### THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) TRADING AS DRCC

### ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Registered Number: 147318 Charity Number: CHY 8529 Charity Registration Number: 20021078

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

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Chair	Ann Marie Gill	
Directors	Ann Marie Gill Aibhlin McCrann Grace O'Malley Carol Keane Anne Marie James John Fanning Síona Cahill Madeleine McCarthy Fergus Finlay Neasa Kane-Fine Keith Herman Cathy O'Donohue Nichola Gallagher Eoghan Cleary	(Resigned 26 January 2023) (Resigned 26 January 2023) (Resigned 26 January 2023) (Appointed 23 November 2023) (Appointed 23 November 2023)
Chief Executive	Rachel Morrogh	
Company Secretary	Carol Keane	
Company Number	147318	
Registered Office	70 Lower Leeson Street Dublin 2	
Auditors	JPA Brenson Lawlor Brenson Lawlor House Argyle Square Morehampton Road Dublin 4	
Bankers	PTSB 70 Grafton Street Dublin 2	
	Allied Irish Banks 40/41 Westmoreland Street Dublin 2	
Solicitors	LK Shields Solicitors LLP 38 Mount Street Dublin 2	

The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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

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

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

#### **MISSION AND VALUES**

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

Our core values under our strategic plan are Trustworthiness, Respect, Empowerment and Empathy. In 2023, the Board and staff worked on the development of a new Strategic Plan which comes into effect in 2024. This plan enhances the previous core values in identifying DRCC as an organisation that is professional, inclusive and diverse, and that centres action-learning.

We offer a safe and confidential space and a person-centred, trauma-aware empowerment approach in all of our contact with clients and callers.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

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

We also aim to:

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

Activities in support of these aims include:

- The operation of a National 24-Hour Helpline in support of people who have experienced sexual violence, including rape and other sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse, or sexual harassment/bullying;
- Offering a webchat support service for online usage, a text service for Deaf contacts, and a Helpline interpreting service for those whose first language is not English;
- Providing therapy and counselling services, including outreach therapy services in Coolock, Tallaght, Dublin Bay North and Dochas Centre women's prison;
- Providing a client support service for vulnerable clients and contacts;
- Providing accompaniment support in forensic/medical settings, in police and other reporting fora, and in court
  and other settings where legal/quasi-legal hearings take place;

- Advocating on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual violence, to ensure that they have appropriate access
  to health and justice systems, and that their rights and dignity are respected when accessing these services;
- Providing training services that help to both prevent and deal with sexual violence when it occurs;
- Working to eliminate tolerance of sexual violence through awareness-raising and campaigns, and through
  education and training activities;
- Collecting & disseminating data to advance understanding of the prevalence and incidence of sexual violence and the services provided to those who suffer it.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE**

#### The organisation has three strategic goals:

## 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.

#### 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

#### Goal 3: Be a strong, sustainable organization

Objective 8:	Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work
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- Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan
- Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

The 10 objectives are laid out in this report with an account of the organisation's work in each area in 2023.

A new 3-year strategic plan was developed in 2023 and adopted in 2024.

## 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.

DRCC's services to victims/survivors are delivered through:

- The freephone 24-Hour National Rape Crisis Helpline 1800 778888;
- An online webchat support service;
- An Interpreting Service for those wishing to access the National Helpline in 240+ languages;
- A text service for Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers;
- Face-to-face counselling and psychotherapy;

- A client support/welfare service; and
- Survivor accompaniment support services in the justice and forensic healthcare systems.

#### National 24-Hour Rape Crisis Helpline

The freephone 24-Hour National Helpline 1800 77 8888 offers free, confidential listening and support to adult victims/survivors of sexual violence. Trained Telephone Counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide non-judgmental support to anyone affected by sexual violence. The line can also support families and friends of victims/survivors as well as those who work with victims/survivors in their employment or in volunteering.

#### 2023 trends

There were 18,562 contacts with the National Helpline in 2023, a slight increase on 2022 when there were with 18,400 contacts and from 14,012 contacts in 2021. Most contacts were from first time callers (9,668). As in previous years, most contacts related to rape as an adult (36.6%) followed by Child Sexual Abuse (33.8%) and sexual assault as an adult (14.8%). Sexual harassment was cited by 1.4% of callers.

Not all contacts disclose their age or gender. Of those who disclosed gender in 2023, some 67.2% percent were female, 19.1% percent were male and 13.7% identified as other. In terms of age, the largest group was people in their thirties who formed just under 20% of contacts. The next largest group was those aged 40-49 at 18.5% of contacts. In total, 38.2% of contacts were aged under 30 years. 9,668 people were contacting the line for the first time, 4,153 were repeat contacts and 4,831 were unknown.

Age of victim	% of calls
Under 16	2%
16 – 17	2.7%
18 – 23	17.6
24 – 29	15.9%
30 – 39	19.6%
40 - 49	18.5%
50 - 59	15.9%
60 - 69	5.9%
70 +	1.9%

#### Age of contacts to National Helpline

Based on 44% of contacts who disclosed their age

#### **Gender of contacts to National Helpline**

Gender	% of calls
Female	67.2%
Male	19.1%
Other	13.7%

Based on 73% of contacts who disclosed their gender

Although callers hailed from a myriad of countries, among those who indicated their country of origin, the vast majority (92.4%) were Irish, with 1.7% from Europe and 5.9% from further afield. In contrast with previous years, 58% contacting the Helpline in 2023 were from outside Dublin, while 42% were calling from Dublin.

#### Referrals to other agencies:

Most contacts seeking further information or support were referred to another Rape crisis Centre (23%) followed by other counselling services (20%), An Garda Siochana or specialised Garda service (15%) and SATU (9%). Some 6% of referrals were to suicide prevention services, and 5% to CARI.

#### Trends on Helpline:

Continuing the trend in recent years, many callers on the National Helpline in 2023 had mental health concerns, with several reporting feelings of suicide ideation. This was in evidence throughout the year with spikes in such calls in April, August and towards the end of the year. Helpline support workers noted more callers expressing worry about homelessness. In all these instances, we immediately validate their concerns, hold a safe space for them to talk it through and signpost to all relevant services.

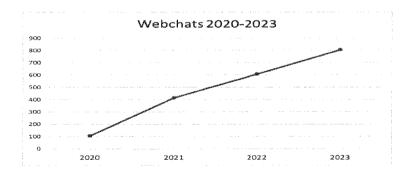
The line also had many calls from older survivors, many disclosing their experience for the first time, and often following media reports of child sexual abuse, in particular past abuse in school settings. There were also calls in response to the launches of the We-Consent campaign in March and Finding Your Way After Sexual Violence in April, with many callers noting greater awareness of the issue of consent and that sexual violence is never the fault of the survivor.

#### **Allied Helpline services**

Alongside the 24-Hour Helpline, we provide some additional specialist services for those seeking crisis help (note that these services are not 24/7 and are closed on public holidays).

- A text service for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, operating Mon-Fri from 8am to 6:30pm, at 086-8238443 in 2023, this service received 262 texts.
- A Webchat Support Service on our website drcc.ie, offering a written mode of communications, particularly
  helpful to those who cannot verbally articulate their needs or who don't have a private space in which to
  speak.
- A live Helpline Interpreting Service for those who do not speak English, operating Mon-Fri from 8am to 6:30pm, and midnight to 8am daily.

**Webchat:** Since its beginning during the COVID-19 pandemic, the webchat support service has grown steadily. In 2023, we supported more people than ever before, with 805 webchats over the course of the year. up from 607 in 2022, an increase of 33%.



The webchat service offers a support for those who prefer to type rather than talk, or where privacy issues mean telephone conversations are difficult. The chats can vary in duration, with some lasting longer and involving multiple issues. In some instances, the person will end up calling the National Helpline to engage further with some contacts eventually progressing to therapy support.

We extended our webchat hours to 2 night-time shifts per week in April – the service is available Mon-Fri, 10am to 5pm and now also midnight to 3am on Tuesday and Wednesday.

#### Counselling & Therapy

Through our team of skilled and dedicated counsellors and psychotherapists, DRCC provides Counselling and Psychotherapy for adult survivors of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and childhood sexual abuse. We also offer a counselling & therapy service for 16 and 17-year-olds, with the consent of their parent(s) or guardian, strictly by consultation.

With staff retiring or moving onto other opportunities, alongside an increased demand for our therapists' care, DRCC has been focused on increasing the number of therapists on our staff headcount. However, a very challenging recruitment environment meant that DRCC has had to operate its Therapy service without a full complement of therapists. This led to an increased waiting list from 2022 into 2023. Vacancies in our therapy team also impacted our ability to offer services such as support for women prisoners in the Dochas Centre and in other outreach locations. However, in the second half of 2023, DRCC was privileged to recruit a number of skilled and experienced psychotherapists to our vital service and thus were able to resume our outreach services as well as reduce the growing waiting list for therapy services towards the end of the year.

To ensure language isn't a barrier to accessing our therapy services, our therapy team underwent training on working with interpreters to provide services to clients where English is not their first language. Our own Education and Training team delivered the training which has greatly enhanced the capacity of our therapists.

#### Overview of therapy services in 2023

DRCC provided therapy to 497 clients during the year, compared with 551 clients in 2022, and 580 clients in 2021. This decrease can be directly attributable to our challenges recruiting therapists. When we recruited additional therapy staff towards the end of 2023, there was a direct and positive correlation between the numbers of clients we saw. Of the 497 clients, 310 were new clients (62.3% percent of total clients) in 2023.

We delivered 3,761 appointments in 2023, down from 4,170 appointments in 2022. This was out of a total of 4,864 appointments offered, indicating a take-up rate of 77%, allowing for cancellations and no-shows. Among these appointments 37% were for people who had experienced a recent rape or sexual assault within the previous six months and 63% were for clients who had experienced past sexual violence as an adult or childhood sexual abuse.

Some 71.6% of clients had experienced sexual violence as adults, with 28.4% abused as children. The majority of clients were female (89%) with 10% male and 1% identifying as other. Some 20 clients disclosed a disability.

#### Gender of clients

Gender	% of clients
Female	89%
Male	10%
Other	1%

Clients ranged in age from 16 to over 60. The largest age cohort was 18-23 years, making up 26% - over a quarter of therapy clients. There was an even spread across three age cohorts of 19% each – 24-28 years, 30-39 years and 40-49 years. Almost half (47%) of therapy clients in 2023 were aged under 30.

Age	% of clients
16 – 17	2%
18 – 23	26%
24 – 29	19%
30 – 39	19%
40 – 49	19%
50 – 59	10%
60+	5%

#### Types of sexual violence

The Central Statistics Office defines sexual violence as any sexual act which takes place without freely given consent or where someone forces or manipulates someone else into unwanted sexual activity. The word "violence" as a term is sometimes associated with the use of force but it can also mean "having a marked or powerful effect" on someone, which includes actions or words that are intended to hurt people.

Note that the statistics in this section are divided between sexual violence experienced as adults and as children, and the percentages are of the total client cohort.

In 2023, 265 clients (42.2%) reported being raped as an adult, and another 3.7% cited marital or intimate partner rape, 17.4% sexual assault, and 2.1% sexual harassment as adults. Online abuse was cited by 2.2% of clients, aggravated sexual assault by 2.1% and suspected drug-facilitated rape by 1.9% of therapy clients. Child sexual abuse was experienced by 28.4% of clients.

#### Abuse experienced by clients as adults

Type of Abuse	% of all incidents
Rape	42.2%
Sexual Assault	17.4%
Marital Rape	3.7%
Online Abuse	2.2%
Sexual Harassment	2.1%
Aggravated Sexual Assault	2.1%
Suspected Drug Rape	1.9%

Abuse experienced by clients as children

Type of Abuse	% of all incidents
Child Sexual Abuse	28.4%

#### New clients in 2023

Statistics provided in this section relate only to the 310 clients who entered our therapy services in 2023. The data includes incidents of additional violence disclosed by those clients, as well as information disclosed on the outcome of pregnancies (recent or historic) as a result of rape and on those who had reported the sexual violence to the Gardaí at any time, either in 2023 or in previous years.

Sexual violence experienced by new clients: The 310 new clients who commenced therapy in 2023 disclosed 326 abuse incidents. Of these, 146 new clients had experienced other forms of violence in addition to the main abuse type. Collectively these 146 clients report 192 incidents involving other forms of violence.

Category	% of all incidents with additional violence
Adult rape/Sexual Assault	49%
Child sexual abuse	6.5%

#### Violence experienced by new clients as adults

Type of Violence experienced by adults	% of incidents
Physical Abuse	31.2%
Psychological Abuse	21.2%
Harassment/ Intimidation	18.8%
Coercive Control	13%
Threat or Attempt to Kill	7.1%
Abduction	3.5%
Stalking	2.9%
Spiking	1.7%
Trafficking	0.6%

Note: A separate incident can have multiple types of violence.

#### Violence experienced by new clients as children

Type of Violence experienced by children	% of incidents
Psychological Abuse	50%
Physical Abuse	27.3%
Harassment/ Intimidation	18.2%
Threat to Kill	4.5%

Note: A separate incident can have multiple types of violence.

#### Relationship between victim and offender(s)

As in other years, most of our 2023 intake of clients knew the person who had raped or assaulted them. Some 92.4% of childhood abuse incidents and 82% of sexual violence incidents as adults were perpetrated by a person or persons known to the victim/survivor.

Figures for intimate partner abuse were 23.1% of those subjected to sexual violence as adults and almost 1 in 10 of those abused as children (9.8%).

Relationship	Child Sexual Abuse	Adult Rape/Sexual Assault
Parent	12%	1.3%
Sibling	3.3%	0.4%
Partner	9.8%	23.1%
Other relative	13%	0.8%
Other known person	25%	32%
Person in authority	6.5%	3.0%
Stranger	7.6%	18%
Other	22.8%	21.4%

Pregnancy: In 2023, female clients disclosed 5 pregnancies.

Outcome of pregnancies	Number
Became Pregnant, Parenting	2
Became Pregnant, Termination	2
Became Pregnant, Miscarried	1

#### New clients: Reporting to Gardai

Of 310 new clients in 2023, some 47 had reported the crimes against them to the Gardai (either in 2023 or previously), a reporting rate of 15%, a substantial decrease from 37% in 2022.

Case outcome: Outcome information was known for 36 of the 47 cases reported (76%):

Outcome	Total	
Under Garda Investigation	27	
Dropped by DPP/ client	8	
Went to trial	1	
Outcome not disclosed	11	

There was an acquittal in the one case that went to trial.

#### Accompaniment support

Victims and survivors of sexual violence must be able to seek justice for the crimes committed against them if that's what they choose to do. However, for someone harmed by sexual violence, it can be daunting and may even seem impossible to engage with the justice system alone, without knowing how the system works or where to find assistance. They may even be reluctant to seek appropriate medical attention, which may have serious long-term health implications.

In this space, DRCC provides a specialised support service. Our accompaniment support workers are there for victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault who are attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) at Dublin's Rotunda Hospital, who are reporting sexual violence to An Garda Síochána or another authority, and/or who are attending court or other proceedings in relation to sexual violence. This support is also available to friends and family members who may attend with them.

Our new Finding Your Way After Sexual Violence (see below) is also very useful for those seeking to know more about the forensic, reporting and legal processes.

#### SATU accompaniment

Our support in the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin is available 24/7 to those seeking medical/forensic attention after sexual assault or rape. In 2023, our accompaniment teams supported 308 people at SATU, up slightly from 291 in 2022. DRCC also offered emotional and psychological support to 202 friends, family members and other supporters at the unit who appreciate information and guidance on how to support their loved one.

To further enhance SATU's work, DRCC is part of a liaison committee of the Rotunda Hospital which advises on and monitors services there. DRCC is also represented on the national SATU Implementation Project Team.

#### Justice system accompaniment

For victims and survivors who are considering reporting a sexual offence to the Gardaí or other investigating authority or who are already in the process may have questions or concerns about how it works, whether they are reporting a recent crime or something that happened in the past. The act of talking through the process or voicing these worries may be a first step or a welcome advance and the DRCC service will provide that experienced support.

For those attending a trial or hearing, our accompaniment service can offer support, information and accompaniment. They can answer specific questions, explain unfamiliar language and structures and help navigate what can be a complex criminal legal process. The service can also include a visit to the court ahead of the trial to become familiar with the layout and process.

In 2023, the shortage of judges and courtrooms meant there was considerable delay in trials starting. This caused great distress for clients, compounding the existing levels of upset and trauma as they awaited a court date.

**Reporting accompaniment:** In 2023, DRCC accompaniment support workers provided support, information and accompaniment to 186 victim/survivors who contacted the service about reporting sexual violence in Garda stations and other settings where sexual violence may be notified, up from 50 people in 2022. There were 44 days of accompaniment support given to those reporting in 2023.

**Court & hearing accompaniment:** Our main focus is on the Criminal Court. In addition, we supported people attending the Garda Siochana Ombudsman Commission, the Workplace Relations Commission, the International Protection Office and the Family Courts in 2023, as well as accompanying victims and survivors to college disciplinary hearings and meetings with bodies such as religious orders.

The service provided support, information and accompaniment to 100 victim/survivors in relation to court, trials and other hearings in 2023, compared with in 60 in 2022, and 45 in 2021. There were 211 days of accompaniment support given to those attending court, trials and hearings during the year.

**Training**: We held accompaniment training for DRCC staff and volunteers throughout the year, including visits to the courts for familiarisation and also advanced training in the Criminal Court of Justice for our experienced court accompaniment support workers. DRCC also provided training and information to other bodies involved in victim support and engagement.

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

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

Given the prevalence of sexual violence in Ireland, and the impact it has on those affected, it is striking but not surprising how many frontline staff are meeting disclosures of sexual violence in their daily work. It is imperative that key services are provided to victims and survivors in a way that does not further traumatise them and that is sensitive to their circumstances. DRCC aims to help frontline services and professionals become more trauma-aware and better able to understand and support victims & survivors and their needs.

DRCC provides specialised training and information to staff and professionals who support those impacted by sexual violence. During 2023, we provided 52 training sessions, some of which ran over a number of days, involving 643 people.

Topics included working with victims of childhood sexual abuse, impact of trauma, managing disclosures and supporting refugees and asylum seekers impacted by sexual violence. Our courses were attended by a variety of frontline groups, including such sectors as third-level, disability, refugee/asylum seekers, mental health, addiction, consular, homelessness, community outreach, and primary healthcare.

#### **Tackling Sexual Violence Training Network**

Over 2023, DRCC ran this training initiative for Rape Crisis Centres around Ireland and a number of other nongovernmental organisations working with survivors. This work was enabled by funding from The Wheel. Topics included adolescent therapy, the impact of coercive control, and sexual violence, disability and neurodiversity. To bring together the learnings from the network, we organised a conference in Kilkenny on 'Tackling Sexual Violence in Ireland' in February which had over 60 attendees from participating organisations, and looked at issues facing survivors including minority and vulnerable groups.

We examined the challenges facing frontline groups like Rape Crisis Centres which included continued under funding and how much time is spent raising funds. Agencies attending all stressed the centrality of their survivor focus- no matter how great the challenges they face, that they always centre survivors and their needs. They also debated the issues that they would like to see addressed by the new DSGBV agency Cuan, which was established in early 2024.

#### **Tailored training**

Different groups and organisations will have various ways of working and intersecting with survivors. DRCC's Education & Training team adapts its programmes to suit those needs and delivers the training in person or online, as suits the situation. Examples include film production companies, arts and creative groups, state bodies, businesses and a wide variety of other agencies.

#### Curriculum reform

Among many other issues, the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence has a focus on increasing awareness of consent across society. This includes Relationships & Sex Education in schools as part of Social, Personal & Health Education. DRCC worked over the year to raise awareness of the need to update curricula with age-appropriate material at all levels of our education system – as recommended in our Youth Programmes and indicated in our consent research. This included a submission to the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment on the Senior Cycle SPHE curriculum in October.

#### Youth Programmes

DRCC prioritises work equipping frontline staff working with young people to understand key issues around sexual violence, healthy relationships and consent. In 2023, we had 160 participants in our core youth education programmes, BodyRight and #Let'sGetReal and associated programmes. Those who take part in our youth programmes gain access to an information portal with relevant online resources where they can share best practice.

#### **BodyRight Programme**

Our flagship training for BodyRight facilitators is a four-day programme designed to equip those working with young people to raise awareness of respect and healthy relationships, consent and online safety and to prevent sexual violence. In 2023, we delivered BodyRight facilitator training on 6 occasions to teachers, guidance counsellors, youth workers, therapists and other youth professionals. We also ran a 2-day BodyRight refresher course and a session with alumni of our youth programmes to gather feedback on their experience of using the programmes. In total, BodyRight was delivered to 111 individuals.

#### #LetsGetReal

With a growing awareness of the need to educate young people to become more critical in their consumption of advertising, popular culture and pornography, DRCC's #LetsGetReal educational resource for youth workers and school staff has become increasingly popular. We were able to offer this programme twice in 2023, with 31 participants.

Thanks to a funding grant, we were able to offer this important instruction to participants free of charge. We also ran 2 youth awareness and education sessions for organisations working with vulnerable young people, with a total of 18 participants. DRCC began work on updating the youth programmes in 2023 to support curriculum and trend changes whilst improving resources for those delivering the programmes to young people. The new updates will be launched in 2024.

#### Work with third-level colleges

DRCC was part of the steering group for the 'Speak Out' anonymous reporting tool. We are also represented on the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the ESHTE project on ending sexual violence and harassment in third level education and joined the newly established Consent, Sexual Violence, Harassment and Equality in Higher Education (COSHARE) Network in Autumn 2023. DRCC staff and our Chairperson all sit on consent committees for higher education institutions as they tackle the issue of sexual violence and harassment on campus. Our Education and Training department also provided consultancy guidance and support on policies and resources to various third-level groups.

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

#### **Client Support Service**

The aim of this service is to specifically support clients who are particularly vulnerable due to financial, social, immigration or other circumstances, assisting them with practical life issues so they are able to focus on healing. It seeks to empower and help our clients access their rights and entitlements, find relevant information and seek referral to other services as appropriate.

Due to a change of personnel, the service was paused between May and December 2023, therefore the figures relate to the period January to May 2023. It supported 37 clients during this time, most of whom were female (81%) with 14% male and 5% identifying as other. The age range was diverse, the largest cohort being in the 30s (30%), followed by 24-29 years (24%) and 40-49 (22%).

During the year our Client Support Officer visited external venues where such vulnerable individuals are based, such as direct provision centres. She conducted 130 interventions, noting that an intervention may address one or multiple issues. There were 60 contacts with external agencies. The largest area of intervention was housing including Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), priority housing lists and housing transfers; followed by social welfare, referrals to other agencies, homelessness/emergency accommodation, immigration issues, asylum process issues, access to health system and to the mental health system.

This service has been restarted in 2024.

#### Training to support survivors from vulnerable and minority groups

In 2023, DRCC continued its work of training and upskilling frontline staff who support vulnerable and minority groups. The aim is to equip them with a stronger understanding of the impacts of sexual violence and how to cope with disclosures.

We provided training to 217 professionals working with minority and vulnerable groups, including addiction services, homeless support organisations and refugees and asylum-seekers support bodies, made possible through grant funding. DRCC also began to use resources in education and training for those professionals supporting deaf, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities who experience sexual and gender-based violence developed from our collaboration with the Justisigns 2 project which ran over the previous 2 years. The Justisigns 2 project was led by a consortium of experts in Ireland, Belgium, Spain and the UK collaborating on resources, training and research.

**Supporting women prisoners**: In Autumn 2023, we restored our therapy support service for the community living in Dóchas, the Women's Prison. The weekly service allows women detained in Dóchas to access support for the impact of sexual violence; they are encouraged to continue therapy with DRCC after their sentence is served. Demand for this service is considerable and we will try to extend our support in 2024.

**Recognising barriers to participation and support**: DRCC is aware that due to status, disability, poverty or other discrimination or social inclusion factor, many victims and survivors may find it particularly hard to seek and access support. While we ask our clients to make a contribution towards therapeutic services if they can, those who cannot are welcome to access the service without charge.

**Ukrainian emergency response**: Refugees from Ukraine fleeing conflict in their homeland can access information in Ukrainian and Russian about available supports for victims and survivors of sexual violence. DRCC participated in the Ukraine Civil Response Forum throughout 2023, providing information and assisting as appropriate.

**Celebrating Pride:** In June DRCC with its We-Consent campaign marched in Dublin Pride for the first time. It was a great day with many staff and volunteers marching under the banner and with incredible support and engagement form the public.

**Supporting survivors through consular contacts:** One of the important ways DRCC can support people from foreign communities harmed by sexual violence in Ireland is through their national embassies. During the year DRCC had visits from ambassadors and consular staff to learn about our work and services. We attended information events, including the visit of Brazilian actor and activist Luisa Brunet hosted by the Brazilian embassy, to highlight domestic violence. DRCC was part of a panel discussion hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs on 'Staying Safe Overseas'. The focus of the DRCC contribution was on striking a balance between providing practical advice and promoting a culture of safety without victim blaming.

#### National Helpline Interpreting Service

DRCC operates the 24-hour freephone National Helpline 1800 778888 in English, but if you prefer to engage in another language, the Helpline Interpreting Service can help. It runs Monday to Friday, 8am to 6:30pm except holidays. It also operates midnight to 8am seven days a week.

The service is free, non-judgmental and confidential - you can read more on our website at bit.ly/DRCClang

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

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

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

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

The Third National Strategy on DSGBV 2022-2026 was launched in June 2022. It has four pillars – prevention, protection, prosecution and policy – and mandates a cross-government approach. In 2023, the government announced that a new statutory agency (eventually named Cuan), was to be established and that it would be mandated to drive actions and progress across multiple stakeholders. DRCC took part in development meetings around the new agency and were invited by the Justice Committee to make a submission on the General Scheme on the New Agency Bill. We also engaged in meetings on the implementation of the National Strategy generally over 2023.

**Cooperating with international partners:** In March, DRCC hosted a visit from Feminoteka, a Polish organisation based in Warsaw which provides direct support to survivors of sexual violence in Poland. The group is seeking to establish Poland's first Rape Crisis Centre. The Feminoteka team met with DRCC staff to learn about our services and wider work, and we also arranged for them to meet other organisations supporting survivors of gender based and sexual violence to share experiences and strategies. In May, DRCC presented at Feminoteka's international conference in Warsaw that marked the opening of the centre. In October, we travelled to Warsaw to conduct volunteer training. Feminoteka is well on the way to achieving its goal to provide the holistic, specialised support of a rape crisis centre and DRCC is honoured to assist them in this aim.

Our We-Consent campaign also assisted Feminoteka by running webinars on consent for Polish and Ukrainian activists. In July the We-Consent campaign won international attention and was invited to present to the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

The EU COVIS project aims to build knowledge and provide tools to establish and deliver quality court-based support services for victims and witnesses of crime, to meet the needs and rights of all victims/witnesses participating in criminal proceedings. Our colleagues in Victim Support at Court (V-SAC) are partners in this project. V-SAC hosted a learning day so that the other partners from Sweden, Portugal, Finland and Denmark could hear from NGO and statutory agencies working within the Irish court system. DRCC staff spoke to the group about our work and our observations to promote better criminal processes and access to safe justice. Among the aims of the project is to develop a best practice handbook for witness support.

**Highlighting the key role of data:** In April, the Central Statistics Office published its long-awaited survey on the prevalence of sexual violence in Ireland. This Sexual Violence Survey (SVS) was the first such national research in over 20 years, since the ground-breaking Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) study in 2002 commissioned by DRCC and conducted by Hannah McGee, Rebecca Garavan, Mairéad de Barra, Joanne Byrne and Ronán Conroy of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. DRCC was a member of the SVS Liaison Group who were tasked with reviewing the progress and offering advice to the development of the survey. DRCC was also privileged to assist the CSO with its preparatory work for this much needed study, particularly in facilitating a survivor focus group and feedback for the researchers.

The research revealed that sexual violence is extremely widespread in Ireland, affecting over half of women (52%) and almost 3 in 10 men (28%) in their lifetimes. Some groups are particularly affected by sexual violence, such as younger women and bisexual people. Over half (53%) never told another person about the abuse, and most (78%) knew the person who had assaulted them.

The CSO issued five themed releases of data over the space of several months, each focusing on a theme: adult and childhood experiences of sexual violence, disclosure, sexual harassment and attitudes to sexual violence. DRCC welcomed this important data, commenting in media with a call for regular updating and greater acknowledgement of the population-wide impact of sexual violence as well as the need for more survivor-friendly justice and health systems.

International Women's Day: We marked this annual call for action with a campaign on the theme of 'online sexual violence is sexual violence'. We drew attention to the harm that is done through abuse online, which can be viewed as somehow less harmful than off-screen abuse. Callers to the National Helpline talk about threats to share intimate images, and receiving unwanted sexual images and videos. With more people accessing violent porn online, there has been an accompanying rise in abuse online which makes it all the more important that young people in particular understand that porn is not real and certainly not something on which to base their own encounters and relationships.

#### Working with others

Joining forces to increase impact: While we aim to build our own organisational capacity and expertise, we recognise that we gain in knowledge and impact when we collaborate with colleagues in other organisations in the community and voluntary sector and beyond including:

- The National Women's Council and the Observatory against Violence against Women. In June, DRCC joined the NWC in celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Later in the year, DRCC supported the National Women's Council's Pre-Budget Submission, calling for ring-fencing of funding to protect, prevent and prosecute domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. In October, DRCC joined an event hosted by MEP Frances Fitzgerald in Brussels that provided an opportunity to learn more about EU decision making and the impact of the EU on gender equality.
- Rape Crisis Centre Forum Ireland, is a collective group of nine of the country's 16 Rape Crisis Centres and during 2023 DRCC shared experiences and expertise with other Forum members. In September, we submitted a joint submission to Coimisiun na Meain (the Media Commission) with 7 other RCCs regarding the Online Safety Code. We highlighted the harms of tech-facilitated abuse and the need to treat online harms as seriously as offline harms as well as the overlap between both forms. On intimate image abuse, we sought more effective removal and review procedures to enable prompt action on non-consensual sharing.
- The Victims' Rights Alliance.
- · The Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee of An Garda Siochana and
- The National Advisory Committee of the Sex Offender Risk Assessment & Management group, SORAM.
- The **Children's Rights Alliance**: DRCC offered feedback and other input to its annual Score Card which evaluates the State's performance in upholding children's rights in Ireland and to which DRCC contributes.
- The Wheel, which represents and engages with community & voluntary organisations around Ireland.
- The Victims of Crime Forum, the purpose of which is to facilitate dialogue between civic society organisations working with victims of crime, the Department of Justice and other stakeholders to help ensure appropriate responses, enhance outcomes and support healing.

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

#### National We-Consent campaign

Campaign launch: In March 2023, after years of research and planning, we launched the We-Consent campaign. It was Ireland's first national consent campaign aimed at all demographic cohorts and is a long-term movement to inform, educate and engage with all members of Irish society about consent.

The campaign messaging and concept development were guided by in-depth research carried out over several years. The most recent research, both quantitative and qualitative, in early 2023 explored attitudes towards consent with 15 focus groups and a large-scale national survey. The focus groups included 8 community specific sessions with marginalised groups with unique consent perspectives including LGBTQ+ people, Migrant groups and people with disabilities. The findings of this research outlined the appetite for a broad campaign implementing positive consent framing and the need for direct and specific resources for a variety of people.

On 22 March, We Consent was launched and we were grateful for the support given by a range of stakeholders and funders who discussed alongside Justice Minister Simon Harris TD and our DRCC colleagues, funders and supporters, We-Consent launched in Royal Irish Academy. Following opening words from CEO of our funder CFI, Denise Charlton, Louise McSharry compered an insightful panel discussion with Noeline Blackwell, Ger Gilroy, Jarlath Regan, Dr. Caroline Kelleher and Chris Rooke, discussing the need for survivor-based research and campaigns, the requirement for all members of society to get involved in the conversation, how far Ireland has come and how far we have yet to go.

The launch weekend also saw the We-Consent messaging projected on the Dublin City Tourist Office building, where We-Consent staff and volunteers handed out badges and chatted about consent with hundreds of people in the City Centre to great reception.

Alongside our physical launch, we premiered our TV ad which had been created in 2022 by Pull the Trigger, arising from the concept developed by Rothco. The ad, which featured on Sky TV for 6 weeks, depicted different couples, varying in age, sexuality and gender, navigating consent in a real, fun and sexy way. Since the video launched, it has been viewed by almost 3 million people across social media alone.

We also launched our We-Consent.ie website including a treasure trove of consent resources within our Resource Hub. We collated hundreds of guides, articles and videos on a huge variety of consent topics ranging from talking to young people about consent to supporting someone who has experienced sexual violence.

**Workshops:** A key aim of We-Consent is to spark important conversations about consent and to provide people with an open, non-judgmental space to do so. Throughout 2023, We-Consent delivered innovative consent workshops to almost 500 people across 10 counties all over Ireland. Alongside an external facilitator, the We-Consent Conversation Workshops supported a wide range of groups to build their consent skills including mental health groups, young farmers, sci-fi convention attendees, LGBTQIA+ groups, sports groups and medical and care staff.

**Ambassadors:** The We-Consent Ambassador Programme is a six-week activist training aiming to equip volunteers with all of the skills and tools they need to be consent leaders in their communities. Run alongside the DRCC Education and Training Team, the Ambassador training covers signposting, consent conversation starting, activism and the impact of trauma. After a successful pilot in June, 19 Ambassadors graduated in 2023. Since then, the Ambassador team have played a vital role in spreading the We-Consent message around Ireland by engaging in outreach, distributing materials, promoting events, co-facilitating workshops and much more.

#### **Collaborations & Engagement**

- In June, We-Consent and DRCC marched in Dublin Pride for the first time, following this our engagement with the LGBTQ+ community continued as we launched a successful ad campaign on Grindr and our Outreach and Engagement Officer spoke on a panel at QCon, an Irish conference for queer women. We also produced a leaflet informed by and created by gay men for gay men, which was also translated into Portuguese.
- In collaboration with Irish Rail, We-Consent posters were displayed on the DART network in the Dublin area; our
  messages also featured on Digi Panels across the country thanks to Clean channel, eir and DCC.
- In July we continued our collaboration with Feminoteka, a Polish group establishing the first ever RCC in Poland, by participating in a series of webinars with Polish and Ukrainian women's rights campaigners.
- We-Consent travelled to Paris in September to present to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in a consent-focused session alongside other European experts in the area.

- Throughout the year we worked in collaboration with Galway Rape Crisis Centre, Kilkenny Rape Crisis Centre and RCC Midwest (Limerick/Clare) to run workshops, produce a video and produce stickers which were cobranded & promote local services.
- We engaged with the public and spread the consent messages through selling We-Consent merch, including sweatshirts, tote bags and more.
- In December we began a collaborative project with AsIAm (Ireland's National Autism Charity) to conduct research with the autistic community. This research will be used to produce accessible consent resources for autistic people and their families.

**Culture Night 2023:** We once again took part in Dublin's Culture Night with an evening dedicated to the discussion and examination of the representation of consent and sexual violence in the world of arts, film, TV, literature and culture. After a 'Conversation on Consent' Workshop, it was down the road to the Sugar Club for a star-studded panel event with author and playwright Roddy Doyle, intimacy coordinator Ita O'Brien, director Lenny Abrahamson and author and journalist Sarah Gilmartin. Topics ranged from artists' safety as creators in the workplace, to whether it is legitimate to re-write 'problematic' works of literature, to how to authentically portray social problems in arts and culture. We closed the evening with a wonderful set from our musical guest, Toshin.

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

#### **Finding Your Way after Sexual Violence**

Finding Your Way after Sexual Violence is a new specialised, online resource for victims and survivors of sexual violence. From the early stages of seeking medical and forensic help at a Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, to reporting a crime to Gardaí, through to navigating the criminal justice system and courts, the guide offers independent, reliable information that is available online at any time.

Developed by Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and funded by the Department of Justice, the guide was launched by Minister for Justice Simon Harris TD on 17 April 2023 at the Mansion House in Dublin. At the event, Karen Stanley, a survivor of sexual violence, spoke movingly about her experience in the justice system. A number of other survivors who had contributed to the guide attended the launch, for which we are deeply grateful.

Finding Your Way after Sexual Violence is intended to help victims, survivors and their supporters understand what services are available to them, where to find them and how to access them. It is there to assist people during a challenging, upsetting and often re-traumatising period

The guide is trauma informed, which means it factors in the impact of sexual violence on a person's mental, physical, social and emotional wellbeing and thus how people may react to different types of information. It is also victim-centred, prioritising those who have been subjected to sexual violence in the guide's creation. The guide can be accessed at <a href="http://www.drcc.ie/fyw">www.drcc.ie/fyw</a>

During the year, information packs with cards and flyers were sent out to all Rape Crisis Centres, Garda Divisional Protective Services Units, and non-profit organisations/charities who might use the information for clients/service users. Digital assets also played a key role in the rollout, with social media graphics being created and shared across online platforms. In May, September and December, the guide was promoted on Digital Pedestals around Ireland as part of DRCC's collaboration with Clear Channel, eir and Dublin City Council.

DRCC's volunteers in SATU also highlight the guide to those attending the unit, and National Helpline staff and volunteers recommend it to callers who may find it useful.

Since the launch, we have been gathering feedback, which has been overwhelmingly positive. It is of great importance to us that those working with victims/survivors find the guide beneficial and are able to refer client to it.

We will continue to gather feedback into 2024 and use it to improve and update the information. When asked why they use the guide, stakeholders said:

"I recommend it all the time during trainings, hand out the flyers and cards, as well as bring the group through the FYW website. I do this because it's an excellent resource for them to use in their own lives and work - to pass on to others."

"It is easy to understand and find the information that may be needed, depending at what stage the victim of sexual violence is at on their journey of recovery. It could have been promoted more in the media."

#### Supporting a Victim's Journey

This Department of Justice plan is focused on improving reporting and criminal justice systems for victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases. We are part of a number of sub-groups to help implement particular recommendations of *Supporting a Victim's Journey*, notably on advancing specialist training programmes for all those who deal with victims in sexual offence cases, and on mapping the journey faced by victims as they navigate the reporting and legal system.

#### Creating a safer internet

DRCC is part of the 123 Online Safety campaign to increase protections online, led by Children's Rights Alliance (CRA). In 2023, Coimisiún na Meán (the Media Commission) commenced operations and appointed an Online Safety Commissioner which the campaign had been seeking. An individual complaints mechanism included in the online safety act, something for which DRCC and campaign partners had called. On 8 March, DRCC marked International Women's Day with a campaign highlighting that 'online sexual violence is sexual violence'. DRCC's CEO attended a stakeholder consultation in Brussels on the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA). The DSA is about ensuring a safe and accountable online environment. The DSA also recognises gender-based and cyber violence as particular risks which digital platforms will have to be alert to when assessing and mitigating harms their services can cause.

#### Advocating for adequate compensation for victims of crime

The Sex Offenders (Amendment) Act 2023 aims to strengthen management and monitoring of sex offenders who have served their sentence and are in the community. This includes changes to the notification requirements for those on the sex offenders register and a ban on them working with children or vulnerable people. DRCC is part of a working group to oversee the commencement of this law, and continues to form art of the Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management Advisory Committee.

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

#### Towards a more victim-centred justice system

Many aspects of our criminal justice system can re-traumatise victims and survivors during rape and sexual assault proceedings.

In July, DRCC welcomed a wide-ranging new Bill on sexual offences and human trafficking, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2023. This draft legislation aims to address long-standing issues affecting victims and survivors of sexual violence, including providing anonymity for victims and the accused in sexual offence trials, repealing provisions for sentences to be delivered in public and making provision for legal representation for victims in certain circumstances. One such provision dealt with the 'honest belief' defence in rape cases by introducing an objective test of whether a 'reasonable person' would believe that consent was agreed. However, this was removed from the Bill in November and the Minister for Justice is considering a separate piece of legislation to deal with this issue.

As provided in the Third National Strategy, the Department of Health is examining and reviewing the rationale for disclosure of survivors' counselling notes in court proceedings. Victims and survivors can – understandably – be distressed and angry to learn their private notes may be sought by the defence in a criminal case. DRCC met and conveyed information and insights to the responsible working group on this very important and sensitive issue during 2023.

**Recognising the intersection of legal jurisdictions**: Many victims and survivors may face multiple proceedings in the justice system. As well as a criminal law case, they may be involved in private law proceedings on separation, divorce, maintenance or child custody in the Family Courts, or proceedings brought by Tusla on taking a child into care. These courts operate independently, with different standards of evidence and different rules, which can be confusing and procedurally complex. Research on how these three systems intersect, commissioned by the National Women's Council and funded by the Department of Justice, was published in 2023. It recommended ways that the different arms of the justice system can better work together to ensure victims' rights are upheld and respected throughout the justice system. DRCC contributed information to the report authors, Ellen O'Malley Dunlop and Nuala Egan, and was part of the Advisory Committee to the research.

Amplifying the voices of victims and survivors: Victims and survivors are at the centre of DRCC's work and our vision of an Ireland free from sexual violence. Accordingly, we have as a key aim to amplify and promote the voice of victims and survivors of sexual violence as the true Experts by Experience in combating sexual violence in all its forms. In 2023, we have been privileged to work directly with victims and survivors in a number of ways:

- our Consent Project Survivor Panel helped guide the development of our new campaign in the second half of the year;
- We provided support to survivors who waived their anonymity following court proceedings and who shared their insights and experiences in media and other public fora;
- We included first-hand survivor testimonies and experiences with reporting and legal systems in our Finding Your Way After Sexual Violence guide, and in other information resources;
- · We included survivor feedback in our policy and research outputs throughout 2023.

DRCC is deeply grateful to each and every person for their generosity in sharing their invaluable insights.

Holding the State to account on obligations to eliminate gender-based violence: The Istanbul Convention is an international human rights treaty. It maintains a Europe-wide legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence, and to prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women, based on a victim-centred approach and linked to a wider goal of achieving gender equality. The convention places obligations on the Irish state across a range of targets. In 2023 Ireland was assessed for the first time on how it is meeting these obligations by GREVIO, the independent expert monitoring body. DRCC met with GREVIO members while they visited in January and welcomed the evaluation report published in November.

#### We-Speak:

In June 2023, as part of the We-Consent campaign, we launched We-Speak - a secure, anonymous online platform that aims to empower survivors of sexual violence to safely tell their own stories, in their own time, in their own words. We-Speak was designed to offer another option for survivors of sexual violence to share their stories, while building a community and learning that their stories hold the power to build awareness, cultivate empathy, and ultimately create change.

Alongside our US tech partners Our Wave and with expert legal advice from A&L Goodbody's pro-bono team, enormous work was put into ensuring the platform was safe, compliant with all EU law and encrypted for complete anonymity. The story sharing process is clear, easy to navigate and was designed with the care, wellbeing and safety of the user at its core. The stories are moderated by trained DRCC staff before being published on the site.

Since We-Speak launched, we have received 60 stories (2 stories per week) full of enormous compassion, healing and support for each other. The platform has seen 17,000 users and engagement on the platform, media coverage and feedback and support from survivors of sexual violence has been overwhelming in its positivity.

#### Policy submissions in 2023

	Month	Submission
1.	February	Submission to Department of Justice on review of civil legal aid scheme.
2.	March	Submission to Joint Committee on Justice on the General Scheme of the DSGBV Agency Bill.
<b>3.</b>	March	Contributed to public consultation by the European Commission on proposed revisions to Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.
4.	Мау	Submission to Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023, with a specific focus on paid Domestic Violence Leave.
5.	September	Coordinated response from 8 RCCs to Coimisiún na Meán on the consultation process on Ireland's first binding online safety code for video-sharing platform services.
6.	September	Contributed to public consultation by the European Commission on proposed revisions to the Victims' Rights Directive.
7.	October	Submission to National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA on the draft specification for Senior Cycle SPHE.
8.	October	Joint Pre-Budget 2024 Submission with members of National Women's Council.

#### Goal 3: Be a strong, sustainable organisation

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

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

To be able to provide support to victims and survivors seeking to recover from the trauma of sexual violence, DRCC depends on raising funds from a wide variety of sources. In 2023, public fundraising financed the support we offered to 1 in 5 survivors. In total, individuals and organisations raised over  $\leq 1,000,000$  in 2023 to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and sexual violence.

The year saw an array of campaigns, challenges, sports achievements and fun events being organised to benefit DRCC. Among these were the VHI Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin in June when over 30 women togged out for #TeamDRCC. We also had sky dives, yoga sessions, and sea swim challenges, and UCD Student Union named DRCC as a charity partner.

In March, the Corporate Quiz returned, hosted by Pat Kenny, with over 40 teams taking part. The Annual Golf Classic took place in September and in October we organised the 'Dip4DRCC' sea-swimming challenge. In November we held the 'Countdown to Christmas' fundraising lunch which is DRCC's largest fundraising event. We also continued to highlight the impact of leaving a legacy in your will through DRCC's membership of My Legacy.

DRCC is deeply grateful to the companies, trusts and philanthropists who supported our work in 2023, standing behind the issues we champion and the values we stand for. DRCC also benefitted from pro bono support in areas like legal assistance and advice.

Alongside these generous public donations, events and corporate partnerships, the State continued to part-fund DRCC's work and services. We are very grateful to Tusla and the Department of Justice, as our main state funders, for their partnership approach and significant funding of our core work – we couldn't run our services and supports without this. Our funding will transition to Cuan during 2024 and we are looking forward to working in partnership with the new Agency to deliver the best services, support and care for our clients.

We are indebted to everyone who chooses to contribute in any way to DRCC's work and mission of preventing the harm and healing the trauma of sexual violence in Ireland.

#### Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive & coherent communications plan

Communications underpin and support how DRCC meets its strategic objectives and transmits our values. We use communications tools and channels to broaden understanding of sexual violence and its impacts, to promote our services and supports to victims and survivors, and to campaign for a society with zero tolerance for sexual violence and that understands and values sexual consent. It is also important that we share our insights, learnings and trends from across all facets of our work, both internally and externally, with a variety of stakeholders. Finally, the voice of victims and survivors is at the heart of our communications work and we seek to support and amplify survivors' voices wherever possible.

#### **Communications channels**

Our website drcc.ie hosts updates on our work, news and press releases as well as campaigns and events. It is also the access point for our webchat support service which allows people to receive crisis support via online chat with a webchat support worker. The site also houses downloadable resources, focused on offering survivors information and tools to understand and manage trauma impacts. In 2023, there were 5,020 downloads, 2,152 telephone calls and almost 650 emails sent from the site.

We used our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube to highlight various aspects our work and draw attention to issues of concern. (Our Consent Project established its own set of social channels in 2023.)

We issued quarterly online newsletters throughout 2023 to update e-mail subscribers on our work, campaigns and other relevant developments. (To read past issues or to sign up, visit bit.ly/DRCCnl22.) Our Education & Training team issues an occasional newsletter to past attendees of training courses to alert them to training opportunities.

**Media**: DRCC works with media to share insights and evidence from our work, flag issues of concern and provide comment on relevant matters. We landed over 800 briefings and/or pieces of coverage across media outlets at local and national level in 2023, with a reach of 70 million. We assisted a number of survivors who were preparing to engage with media or speak publicly about their experience as a survivor, whether in the justice system or in terms of impacts of sexual violence on their lives.

**Raising awareness & creating change:** Alongside our national We-Consent campaign, DRCC ran a number of targeted campaigns highlighting equality, online safety and support for survivors, particularly noting International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Action against Gender-Based Violence. We were also pleased to support campaigns of other bodies including the national campaigns launched by the Department of Justice to raise awareness of domestic violence, consent and support services.

Throughout the year, we were grateful for the opportunity to promote our services and supports via street-level advertising in Dublin and other locations in Ireland by Clear Channel Communications in cooperation with eir and DCC. These digital pedestals also feature integrated telephones with free access to emergency telephone numbers, including the National Rape Crisis Helpline 1800 77 8888.

We published our annual report and statistical supplement for 2022 in October 2023. Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, kindly launched the report in the historic Tailor's Hall.

In December we ran an awareness campaign highlighting our National Helpline availability 24/7 over the Christmas holidays, given that many people face particular difficulties at this time.

#### Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

#### **DRCC Staff**

Our professional and dedicated staff carry out DRCC's mission and goals, managed by our CEO and senior management team and overseen by our voluntary Board. In 2023, our team continued to grow and continued our hybrid working model to maximise the available space in our offices on Leeson Street.

With demand for our services as strong as ever, but with many other state and private sector services seeking to hire, it continued to be challenging to recruit new staff across all areas, but especially in our therapy services. Our hard work paid off in this respect with a cohort of therapists recruited in the second half of the year which has helped us to reduce our waiting lists for therapy. From mid-year, the Board and Executive worked on the development of a new 3-year Strategic Plan which was adopted in 2024.

#### **DRCC Volunteers**

Since our foundation, volunteers have been central to how DRCC delivers its supports and services to survivors of sexual violence. They are integral to the National 24-Hour Helpline and in accompanying victim/survivors in the justice system as well as to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in the Rotunda Hospital.

DRCC's Board is comprised of volunteer members who provide leadership and governance oversight for the organisation. DRCC benefits enormously from many people who share their expertise with us and who raise funds to support our work.

**Celebrating our Volunteers**: DRCC is very proud of our exceptionally committed and skilled body of volunteers. In May we began National Volunteering Week with a celebration night, including a graduation ceremony for volunteers who had reached their two-year commitment. We also held an online panel discussion entitled 'Making an impact – DRCC Volunteers in Conversation' where volunteers Trish Eadie, Mark Wynne, Cian O'Brien and Maire Houlihan shared their volunteer experience and learnings. With a number of other organisations, DRCC took part in a volunteer information evening later that week and also organised a special lunchtime meditation for our volunteers. We ended the week with a special edition of our Volunteer Update newsletter. In December, we marked International Volunteering Day with a special Appreciation evening.

**Recruitment:** The COVID-19 pandemic had a lasting impact on our recruitment of volunteers. It is increasingly difficult for people to find the time and capacity to commit to volunteer roles across the charity sector, especially those as challenging – and rewarding – as those offered by DRCC. We are therefore extremely grateful to each and every volunteer for giving their time, inspiration and energy to our cause, especially those who choose to stay on past the two-year commitment period.

Supporting our volunteers: To those starting on their volunteering journey with DRCC, we offer a specialised, comprehensive training delivered by professionals that introduces them to crisis counselling. Our volunteers check in regularly at peer support sessions and our Volunteer Services Support team provides advice, debriefing and support sessions. There are ongoing training opportunities so they can update their knowledge and explore new areas of interest.

#### **DRCC Board**

DRCC is led by a voluntary Board which met 8 times in 2023, in 7 board meetings and an AGM. There are three board committees: Audit Finance & Risk; Human Resources & Remuneration; and Fundraising, which all met as required during the year.

Board member	Meetings attended (Total=8)		
Ann Marie Gill (Chair)	8		
Siona Cahill	6		
John Fanning	7		
Fergus Finlay	8		
Anne-Marie James	8		
Carol Keane (Secretary and Treasurer)	6		
Madeleine McCarthy	6		
Aibhlín McCrann	7		
Grace O'Malley	6		
Eoghan Cleary (Joined in Nov 2023)	1		
Nichola Gallagher (Joined in Nov 2023)	1		

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

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The directors report the following financial events during the year.

The financial results for the year ended 31 December 2023 are shown in the Statements of Financial Activities on page 32 and are considered satisfactory by the Board.

Income has increased by 11% to  $\leq$ 3,720,467 (2022:  $\leq$ 3,344,030). An analysis of the various income streams is included with the accounts as a supporting schedule.

In accordance with the results, expenditure is up by 11% to  $\in$ 3,711,113 (2022:  $\in$ 3,328,652). Apart from normal expenditure increases, the principal item relating to this increase are wages and salaries increase of  $\in$ 342,587 from last year due to an increase in the level of employees and activities.

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

As at 31 December 2023, the directors have designated cash reserves of €2,515,782 for specific purposes. An amount of €1,855,557 representing approximately 6 months of 2023 expenditure, has been reserved to ensure the centre can continue its core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The balance of €660,225 has been allocated to a capital reserve to cover the charity's long-term mortgage balance of €229,829 and any future capital requirements in regard to the centre's premises or relocation of the premises

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANGEMENT

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

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is committed to openness and transparency both within the organisation and externally with donors, funders, supporters and the public.

DRCC complies with the Charities Governance Code published by the Charities Regulatory Authority. We met legal requirements throughout the year, 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 Standards in Public Office Commission.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is signed up to the Governance Code and to the Guiding Principles for Fundraising, as first developed by ICTR. New guidelines for fundraising practice and the Charities Governance Code were published by the Charities Regulator in September 2017 and November 2018 respectively. Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is on the journey to full compliance with these new guidelines in additional to the original code.

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

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

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

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

#### Directors and secretary and their interests

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

#### Recruitment and appointment of new directors

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

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

#### Induction and training of new directors

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

#### Organisational structure

The Directors of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, who are also the organisation's only members, are responsible for the running of the organisation. The day-to-day running of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre operations is overseen by the Chief Executive Officer, Rachel Morrogh, to whom all staff report and who, in turn, reports to the Board of Directors.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

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

The charity mitigates this risk as follows:

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

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

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

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

#### **Satisfying Funder Duties**

DRCC fulfilled its targets and reporting obligations for all funders during the course of the year. The financial accounts give a detailed picture of the income, expenditure and activities of the organisation in 2023.

#### **Commitment to Best Practice**

DRCC complies with the standards contained in the Charity Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public. The organisation is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (The Governance Code). Our Board and Staff abide by a conflict of interest policy.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Name of charity	The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Charity number	CHY 8529
Charity registration number	20021078
Company Number	147318
Address	70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

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

Ann Marie Gill Aibhlin McCrann Grace O'Malley Carol Keane Anne Marie James Keith Herman Neasa Kane-Fine John Fanning Síona Cahill Madeleine McCarthy Cathy O' Donohue Fergus Finlay Nichola Gallagher Eoghan Cleary

The Chief Executive and senior management to whom responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Charity during 2023 was delegated are:

**Chief Executive** 

Chief Executive Head of Clinical Services Head of Operations and Administration Head of Fundraising Communication and Campaigns Manager Finance Manager HR Manager Policy Manager Education and Training

### Noeline Blackwell to Oct 2023 Rachel Morrogh from Nov 2023 Vivienne Carson Suzanne McMullen Kirsty Cawthron Yvonne Woods Vanessa Gaughan Naomi Patton Shirley Scott Caitriona Freir

#### **Professional Advisors**

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

Solicitors: LK Shields Solicitors LLP

#### **Exemption from disclosure**

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

#### Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

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

#### Likely future developments

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

#### Post balance sheet events

There were no post reporting date events which require disclosure

#### **Political donations**

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

#### **Accounting Records**

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

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

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

#### Statement on relevant audit information

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

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

#### Auditors

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

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

April Marie 90

Carol Keane

Carol Keane Director

Ann Marie Gill Director

16 May 2024

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the board

Char Missie get

Ann Marie Gill Director

16 May 2024

Carol Keans

Carol Keane Director

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

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 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 properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information in the annual report. 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.

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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared 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, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are 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.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions, are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard

#### 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 in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that 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, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management 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 company's 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 company's financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/Standards-Guidance-for-Auditors-in-Ireland/Description-of-the-auditor-s-responsibilities-for. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

#### 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.

lanne Dava

Thomas Mc Donald For and behalf of JPA Brenson Lawlor

Chartered Accountants Statutory audit firm

Date: 16 May 2024

Argyle Square Morehampton Road Donnybrook Dublin 4 D04 W9W7

### THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Designated Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	-	557,730	457,909	1,015,639	873,740
Income from charitable activities:					
Government grants Education, counselling & other services	-	- 125,506	2,579,322	2,579,322 125,506	2,363,004 107,286
			<u>.</u>		
Total income	-	683,236	3,037,231	3,720,467	3,344,030
Expenditure				<u></u>	
Cost of raising funds	-	253,912	-	253,912	198,016
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	399,110	3,037,231	3,436,341	2,835,294
Administration & other expenditure	-	20,860	-	20,860	295,342
Total expenditure		673,882	3,037,231	3,711,113	3,328,652
Net income	-	9,354	-	9,354	15,378
Transfer to / between funds	(124,639)	124,639	-		-
Net movement in funds for the year	(124,639)	133,993		9,354	15,378
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward	2,640,421	513,313		3,153,734	3,138,356
Total funds carried forward	2,515,782	647,306	-	3,163,088	3,153,734

There are no other recognised gains or losses for the financial year except for those listed above. All income and expenditure are derived from continuing operations.

### THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		1,080,962		1,114,354
Current assets					
Debtors	11	30,455		7,405	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	3,446,417		3,591,985	
		3,476,872		3,599,390	
Creditors: amounts falling					
due within one year	13	(1,164,917)		(1,316,440)	
Net current assets		in a source of a state of the source of the	2,311,955	Annual and a standard and an	2,282,950
Total assets less current liabiliti	es		3,392,917		3,397,304
Creditors: amounts falling					
after more than one year	14		(229,829)		(243,570)
Net assets			3,163,088		3,153,734
Funda of the abarity	17				
Funds of the charity Accumulated- unrestricted	17		647,306		E40 040
					513,313
Accumulated-designated			2,515,782		2,640,421
Total			3,163,088		3,153,734

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

Ann Mosei Gill

Ann Marie Gill Director

16/05/2024

Carol Keans

Carol Keane Director

# THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	2
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Cash flows from operating activi	ties				
Cash generated from operations	24		(89,680)		7,542
Interest paid			(18,006)		(11,701)
Net cash outflow					
from operating activities			(107,686)		(4,159)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible assets		(16,920)		(14,005)	
			(40.000)	any and do manufacture and a sub-sub-sub-sub-sub-sub-sub-sub-sub-sub-	(11005)
Net cash used in investing activity	ties		(16,920)		(14,005)
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(21,807)		(28,112)	
Net cash used in financing activi	ties				1955-101-101-101-101-101-101-101-101-101-1
			(21,807)		(28,112)
Net decrease in cash			(146,413)		(46,276)
Net decrease in cash			(140,413)		(40,270)
Cash and cash equivalents at be	ginning of year		3,590,675		3,636,951
Cash and cash equivalents at en	d of year		3,444,262		3,590,675
Deleting to					
Relating to: Cash at bank and in hand			3,446,417		3,591,985
Bank overdrafts included in creditor	s payable within	one year	(2,155)		(1,310)
			3,444,262		3 500 675
			3,444,202		3,590,675

## 1. General Information

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Ireland is a Charity limited by guarantee and having no share capital, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The Registered Office is 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2, which is also the principal place of business of the Charity. The nature of the Charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Director's Report on pages 1-27.

## 2. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Directors have reviewed the 2023 Statement of Financial Activities and Financial Position, the approved 2024 budget and latest financial information. The Directors are satisfied that the Centre has adequate resources through secured funding for 2024 to continue in operational existence for the next 12 months. As a result, they are satisfied that there are sufficient resources to manage any operational risks. There is no material uncertainty that affects this assumption.

# 3. Accounting Policies

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

## **Basis of Preparation**

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

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

#### Currency

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

# **Fund Accounting**

The following funds are operated by the charity:

#### **Restricted Funds**

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

#### **Unrestricted Funds**

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

# **Designated Funds**

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

## 3. Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Income

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

#### Donations and fundraising income

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

## Grants and Donations

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

## Fundraising, education & counselling

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

#### Investment income

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

# **Donated Services and facilities**

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

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

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

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

## **Expenditure Recognition**

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

It is categorised under the following headings:

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

## 3. Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Costs of raising funds

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

#### Expenditure on charitable activities

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

#### Administration & Other expenditure

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

#### Allocation of support costs

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

#### Retirement benefit costs

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

## Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are recorded at historical or deemed cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes transaction cost, legal fees, stamp duty and other non-refundable purchase taxes, and any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, which can include the costs of site preparation, initial delivery and handling, installation, and assembly, and testing of functionality.

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

## Depreciation

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

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

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

## 3. Accounting policies (Continued)

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

#### Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### Trade and other debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered.

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

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

## Trade and other creditors

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

#### Loans and borrowings

All loans and borrowings, both assets and liabilities are initially recorded at the present value of cash payable to the lender in settlement of the liability discounted at the market interest rate. Subsequently loans and borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate model. The computation of amortised cost includes any issue costs, transaction costs and fees, and any discount or premium on settlement, and the effect of this is to amortise these amounts over the expected borrowing period.

Loans with no stated interest rate and repayable within one year or on demand are not amortised. Loans and borrowings are classified as current assets or liabilities unless the borrower has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the financial year end date.

#### **Deferred Income**

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

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

## 3. Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Employee benefits

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

Holiday pay is not provided for as a liability at the end of the year as annual leave is not allowed to be carried forward unless exceptional circumstances arise.

## **Financial Instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value except for bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## **Comparative Figures**

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

#### Taxation

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

#### 4. Income

An analysis of the charity's income is as follows:

	2023 €	2022 €
Tusla grants Department of Justice grants Other grants from governmental bodies Donations and legacies Education, counselling, and other activities	1,718,957 847,937 12,428 1,015,639 125,506	1,782,372 580,632 873,740 107,286
	3,720,467	3,344,030
5. Operating surplus		
Operating surplus for the year is stated after charging:	2023 €	2022 €
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's financial statements Depreciation of owned tangible assets	12,300 50,312	12,600 56,678
	62,612	69,278

# 6. Employees and remuneration

The centre employs staff to deliver on its strategy, raise income and provide support services.

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

	<b>2023</b> Number	<b>2022</b> Number
Support Functions	9	7
Reception	2	2
Consent	2 3	3
Policy and communications	4	4
Therapists	16	17
Justice and Volunteer services	4	5
Telephone counsellors	10	11
Education	4	4
Fundraising	3	3
	55	56
Their aggregate remuneration comprised:		
	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages and salaries	2,350,753	2,057,218
Employer's PRSI	224,758	191,836
Pension costs	103,558	90,493
Death in service	10,909	7,844
	2,689,978	2,347,391

## **Key Management Personnel**

Key management personnel include the CEO and heads of all departments. The total emoluments (including employer's PRSI, pension and redundancy) paid to key management personnel in 2023 was €411,045 (2022: €328,948).

In 2023, the CEOs were paid salaries totalling of €129,692 (2022: €97,786). The centre contributed €19,182 to the CEOs defined contribution pension schemes (2022: €19,634).

## 6. Employee and remuneration (continued)

## Salary Band

	<b>2023</b> Number	2022 Number
€60,000 - €70,000 €70,001 - €80,000	6 2	2
€80,001 - €90,000 €90,001 - €100,000	- 1 -	- 1
€110,001-€120,000	1	-

#### **Director expenses**

Directors receive no remuneration for the services. Out of pocket expenses payments were €Nil (2022: Nil).

# 7. Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2023 €	2022 €
Charged to the statement of financial activities	103,558	98,337
	103,558	98,337

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

# 8. Interest payable and similar expenses

Interest on financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:	2023 €	2022 €
Interest on bank loans	18,006	11,701
	18,006	11,701

# 9. Tangible fixed assets

Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold land and buildings	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
€	€	€	€
1,214,833	477,234	551,935	2,244,002
	-	16,920	16,920
1,214,833	477,234	568,855	2,260,922
170,097	477,234	482,317	1,129,648
24,300		26,012	50,312
194,397	477,234	508,329	1,179,960
1,020,436	-	60,526	1,080,962
1,044,736	-	69,618	1,114,354
	land and buildings € 1,214,833 	land and buildings       land and buildings         1,214,833       477,234	land and buildings $\epsilon$ land and buildings $\epsilon$ and Fittings $\epsilon$ 1,214,833477,234551,93516,9201,214,833477,234568,855170,097477,234482,31724,300-26,012194,397477,234508,3291,020,436-60,526

The freehold property relates to the property from which the charity operates from at 70, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The charity purchased this property in December 2015 at a cost of  $\leq 1,214,833$  and was part financed by a loan from its bankers in the amount of  $\leq 450,000$ . The loan attracts an interest rate of 7.9% and is repayable by way of 180 monthly instalments. The borrowing is secured by way of fixed charge over the property.

# 11. Debtors

12.

Deptors	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade Debtors	7,050	-
Other debtors	10,966	-
Prepayments	12,439	7,405
	30,455	7,405
. Components of cash and cash equivalents		
	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash at bank and cash in hand	3,446,417	3,591,985
	3,446,417	3,591,985

## 13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		2023	2022
	Notes	€	€
Bank loans and overdrafts	15	22,202	29,422
Trade creditors		3,590	110,950
PAYE and employer's PRSI		73,745	59,592
Deferred income	16	930,635	1,074,782
Other creditors		26,145	6,343
Accruais		108,600	35,351
		1,164,917	1,316,440
14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more one year			
		2023	2022
	Notes	€	€
Bank loans and overdrafts	15	229,829	243,570
		229,829	243,570
15. Loans and overdrafts			
		2023	2022
		€	€
Bank loans		249,876	271,682
Bank overdrafts		2,155	1,310
		252,031	272,992
		00.000	
Payable within one year		22,202	29,422
Payable between two and five years Payable after 5 years		97,351 132,478	159,250
rayable after b years		132,478	84,320
		252,031	272,992

In December 2015, the company obtained a loan from its bankers in the amount of  $\leq$ 450,000 in order to part-finance the purchase of its registered office. The loan attracts an interest rate of 7.9%. The loan is repayable by way of 180 monthly instalments and is secured by way of fixed charge over the property at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

# 16. Deferred income

	2023	taken to income	received	December 2023
	€	€	€	€
Department of Justice				
National Conversation on Consent	215,000	(176,416)	175,000	213,584
<ul> <li>Support and accompaniment services</li> </ul>	233,079	(338,225)	315,000	209,854
Consent Language research	109,353	(25,139)	_	84,214
Consent Website Management	-	-	51,276	51,276
BodyRight Programme activities	49,370	(144,272)	116,835	21,933
Finding Your Way	40,186	(91,063)	63,138	12,261
Consent Focus Group	45,000	(44,940)	-	60
Consent Campaign	27,882	(27,882)	-	-
Tusla - Child and Family Agency				
SLA Grant	-	(1,677,154)	1,780,926	103,772
<ul> <li>Moving forward- Salary costs</li> </ul>	66,334	-	-	66,334
Covid Grant	4,888	(4,888)	-	-
Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth				
LGBTI+ Community Services Funding Call: Scheme B	-	(500)	9,574	9,074
Other Income	283,690	(275,740)	150,323	158,273
	1,074,782	(2,806,219)	2,662,072	930,635

# 17. Reserves and funds

	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Balance at 1 January 2023	2,640,421	513,313	-	3,153,734
Surplus for the year	-	9,354	-	9,354
Transfer between funds	(124,639)	124,639	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	2,515,782	647,306		3,163,088

- Restricted funds refer to income received which is restricted for a specific purpose.
- Designated funds refer to designated cash reserves of €2,515,782 designated by the board for specific purposes. An amount of €1,855,557 representing approximately 6 months of 2023 expenditure, has been reserved to ensure the centre can continue its core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The balance of €660,225 has been allocated to a capital reserve to cover the charity's long-term mortgage balance of €229,829 and any future capital requirements in regard to the centre's premises or relocation of the premises.

# 18. Restricted Funds

	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Surplus/
At 31 December 2023	€	€	€	(Deficit) €
Tusla - Child and Family Agency	1,718,957	(1,718,957)	-	-
<b>Department of Justice</b> BodyRight Consent Campaign Research Court Accompaniment/ SATU Campaign on Consent	144,272 25,139 338,225 27,882	(144,272) (25,139) (338,225) (27,882)	- - -	- - -
National Conversation on Consent	176,416	(176,416)		
Finding Your Way Focus Groups Marginalised Communities Dublin City Council	91,063 44,940 11,928	(91,063) (44,940) (11,928)	-	-
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	500	(500)	-	-
Others	457,909	(457,909)	-	-
	3,037,231	(3,037,231)		

	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Surplus/(De ficit)
At 31 December 2022	€	€	€	€
Tusla - Child and Family Agency	1,782,372	(1,782,541)	169	-
Department of Justice				
BodyRight	70,630	(70,630)	-	-
Consent Campaign Project -Language +	150,647	(150,647)	-	-
Court Accompaniment/ SATU	145,784	(145,784)	-	-
Campaign on Consent	92,967	(92,967)	-	-
Accompaniment Communications	109,814	(109,814)	-	-
Policy officer	9,789	(9,789)	-	-
Others	275,486	(275,577)	91	
	2,637,489	2,637,749	260	-

## 19. Membership

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

## 20. Events after the end of the financial year

There were no post reporting date events which require disclosure.

# 21. Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties that require disclosure.

# 22. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments by the company as at the 31<sup>t</sup> December 2023 which require disclosure. (2022: Nil).

# 23. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at the 31 December 2023 (2022: Nil).

# 24. Cash generated from operating activities

	2023 €	2022 €
Surplus for the year	9,354	15,378
Adjustments for:		
Finance costs	18,006	11,701
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	50,312	56,678
Movements in working capital		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(23,050)	15,600
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(155)	86,560
(Decrease) in deferred income	(144,147)	(178,375)
Net cash (outflows)/ inflows generated from operations	(89,680)	7,542