



## WRDA NEWS UPDATE

Supporting Women's Groups and Networks across Northern Ireland February 2008

### WRDA win an Impact Award



WRDA are delighted to have been awarded £3,000 as runners-up in the prestigious Impact Award, funded by GlaxoSmithKline as part of the company's commitment to promote community health and well-being. The awards are now in their eleventh year, and are organized and managed in partnership with the King's Fund, a leading independent health charity working to improve health and social care.

The awards recognise and reward small to medium sized charities working to improve people's health.

WRDA were in the top 20 of winners, out of a total number of 440 applicants. The judges commended our 'innovative' Community Facilitator programme, praising our training of community facilitators as a valuable way to build skills in the community while also contributing to a greater take up of breast and cervical screening services.

WRDA is 25 years old this year and part of the award will be used to fund the celebrations being planned for our anniversary year.

#### Inside this issue:

New Staff Member	2
Policing and the Women's sector	2
Shared Future Report Launch	2
Bill of Rights Update	3
AONTAS Star Awards	3
Hanna's House Update	4
Launch of Education Report	4
International Women's Day	4

### Breast & Cervical Screening Programme Launch

We are delighted to announce that we have been contracted by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board to deliver our award winning breast and cervical screening awareness programme for three years.



This three session programme aims to raise awareness of the importance of breast and cervical screening, by providing women with information that will encourage them to avail of the screening services on offer and help address any fears surrounding breast and cervical screening.

The programme is aimed at women's groups and community groups within the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area.

We will be launching the project in **Malone House, Barnett Demesne, Belfast, BT9 5PB** on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March** from 12 noon until 2pm (lunch will be included).

If you are interested in attending please telephone us on 028 9023 0212 or email [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net)



#### Contact Details:

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## **New Staff Member**



My name is **Tiziana O'Hara** and I have just joined the team in WRDA. I am the Acting Women's Centre Regional Partnership (WCRP) Co-ordinator, and will be with you until the summer.

I do not usually write about myself but here you go...

I was born in Milan, Italy and lived there for almost 20 years, then I spent the following 10 years roaming around, and finally settled in Belfast 10 years ago. So yes, I will be 40 years old this year. Please do not mention this when we meet! I have two beautiful children, an 8 year old girl and an 18 month old boy, and an "ageing" husband born and bred in Belfast.

I have been involved with a few organisations in the voluntary sector, mainly in the women's sector: the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and Women's Aid. I had the privilege to work for and with very exciting and interesting women – too many to mention. What I will mention, though, is that I have had many delightful and amusing moments in women's company and experienced first hand, how resolute and resourceful women can be.

I did not always work in Belfast, I spent some years West of the Bann, in the Craigavon, Portadown and Armagh area. I enjoy driving around Northern Ireland, when the sky is intense blue and the weather's dry, of course!

Enough about me... I wish you a great year and hope to meet you all soon!

## **Policing and the Women's Sector**

WRDA has joined a newly established Women's Reference Group which has been set up by the Policing Board as part of its community engagement programme. The draft role of the Group includes:

- To provide clarification around the dynamics, needs and issues within their communities in respect of policing.
- To engage with the Board to enhance understanding of gender issues.
- To highlight priority issues from this sector which will be forwarded to the Board and PSNI for consideration in the development of the NI Policing Plan.
- To provide opportunities to share information in respect of issues and potential solutions in relation to policing matters.

### **Is Gender part of Good Relations?**

You are invited to the launch of the conference report

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008**  
12-2pm (including buffet lunch)

Equality Commission, Shaftesbury Square,

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Antoinette McKeown, ECNI  
Anna Lo, MLA South Belfast  
Anne O'Reilly, WRDA

RSVP by 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Email: [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net)  
Tel No: 028 9023 0212

## Bill of Rights Update

The working groups appointed by the Bill of Rights Forum are currently finalizing their provisions so that they can be discussed by the plenary sessions of the Forum. The Forum will be meeting regularly throughout February and March. Meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend, contact the Forum at: [info@billofrightsforum.org](mailto:info@billofrightsforum.org).

There will be a meeting in WRDA on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

at 2pm to hear what is being proposed by the working groups in the Forum regarding women's issues. Everyone is welcome. Contact Margaret in WRDA if you plan to attend. Reports will be given by the working groups on women; criminal justice and victims; civil and political rights; social and economic rights. Your endorsement is very important.

The Human Rights Consortium has started 2008 with a new Northern Ireland wide advertising

campaign. You will be seeing posters on buses and on billboards. Visit their web site at [www.billofrightsni.org](http://www.billofrightsni.org) and have your say on what you think should be included in a Bill of Rights. The Consortium is urging groups to encourage their staff and members to use the lobbying tool contained in the website so that there is as wide as possible engagement of the public on this important issue.

## WRDA'S Community Facilitator Programme Commended



*Mary Frances McCullough at the AONTAS Star Awards in Dublin Castle*

The WRDA has been granted a special commendation for “the fantastic work being done by the Community Facilitator Programme”, by AONTAS the National Association of Adult Education in Ireland.



As part of the AONTAS Adult Learners Festival the STAR Awards Ceremony was held in Dublin Castle on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The Awards were presented by well known sports broadcaster Michael O’Muircherrtaigh and Sean Haughey TD, Minister for Lifelong Learning, officially launched the Festival.

Ailish Cullen, Marketing & Business Development Worker and Mary Frances McCullough Training & Development Worker, attended the awards ceremony. For more information on AONTAS and the STAR Awards visit [www.aontas.com](http://www.aontas.com).

## Thank You!

The WRDA would like to say thank you to all who attended, contributed or donated to the Suzanne Curran fundraiser evening on 15th November 2007 at the John Hewitt Bar. The pub quiz and raffle generated a grand total of £758 which was presented to REVIVE, the Intensive Care Unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital.



## Rowntree Supports Hanna's House



The Joseph Rowntree Trust have awarded 116,000 euros to Hanna's House for a project that will enable women to engage in a process of reconciliation on an all-Ireland basis through participation in a series of events intended to develop awareness of feminist ideals of justice, equality and non-violence. Over the next two years there will be four seminars, one in each province of Ireland, followed by a summer school in a cross-border location. A worker for the project will shortly be recruited.

If you would like to hear more, come to the **AGM of Hanna's House, Friday 22 February, 2pm** at WRDA. Contact Shauna @ the WRDA if you are able to attend.

### NICVA Executive

Margaret Ward, WRDA director, is now a member of the executive of NICVA. Issues that are currently being pursued by NICVA include pressure to move those on NJC pay scales to a 37 hour week and lack of provision for maternity pay that goes beyond the statutory minimum and the impact on organizations trying to pay maternity and pension contributions from their reserves.

If anyone has an issue that they feel is important for the sector generally, then contact Margaret @ the WRDA.

### Launch of Education Report

A report detailing the work of 14 women's centres in providing education and training opportunities to women in local communities will be launched in the Long Gallery, Stormont at 12.30 on 20th February. This is part of an on-going campaign by the Women's Centres Regional Partnership to convince the Department of Employment and Learning of the importance of resourcing this work.

If you would like to attend, contact the Women's Support Network, Tel: 9023 6923



## International Women's Day



The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI), Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP) and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) are joining together to mark International Women's Day.

The event will be celebrated in Stormont Hotel, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008, 3pm to 5pm** with light refreshments served. NIWEP, ECNI and NIHRC will outline international human rights and equality aspects as they relate to women.

As numbers are limited due to space, please reserve your place by Thursday 28th February. If you wish to attend, please contact Edith Mackey at Equality Commission, Equality House, 7-9 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DP *Tel:* 028 9050 0690, *Fax:* 028 9031 5993 or *email:* emackey@equalityni.org

### Member of the Month

The Member of the Month section will return in the next WRDA Newsletter. This section offers our member organisations the opportunity to circulate information concerning their work and any upcoming events. If you wish to be included in the next issue, please contact Shauna, by emailing [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net)