was flagged at both November events. In 2019, we augmented our Education and Training team with a Youth Programmes Coordinator. Our work on our flagship youth programme *BodyRight* and our support of Tusla's broadly similar *Manuela Programme* meant that in 2019, more than 150 teachers, guidance counsellors and youth workers were trained to work with the young people with whom they are engaged. In addition, we built new *BodyRight* modules on the alarming issues that face children and young people too, including pornography.

At the end of 2019, we were heartened by news from the State's National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's report on the second level RSE programme, to which we had made reform proposals. It concluded that the current system provides children with too little information, too late, and identified a need for a student-centred, inclusive, holistic, whole-of school approach. We look forward to seeing these findings implemented swiftly to properly meet the needs of our children and young people.

It is not only children who lack knowledge on how to talk about or to prevent or how to deal with victims of sexual violence. We also delivered 120 days of training over the course of 2019 to a wide variety of frontline professionals and volunteers, focusing on ensuring that they understood the impact of trauma on a victim of sexual violence and were equipped to provide help in a trauma-informed way.

All this front-facing activity was supported by our administration, communications, fundraising and volunteer support staff. As the Centre copes with ever more activity, these functions are ever more crucial to our work. Our dedicated, professional staff show up daily for work that can often be hard and frustrating. We could not manage either without our volunteers and interns who commit to rigorous training to carry out their roles and who give us so much of their time and expertise.

In 2019, we were fortunate to have with us two doctoral students associated with Trinity College Dublin's Global Health Institute, as well as some brilliant student interns, bringing fresh insights and energy to our work. Always, we had the wisdom and support of our board of directors, led by Chairperson Ann Marie Gill who gave us wise counsel and ensured good governance.

Finally, we did a lot in 2019: but it would not have been possible without our funders. While we constantly remind them that the need we see is far greater than the funding we get, we are grateful for the constructive support of Tusla, our main state funder, and the Department of Justice and Equality. We sincerely thank those grant makers and corporations who had the faith to invest in our new projects. And for all the individuals who made donations and ran events for us, who signed up to a monthly donation or persuaded an employer to sponsor us, we could not – and we cannot – do it without you. Thank you all.

Noeline Blackwell
CEO



Dublin Rape Crisis Centre mission, work and values

Our mission is to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and other forms of sexual violence



What we do

We operate the 24-hour National Helpline, at 1800 77 8888 offering free and confidential listening and support for anyone who has been raped, sexually assaulted, sexually harassed or sexually abused at any time in their lives. We also provide a webchat service that allows people to chat online, one to one, with a DRCC support worker.

We provide counselling and therapy for adult survivors of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and childhood sexual abuse, both crisis counselling and long-term therapy. This takes place at our head office in Dublin 2 and also at outreach centres in Coolock, Tallaght University Hospital and North County Dublin, as well as in Dochas Centre.

We offer an online self-directed, client-led trauma support programme, aimed at adult survivors of sexual violence, entitled *Moving Forward from Sexual Violence*.

We offer accompaniment through the legal process at Garda stations and in court. The aim of the service is to inform, support and offer accompaniment to anyone who is attending court or making a statement in relation to sexual violence.

We also provide accompaniment to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital to provide psychological and emotional support.

We deliver specialised, trauma-informed training to professionals and volunteers, and have developed programmes on sexual violence prevention and education targeted at young people.

We engage in advocacy, policy and research that aims to influence change in policies, services and legislation that affect victims of sexual violence.

We use campaigns, including partnering with other bodies, to raise awareness about the harm of sexual violence and promote strategies to prevent it.

We welcome, train and support our volunteers in their essential work.

We fundraise to support our work and services so that survivors are provided with information and care that supports their empowerment and resiliency and towards a society that does not tolerate sexual violence.

Our values

Trustworthiness

Empathy

Respect

Empowerment

Achievements and Performance

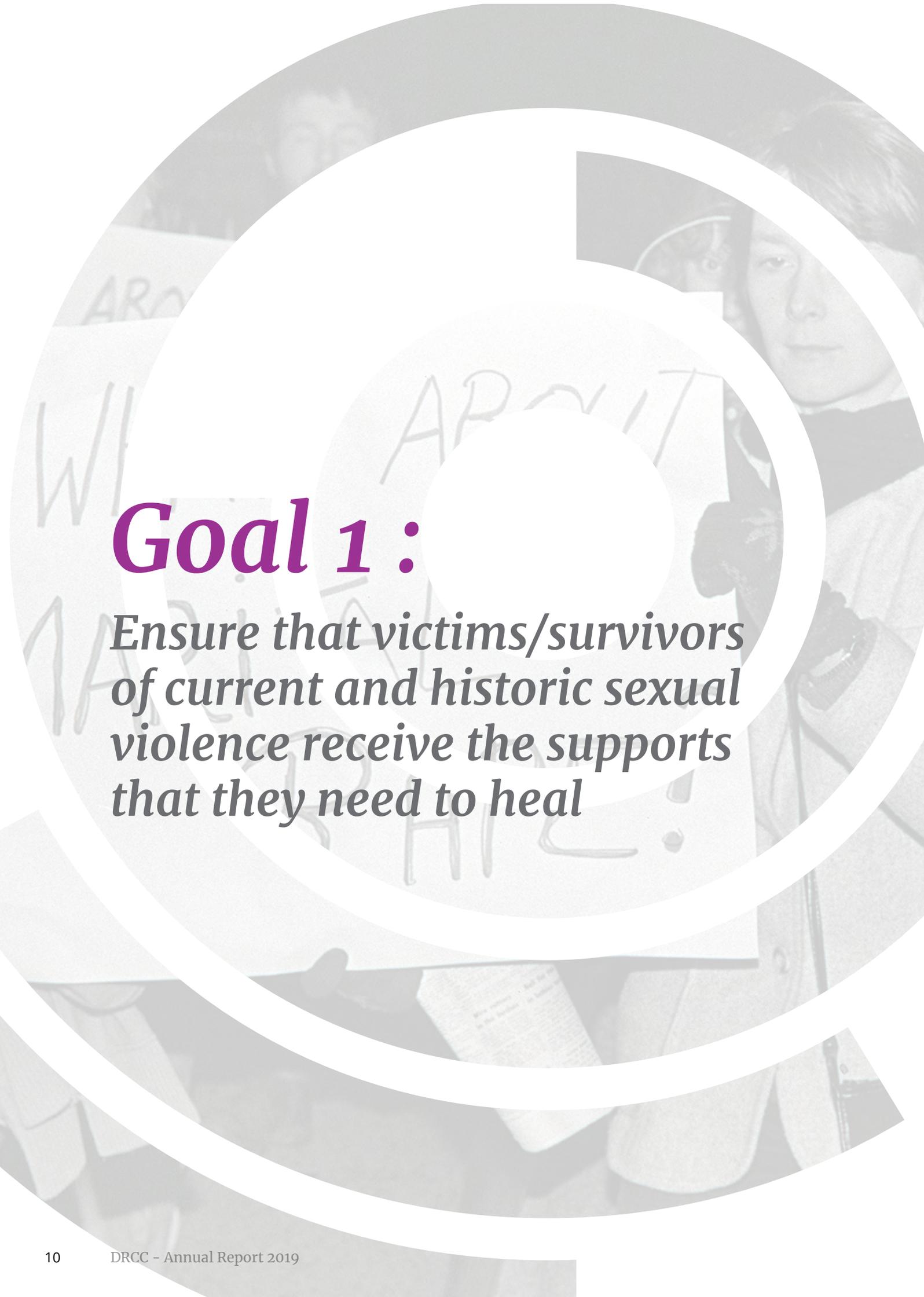
The DRCC is guided by its strategic plan 2016–2019, which has set the three strategic goals for the organisation:

- 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;
- Be a strong, sustainable organisation.

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







Goal 1 :

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



Objective 1

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

Objective 2

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

Objective 3

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

Objective 1: Providing high-quality services to victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence

Our services to victims/survivors are delivered through:

- The National 24-Hour Helpline;
- Face-to-face counselling and psychotherapy and group therapy;
- Accompaniment services.

National 24-Hour Helpline

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

In 2019, the total number of contacts to the Freephone National 24-Hour Helpline was 14,159, up from 13,367 contacts in 2018, and 10% higher than in 2017 when there were 12,855 contacts. Just under half of contacts (47%) related to rape, followed by Child Sexual Abuse at 29.4% and adult sexual assault at 9.3%. Sexual harassment was cited by 1.2% of those contacting the National Helpline. The total number of first-time contacts was 7,704, just over half of the total. Some 78.1% of callers were women, 21.3% were male and 0.6% identified as other. The largest age group was those aged 30-39 who formed almost 20% of contacts. The busiest months were September (796 contacts) and May (711 contacts).

Counselling and therapy

Clients who come to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre may have experienced rape or sexual assault in the recent past, some considerable time ago, or as children. Our team of professional counsellors and therapists provide one-to-one therapy and counselling in our city centre offices and in outreach clinics around Dublin. Sessions usually last one hour and are by appointment.

Demand for our services has outpaced our ability to supply the service for some years. In 2019, we saw a higher number of victims of recent sexual violence contacting the centre for appointments. We endeavour to ensure these crisis appointment clients are seen as quickly as possible, normally within two weeks. However, the increasing number of crisis clients puts pressure on our ability to provide services to those who have suffered rape or sexual assault in the more distant past.

Innovating in therapy:

Given this pressure and realising the need to widen the range of solutions and services available for those unable or unwilling to seek face-to-face support, in 2019 DRCC co-developed a 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. It also may encourage 'unseen' victims/survivors to come forward to seek support. Devised in late 2019, the programme is being rolled out on a pilot basis in 2020.

Additional funding allows more support:

In April, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone TD announced an increase in funding to all 16 Rape Crisis Centres around Ireland for their services for victims/survivors of sexual violence. For Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, this allowed us to provide some additional resources for people who are waiting for therapy and counselling.

Overview of therapy and counselling in 2019

Appointments Delivered

Out of the 5,942 appointments offered to clients, some 4,619 were delivered, an increase of 9.25% over 2018. This indicates an overall **take-up rate** for appointments of 78% after cancellations and no-shows are deducted.

Notably, the **number of appointments** delivered to clients who had experienced a recent rape or sexual assault (within the previous six months) was up 15.4% in 2019 over the previous year, from 2,187 to 2,523. They constituted 55% of total appointments. The remaining 45% of appointments for clients who had experienced rape, sexual assault and past child sexual abuse outside of that six-month window.

Clients Seen

In 2019, we saw a total of 617 clients, an increase of 6% on 2018 (582 clients) and of 12% on 2017 (548 clients). Of these, 365 were first-time clients, while 252 were existing clients, a ratio of 58% new vs 42% existing clients. The overwhelming majority were women (90.6%). **Group work** DRCC offers group therapy options and one-day workshops to existing clients who have completed a certain level of individual counselling. In 2019, therapists facilitated a one-day art therapy workshop and a 6-week rape recovery group, coming to a total of 138 group hours.

Therapy Hours Delivered

Group work hours (138) combined with individual therapy hours (4,619) gave a total of **4,757** therapy hours delivered in 2019.

Strengthening our client care provision:

- **New outreach in North County Dublin:** A new outreach centre was established in North County Dublin in August 2019 following an extensive scoping exercise and with support from Tusla. The centre was based on the innovative approach of co-locating sexual violence services with two domestic violence services, Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse Support and Sonas. It is now offering therapy to people living in the Fingal and North Dublin areas.
- **New client support service:** 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 such as financial or housing worries. To this end, in late 2019, DRCC established 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.

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.



At the new outreach in North County Dublin, DRCC therapists and staff of Sonas and Aoibhneas agencies

SATU Accompaniment

In 2019, our specially trained volunteers accompanied and provided psychological support to 300 victim/survivors attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at the Rotunda Hospital. This is an increase of 42% over 2018, but figures for that year were lower due to a temporary situation with services at SATU. DRCC volunteers also offered support to 240 family members and friends of those attending the unit in 2019.

Justice System Accompaniment

We accompanied 45 victim/survivors to court or Garda stations over 161 days in 2019. This is more than 118% higher than in 2018. We also provided support to 49 people via phone, text and e-mail. Our work in this area is carried out by a dedicated part-time accompaniment coordinator who also trained and co-ordinated a team of skilled and specialised volunteers. The court accompaniment service comprises support to negotiate the complexity of the court process through information and support in person or via phone, text and e-mail, visits to the courts to become familiar with their layout and procedures, and by support during the case itself.



DRCC's trained volunteers accompany victims/survivors to court and through the legal process

Volunteer services

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:

Counsellors on National 24-Hour Helpline:

Volunteer counsellors provide a listening service so that whenever someone calls the Helpline, a trained telephone counsellor is ready to listen, support and to 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 night a year to go to the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin to provide psychological and emotional support to survivors who attend 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 in schools and colleges.

Fundraising and Policy:

In our fundraising work, we have been very fortunate to see large numbers of volunteers come forward to assist us. We have also had valuable skilled support from volunteers working with us on policy issues and in our administrative work.

Recruitment and Training:

Volunteer recruitment and training drives for Helpline and accompaniment services normally take place twice annually, in February and September, in order to ensure sufficient numbers of trained volunteers are always available.

Each volunteer completes **72 hours** of training followed by a final assessment. This training 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 2018, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre included male volunteers in our telephone counselling services for the first time in a number of years. Throughout 2019, our male volunteers provided support on the Helpline and have also undergone training to provide outreach work, including talks to schools. Feedback from our clients has been highly positive and in 2019 we recruited further new male volunteers.

*DRCC volunteers graduation,
Summer 2019*



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

Ensuring an appropriate response for victim/survivors through frontline training:

As part of our aim of ensuring that wider society outside of the Centre can better understand and support victims/survivors, the DRCC provides training and information to a wide range of frontline services whose personnel support those who have experienced sexual violence. In 2019, Our Education and Training team provided 120 training days to 1631 people working in these frontline services.

Supporting frontline police staff:

We continue to highlight the need for the Gardaí to understand the impact of rape and other sexual abuse on its victims. In 2019, we provided training to Gardaí designed to help them work effectively and sensitively with victims of sexual violence, including those from diverse backgrounds.

Tailored training for specific work areas:

The frontline workers we trained included nurses, mental health service workers, counsellors, non-specialist psychotherapists, interpreters, and student union officers. In addition, we worked with 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 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 26 different occasions to statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations and other institutions.

Supporting counselling and therapy professionals:

We offered in-depth training to psychotherapists and counsellors to support them in working with their clients who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, rape and sexual assault and sexual harassment. Our long established 12-day training programme, Sexual Violence: the Therapeutic Process, was provided again in 2019.

In September, DRCC Youth Programmes Co-ordinator Caitriona Freir joined author Louise O'Neill to attend "Asking For What?", a piece created by the girls of Stanhope Street Secondary School in Stoneybatter, Dublin 7 and inspired by Louise's work.



Youth programmes

Dedicated youth programmes function:

With philanthropic funding, we were able to employ a full time Youth Programmes Co-ordinator to the Education team. For over a decade, we have trained school and youth work staff to facilitate our *BodyRight* sexual violence awareness and prevention programme with young people. The addition of the Youth Programmes Co-ordinator has considerably expanded our ability to reach out to young people and develop materials specific to them and their needs.

Updating our flagship *BodyRight* programme:

The training for *BodyRight* facilitators is a four-day programme designed to equip staff to use the programme with young people to raise awareness of respect and healthy relationships, and to prevent sexual violence. We delivered *BodyRight* facilitator training on six occasions in 2019, training 75 staff to act as facilitators.

An 18-month long independent evaluation of the *BodyRight* programme was completed early in 2019 and the programme has been reviewed and revised in the light of this. A standalone #AskConsent module was developed and piloted and is now available for use with young people, with a version for teenagers and one for young adults available.



DRCC outreach on consent with
DIT Student Union

New programmes for young people:

In response to research and feedback from those working with young people, we have recognised the importance of educating young people to be critical thinkers when faced with advertising, popular culture and pornography. In the absence of sufficient programmes in Ireland focusing on this topic specifically with young people, we developed an educational resource for youth workers and school staff entitled the *#LetsGetReal* programme. This was workshopped with 40 *BodyRight* facilitators in October, has been piloted with groups of young people and is being developed for wider distribution.

Supporting The Manuela Programme:

The DRCC continued to be a partner in *The Manuela Programme* led by Túsla and the Galway Rape Crisis Centre. This is an experimental programme similar in its aims to *BodyRight*, developed by the Manuela Foundation and the Rape Crisis Centres, where a project worker delivers the programme in a school while training school staff to deliver it into the future. A project worker for the Dublin and North Leinster area was based at DRCC, and our Head of Education and Training participated in the Advisory Group for the project. This programme ends in March 2020.

Educational Outreach:

DRCC saw an increase in calls from schools and other youth settings looking for support in the delivery of prevention programmes and in responding to issues on consent and the influence of pornography. In 2019 we delivered 69 school talks to secondary school students. In addition, we attended 14 college information days where we met students and disseminated awareness raising materials.

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

Although Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is based in the capital city, in 2019 we continued to have a national reach by operating the National Freephone 24-Hour Helpline and delivering training courses around the country. We also work in collaboration with other services throughout Ireland, including making referrals as appropriate. Throughout the year, we referred those who called the National 24-Hour Freephone Helpline to other services provided by DRCC and 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 and Treatment Units.



Building outreach in greater Dublin:

The DRCC has outreach services operating at Tallaght University Hospital and at the Northside Civic Centre in Coolock. We also have a clinic in Dóchas Women's Prison in Dublin. With the support of Tusla, we were able to establish an outreach centre in North County Dublin in August 2019, bringing the total of outreach centres to four.

Prioritising support for minority and vulnerable groups:

People without homes 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 prioritised work with services that cater to such groups throughout 2019. During the year, we provided 6 free training days to 46 people in services working with homeless people, and 5 days of free training to people working with refugees, including those in direct provision.

Holding the state to account on issues that affect victim/survivors from minority groups:

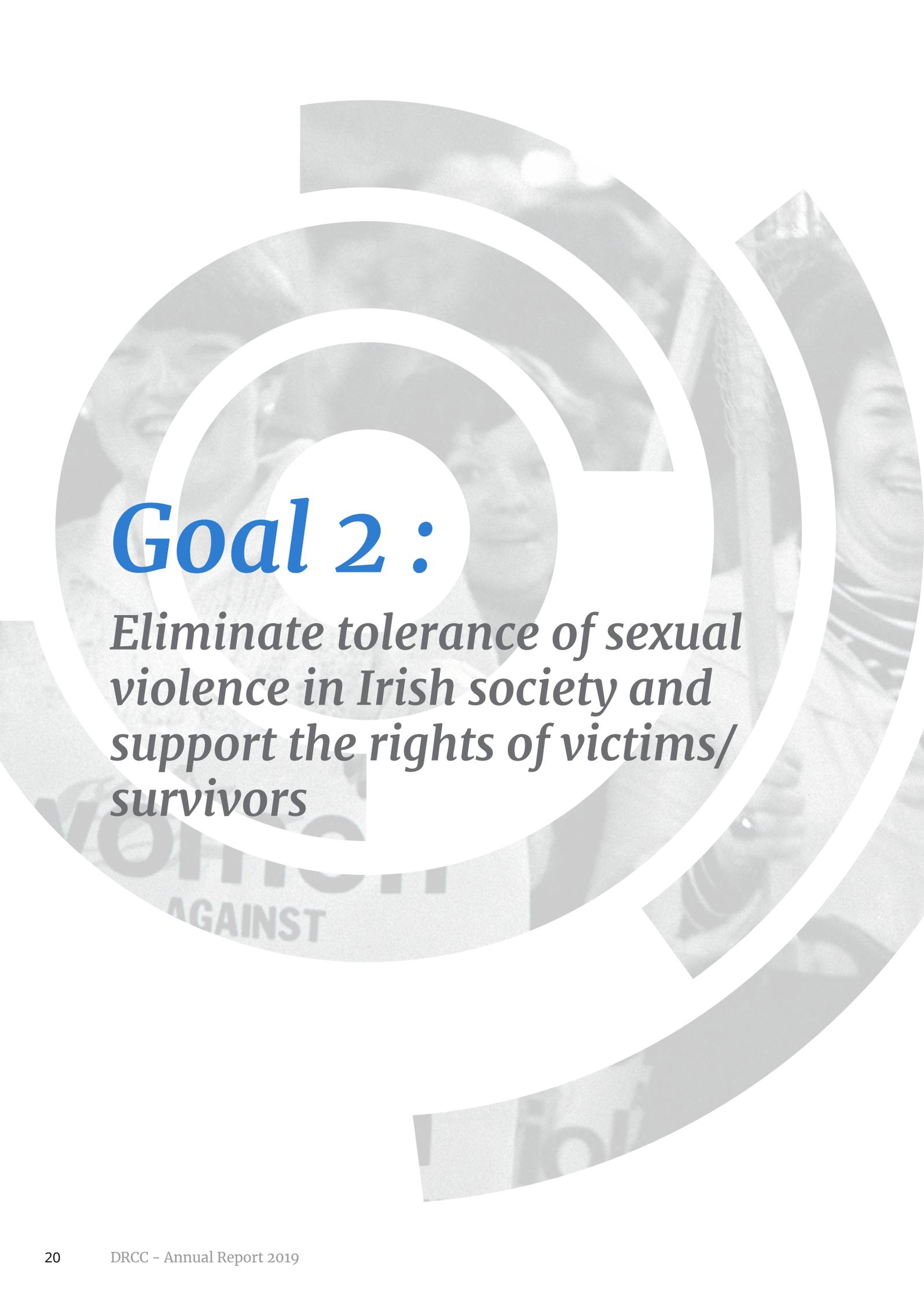
In 2019, ENAR Ireland coordinated a civil society report for the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), including a contribution from DRCC. In particular, we focused on the difficulties caused by the absence of reliable information from the State. We highlighted that consequences of that gap whereby it is impossible to determine whether decisions made and resources allocated are the best possible ones to accurately reflect victims' experiences of discrimination and their needs.

In particular, the extent of sexual violence against minorities, including ethnic minorities or those who are from minority background, is concerning. This disquiet was reflected back in the concluding Observations of the Committee when it reported in December 2019 that it too was disturbed by the inconsistent collection of statistics and lack of comprehensive disaggregated data.



Innovating to accommodate had-to-reach groups:

The *Moving Forward from Sexual Violence* online counselling support programme built in 2019 presents another way to widen the reach of counselling services to those who cannot or will not approach the Centre for face-to-face or telephone counselling. It aims to build understanding of trauma, developing tools for self-care and where needed, building confidence for further engagement with therapy. Coaches were trained and potential participants identified for the pilot programme in 2019 which was rolled out in early 2020.



Goal 2 :

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



Objective 4

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

Objective 5

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

Objective 6

Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence

Objective 7

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

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

Ensuring a reliable evidence base for action:

The Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) report, commissioned by the DRCC and published in 2002, was the last national survey undertaken on the topic of prevalence and trends in sexual violence. This critical 18-year gap in our knowledge about the extent of the problem nationally hinders us as a society from tackling sexual violence effectively and holding perpetrators to account. DRCC has highlighted continuously 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 2019, DRCC worked as part of the SVS Liaison Group contributing to the survey design and ensuring it includes the voice of survivors. The survey will be field-tested in 2020 and final roll-out is expected within two years of that. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the survey, the CSO envisages releasing some results beginning in 2023, but exact timelines will only emerge as scoping progresses.

Holding the state to account on tackling gender-based violence:

In March, DRCC welcomed the government ratification of the **Istanbul Convention**. More properly known as the Council of Europe's 'Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence', it commits Ireland to gathering detailed information on the extent of violence against women and girls, and to having effective measures to prevent and to tackle gender-based violence. The State must also provide adequate funding for rape crisis centres, for domestic violence services including refuges, and 24/7 national helplines. From 1 July, Ireland is subject to the treaty monitoring process, led by the independent Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) of the Council of Europe. DRCC will continue to highlight key priority areas for policy and legislative action in Ireland under the Istanbul Convention.

Tackling online harassment and abusive content:

In April, the DRCC contributed to a public consultation on the Regulation of Harmful Content on Online Platforms. Shortly thereafter, in May, DRCC welcomed the news that the government planned to adopt an opposition bill proposing to ban intimate image abuse. Later that year, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality sought submissions from the public on Online Harassment and Harmful Communications. In October, DRCC made a presentation to that committee focusing on the harms posed by intimate image abuse, and the need to educate young people on how to cope with potentially harmful online content. The Committee also heard from DRCC about the need for law reform to ensure the criminal law was fit for the digital age as well as the need for a new structure of Digital Safety Commissioner to regulate, sanction and provide best practice.

Seeking support for victims of familicide and domestic homicide:

In July, DRCC made proposals around high quality supports for victims of familicide and domestic homicide, as well as better risk assessment and reporting systems. These were presented to the Study on Familicide and Domestic Homicide Reviews, chaired by Norah Gibbons. DRCC's Noeline Blackwell is part of the Advisory Committee to that Review.¹

¹ All at the DRCC were very saddened by Norah's untimely passing in April 2020.

Research

Furthering our understanding of trauma via CONTEXT research partnership:

DRCC is 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 is to better understand the contextual factors at play in psychological responses to trauma, its prevention, assessment and treatment. Two of the project's doctoral researchers were based in the DRCC in 2019 and expect to write up their findings in 2020.

We hosted a number of other researchers to conduct shorter pieces of work on various human rights and legal analyses of issues in sexual violence.

Working with others

Joining forces for bigger impact:

The DRCC is a committed member of the National Women's Council of Ireland and the Observatory against Violence against Women, which it houses. We are also fully engaged in our collaboration with eight other Rape Crisis Centres through the Rape Crisis Centre Managers Forum, a collective of nine of the country's 16 Rape Crisis Centres. We participated in the Turn Off the Red Light Campaign and in the Victims' Rights Alliance. We also participate as a member of the Children's Rights Alliance and submit feedback on its annual Score Card which evaluates the state's performance in upholding children's rights in Ireland.

DRCC is a member of The Wheel, which represents community and voluntary organisations around Ireland. DRCC supported a Wheel event on 25 September calling on the government to 'Invest in Community' in Budget 2020 noting that State funding to NGOs did not reflect the State's reliance on services provided by them or the impact of austerity.

Campaigning to reduce harassment and abuse:

In autumn 2019, the Department of Justice and Equality engaged in a new phase of its 'No Excuses' campaign aiming to increase awareness and reduce incidences of sexual violence and harassment. The media campaign was supported by inputs from DRCC on national and local radio as well as taking part in the Department's stakeholder advisory group.

Meeting international allies:

In February, we welcomed two international dignitaries to our office: First, the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who attended a roundtable discussion with invited agencies and members of DRCC staff. We also hosted the German Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Deike Potzel, and held an informal meeting with her and members of DRCC staff.



DRCC staff met the German Ambassador in February, L-R: Leonie O'Dowd, Shirley Scott, Noeline Blackwell, Her Excellency Deike Potzel, Michelle Grehan

Objective 5:

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

Reforming education on sex and health relationships:

At the request of the Minister of Education, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) undertook a major review of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in primary and post-primary schools in two phases over 2018 and 2019. It aimed to examine the experience of teaching and learning in RSE including the curriculum, approach to learning, supports needed, and ways to improve the experience of RSE for students. DRCC participated in both consultation phases.

As part of this process, DRCC attended a consultation symposium inputting into the review where we highlighted the importance of targeted prevention through education in relationships and sexuality education for students. The NCCA released its final review of RSE on 11 December. Basing its approach on the right of every child to quality education, the Council advocated for a 'whole of school' approach which was student-centred, inclusive, holistic and age and development-appropriate. As this is in line with DRCC's own experience and work with schools and young people, we called on the Department of Education to quickly embed the report's conclusions in school curricula.

Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Third Level Education:

In March, we took part in a European conference on Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Third Level Education (**ESHTE in relation to higher education and the issues of sexual harassment, violence and consent**). Following the conclusion of the ESHTE project and the findings of the Framework for Consent in the Higher Education Institutions, the National Advisory Committee (NAC) was established, with DRCC as a member. 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.

Workshopping strategies to reduce sexual violence among young people:

The DRCC 40th anniversary conference, which took place in November 2019, featured a session on prevention of sexual violence with young people. Attended by young people, students and professionals working with young people in education and youth work settings, there was unanimous agreement that young people need more comprehensive guidance in school around consent and healthy relationships. The workshop conclusions are summarised in a conference report available on drcc.ie

Formulating a large-scale campaign to prevent sexual violence in Irish society:

Also in November, DRCC convened a two-day brainstorming workshop to explore how to extend discussion and engagement on Zero Tolerance of sexual violence. With inputs from many seasoned campaigners and experts, the gathering considered what might advance understanding and informed discussion, possibly centred on sexual consent. The lack of adequate data emerged as a major obstacle as did the absence of a coherent public understanding of consent. Barriers notwithstanding, the promising ideas that emerged, especially around youth engagement, will form a basis for DRCC to foster further work in this direction in 2020.

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

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

Through DRCC's increased capacity to accompany people reporting sexual offences and giving evidence in court, we are constantly struck by the multiple barriers and indignities they must encounter within the trial system. A long anticipated interdepartmental review, initiated in September 2018 and chaired by Professor Tom O'Malley of NUI Galway, was not published by the end of 2019, disappointing many advocates, including many survivors of sexual violence crime.

Engaging with An Garda Síochána:

Having called for more specialist Protective Service Units, we were delighted to welcome an increase to 14 of the country's 28 Divisions by the end of the year. We continue to note the need to effect greater consistency of approach among Gardaí as well as provide specialist training.

Improving court services through technology:

At the request of the Court Services, we contributed to the development of a long-term strategy to include the use of leading-edge technology in the delivery of its service. Technology has the potential to play a significant role in maximising efficiency and providing improved services to court users which can ultimately improve access to justice.

*Organisations involved in the
'Courting Disaster' campaign
called for action on International
Human Rights Day, 10 December*



'Courting Disaster': campaign for dedicated family court:

On 10 December, International Human Rights Day, DRCC joined forces with ten other professional and voluntary organisations to call for adequate dedicated family law courts in Dublin. Although the provision of such a court has been agreed in principle, funding allocated falls short of what is needed to complete the planned project. Family law and childcare cases are being heard in archaic conditions in courts around Ireland, involving people in already stressful, damaging situations of domestic violence-including sexual abuse-or relationship breakdown. For survivors of sexual violence, the lack of privacy as well as the other physical and case management difficulties can only add heavily to the stress and trauma they already experience.

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.

Maximising impact of the Victims Directive:

DRCC also took part in a round-table hosted by Dr Susan Leahy and the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies and the University of Limerick with Levent Altan from Victim Support Europe to devise effective monitoring, evaluation and oversight mechanisms for the Victims' Directive. We also participated in a one-day restorative justice symposium at Maynooth University with a view to further developing restorative justice practices within the Irish criminal justice system.

Highlighting the voices of victims/survivors and respecting their needs and experience:

The role of victims/survivors of sexual violence in grounding and shaping DRCC's work was also highlighted at our 40th anniversary conference in November. Survivor and campaigner Lavinia Kerwick opened the day-long event, proclaiming that survivors have the right to live their lives, not just exist, which means the support systems must be there for them in doing so. She also named the importance of rape crisis centres in helping victims/survivors rebuild their lives. A later conference session on victim/survivors needs called for cross-departmental cooperation and liaison to support work being done to support them, meet their long-term health care needs and prevent sexual violence. Also during that session, survivors stressed that all those who work on the frontline with victims/survivors must receive specialised training in order to avoid re-traumatising survivors.





Making the legal system less hostile for victim/survivors:

In November, DRCC welcomed the emphasis on reform of aspects of sexual offence law in the Law Reform Commission's Fifth Programme of Law Reform. Speaking at the Law Reform Commission's annual conference in November, our CEO Noeline Blackwell noted that the criminal justice system was a hostile place for survivors, which in the light of the damaging and disruptive nature of sexual crimes makes it a problem for wider society. DRCC also welcomed the Commission's report in November recommending reform of the 'honest belief' defence to the crime of rape. This defence is based on the defendant's honestly held belief that the complainant had consented, no matter how bizarre or unreasonable that belief was. DRCC had submitted reform proposals on this issue to the Commission in 2018. This report also provided highly valuable context around the legal understanding of consent and how it operates in the legal system, including the influence of rape myths and misconceptions and how they relate to the 'honest belief' defence in rape trials.



Goal 3 :

*Be a strong, sustainable
organisation*

Objective 8

Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work

Objective 9

Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan

Objective 10

Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

Objective 8:

Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work

Most of our funding for the National Helpline and Therapy Services comes from a grant from Túsla, which is in turn funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The DRCC commits to meeting set targets for service delivery in return for this funding, and we are pleased that we met all commitments to the funder in full throughout 2019.

Increased funding in 2019 meant we were able to make our therapy services available to more people by hiring more therapy and support staff. Unfortunately, this increase was still far below what is needed to meet actual demand for our services and we continued to maintain an unacceptably long waiting list of those seeking therapeutic support.

Events:

To address the shortfall in our finances, DRCC organised a range of fundraising events throughout 2019 in support of our vital work. We ran the highly competitive Corporate Quiz in March, the Golf Classic and VHI Women's mini-Marathon in June and the renowned Fashion Lunch hosted by Miss Candy in September – all of which were well attended and provided us with essential funds to underpin our services.

Public donations:

We were also very fortunate to 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. 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 undertaking the Convening workshop on Consent. These are all seed projects which we believe will deliver long-term impact

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 to explore and seek additional funding to carry out our mission.

Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan

All through 2019, we continued to develop our communications capability, with the objective of ensuring that we can communicate externally and internally as needed.

New telecommunications systems:

We installed a new telephone system to monitor and capture data on calls to our national 24-Hour Helpline and to streamline communications with our telephone counsellors. We plan to introduce live chat and translation facilities to our telephone counselling services in 2020.

Using the power of social media to spread our message:

Our social media channels were instrumental in disseminating key messages of the organisation throughout 2019, and our website at www.drcc.ie received 1.17 million views during the year.

Growing our communications capacity:

In September DRCC hired a Campaigns and Communications Manager on a part-time basis to further strengthen the work of the organisation in this area.

Providing experience-based analysis and comment:

Drawing on our own experience and expertise and on the lived experience of our service users and those we support, we continually expand our knowledge and understanding of sexual violence. We use a range of communication tools, including our social media channels and website, to share our views and findings. Throughout 2019, we provided analysis to journalists, students and the general public on a number of issues, including adequacy of services, treatment of victims by various services, the experience of victims in the health system and in the justice system, sentencing and trials.

40 years of DRCC

We held a full-day conference on 7 November at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to mark 40 years of existence. Entitled *'Sexual Violence in Ireland: Past, Present and Future'*, the event reflected on the origins of the Centre and its current role. It looked at DRCC services which seek to prevent sexual violence and to heal the harm it causes, as well as focusing on DRCC's role in advocating for the rights of those who experience sexual violence, including their rights to accountability by those who carry it out. The conference also considered society-wide strategies to combat sexual violence in Ireland, with inputs from an array of service providers, educators, policy-makers and activists.



The conference included historic accounts from women who had been part of those early years of DRCC, from its origins as part of a campaign against violence against women, through decades of funding hardships, legal and campaign struggles, up to the present day; it reminded all present that the campaign against sexual violence does and must continue right up to the current day. The conference called for quality data to form a strong evidence base for policy and for a review of supports provided to survivors/victims of sexual violence. There is a continuing need for legal reforms, particularly relating to sentencing and victim supports, as well as for appropriate education among young people on consent and healthy relationships.

DRCC Board member Aibhlin McCrann moderating the final session on DRCC Looking to the Future





Discussion on Improving Policy with Better Data with panellists John Fanning (DRCC Board), Helen McGrath (Central Statistics Office), Philip McCormack (Department of Justice) and Caroline Kelleher (RCSI)

Broadcaster Claire Byrne moderating the session on 'The DRCC Now: Understanding how to Prevent Harm and Heal Trauma in our Times'



Founders and former staff and volunteers of the DRCC in conversation with moderator Susan McKay-L-R: Evelyn Conlan, Anne O'Donnell, Susan McKay, Olive Braiden and Barbara Egan.

Read the 40th anniversary conference conclusions at <http://bit.ly/DRCC40CC>

Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

The full DRCC board met on seven occasions during 2019. There are three board sub-committees: Audit and Finance; Human Resources and Remuneration and Fundraising which also met as required during the year.

Meeting governance obligations

DRCC complies with the Charities Governance Code published by the Charities Regulatory Authority and in 2019, it identified the actions it takes to meet each core standard and the evidence needed to show that standard is being met.

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 below give a detailed picture of the income, expenditure and activities of the organisation for 2019.





Financial Statements

- Independent Auditors Report
- Financial Statements





Independent Auditors Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2019 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 2019 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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.

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

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Thomas McDonald

Date: 1 April 2020

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

Financial Statements

Statement Of Financial Activities For Year Ended 31 December 2019

Income and Expenditure 2019					
	Designated funds €	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total 2019 €	Total 2018 €
Income:					
Donations and legacies					
Donations	-	387,382	176,176	563,558	400,816
Fundraising income	-	341,588	-	341,588	354,892
Income from charitable activities					
Government grants	-	-	1,326,454	1,326,454	1,284,500
Education, counselling and other services	-	212,450	38,875	251,325	246,562
Income from other activities					
Other operating income	-	3,170	-	3,170	15,960
Investment income					
Interest received	-	-	-	-	72
Total income	-	944,590	1,541,505	2,486,095	2,302,802

	Designated funds €	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total 2019 €	Total 2018 €
Expenditure:					
Cost of raising funds	-	151,464	-	151,464	196,511
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	182,101	1,549,587	1,731,688	1,489,849
Administration and other expenditure	-	227,748	-	227,748	262,141
Total expenditure	-	561,313	1,549,587	2,110,900	1,948,501
Net income/ (expenditure)	-	383,277	-8,082	375,195	354,302
Transfer to/between funds	900,000	-908,082	8,082	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	900,000	-524,805	-	375,195	354,302
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	1,513,720	983,414	-	2,497,134	2,142,833
Total funds carried forward	2,413,720	458,609	-	2,872,329	2,497,134

Statement Of Comprehensive Income

	Total 2019 €	Total 2018 €
Surplus for the financial year	375,195	354,302
Total comprehensive income	375,195	354,302

DRCC Employee Salary Range

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

	2019	2018
€85,000 to €100,000	1	1
€70,000 to €85,000	1	1

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

Statement Of Financial Position For Year Ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	1,260,065	1,280,881
Current Assets			
Debtors	14	25,299	41,336
Cash at bank and in hand	20	2,346,700	1,791,231
		2,371,999	1,832,567
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(-124,593)	(-89,069)
Net current assets		2,247,406	1,743,498
Total assets less current liabilities		3,507,471	3,024,379
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	-635,142	-527,245
Net Assets		2,872,329	2,497,134
Funds of the charity			
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	21	458,609	983,414
Accumulated funds – designated funds	21	2,413,720	1,513,720
Total funds of the charity		2,872,329	2,497,134

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by

Ann Marie Gill, Director
Date: 1 April 2020

Keith Herman, Director

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.

Members of the board of directors in 2019

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

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).

DRCC Annual Report 2019

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Photos by Conor McCabe, DRCC, National Lottery, Derek Speirs.



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

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

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70 Lower Leeson Street
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Phone: 01 661 4911

Email: info@rcc.ie

Website: drcc.ie

 [@dublinrapecrisiscentre](https://www.facebook.com/dublinrapecrisiscentre)
 [@dublinrapecrisis](https://www.instagram.com/dublinrapecrisis)

 [@DublinRCC](https://twitter.com/DublinRCC)
 [DublinRapeCrisis](https://www.youtube.com/DublinRapeCrisis)