



Community Work Ireland



Annual Report 2017-2018

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Please note that the timeline for the annual report has been changed to reflect the current and most up to date work and priorities of the organisation. This annual report therefore includes an outline of key work areas for 2017 and the first half of 2018. Future annual reports will be based on the period between AGMs and we will endeavour to hold AGMs in early summer as opposed to Autumn as has been the practice to now.

Chairperson's Note



As Chair of Community Work Ireland, I am delighted to present to our members the CWI Annual Report for the period 2017 – 2018.

The past 18 months have presented CWI with many challenges and opportunities evidenced in the following pages. Perhaps the highlight since our last AGM was the holding of the highly successful World Community Development Conference 2018 in Maynooth university in June. The leadership of CWI staff in the organisation of the conference and in raising the much-needed funding to make the conference such a success must be commended. We were particularly pleased that all local authorities in Ireland as well as a range of Government departments and agencies financially supported the conference. Thank you to all who contributed and to you, our members, for your support and attendance. We hope to build on the contacts and friendships made in Ireland and throughout the world as we continue to support and promote community work as a means of addressing poverty and social exclusion and in the promotion of human rights.

Other highlights include CWI work on the Cross Sectoral Working Group established to develop an implementation plan for the Framework Policy on Local and Community Development, where we worked, and continue to work, to ensure that the values that underpin community work and priorities for the future of community work form the basis of Government-supported community work programmes and policies; the continued work of the All Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training; and our work in representing the broader sector in a range of fora and our ongoing work with our members.

Funding and sustainable resourcing for the organisation has remained a challenge although we acknowledge the ongoing support of the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Scheme of Support for National Organisations.

I commend the CWI staff and Central Group for their work and leadership and look forward to the ongoing development growth and success of CWI into the future.

Anastasia Crickley

CWI Central Group

The CWI Central Group is the board of directors of the organisation. Members in 2017 were:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Áine Deeley | • Patricia Brennan |
| • Anastasia Crickley | • Ronnie Fay |
| • Jamie Gorman | • Seanie Lamb |
| • Obert Makaza | • Siobhan McLaughlin |
| • Oonagh Mc Ardle | • Valerie McFarlane |

Thanks to all CWI Central Group members for their commitment in 2017 and 2018

Introduction

Established in 1981, Community Work Ireland (CWI) is a national organisation that promotes and supports community work as a means of addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting, protecting and advancing human rights and ultimately achieving social change that will contribute to the creation of a just, sustainable and equal society.

The CWI is a membership organisation. Its membership comprises individuals and organisations involved in community work at local and national level. There are currently approximately 800 individual and organisational members of CWI.

CWI Values

CWI values reflect the values of community development and it is these that underpin the work of the organisation. Community Work Ireland believes in and is committed to the values outlined below and as set out in the All Ireland Standards for Community Work:

- **Collectivity** – Working in a collective way that emphasises the right of members to collectively influence the work of the organisation. A collective approach requires practitioners to focus on the potential benefits for communities rather than focusing only on benefits to individuals. CWI believes in and is committed to collaboration and partnership approaches to achieving common goals;
- **Community Empowerment** – Community empowerment involves an approach which leads people and communities to be resilient, organised, included and influential;
- **Social Justice and Sustainable Development** – Promoting a just society involves promoting policies and practices that challenge injustice, poverty, inequality, discrimination and social exclusion, and valuing diversity of identities and approaches. Promoting a sustainable society involves promoting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable policies and practices;
- **Human Rights** – In seeking a society where human rights and equality are realised and discrimination is addressed, community development is reinforced by human rights mechanisms and frameworks, processes and standards for the protection and promotion of human rights for all;
- **Equality** – Promoting equality and challenging inequality and oppression
- **Anti-discrimination** – CWI is opposed to discrimination in all its forms and is committed to working to eliminate discrimination;
- **Participation** – Participation is rooted in the self-identification of needs and interests, the formulation of responses by the community or group concerned and is central to their ability to continue to influence outcomes.

CWI is committed to putting these values into practice underpinned as they are by those of professional commitment, integrity, transparency in governance and team approaches to decision-making. The voice of CWI members is central to all CWI work.

CWI Funding and Staffing

The Scheme of Supports to National Organisations (SNNO) continued to provide core funding to CWI for 2016, supporting the employment of staff and overhead costs.

The current round of SSNO funding SSNO funding is to June 2019.

Rachel Doyle and Ann Irwin continue to share the position of CWI National Co-ordinator. Mary D’Arcy joined the team as administrator in May 2017 and is employed two days per week.

Strategic Plan

In 2016, CWI produced a new strategic plan. It sets out two overarching goals under which there are five strategic priorities:

Goal 1

Supporting and Promoting Community Work

CWI's goal is the achievement of recognition and validation by all stakeholders of autonomous community work as a value-based professional discipline and is appropriately resourced to achieve its objectives.

- **Strategic Priority 1** To embed community work in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes, policies, structures and practices
- **Strategic Priority 2** To resource community work and CWI members through the collaborative development of information and analysis and representation of core issues on existing, new and emerging structures.
- **Strategic Priority 3** To provide networking and learning opportunities for community workers and other stakeholders

Goal 2

Organisational Sustainability and Development

CWI's goal is a sustainable organisation, recognised, acknowledged and resourced as the national organisation promoting and supporting community work with an active and engaged membership base.

- **Strategic Priority 4** To consolidate and develop the CWI membership
- **Strategic Priority 5** To ensure the sustainability and further development of CWI

Goal 1 Supporting and Promoting Community Work

Strategic Priority 1 To embed community work in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes, policies, structures and practices

All Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training

Community Work Ireland continues to provide the secretariat for the All Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training (AIEB). The AIEB The All Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training



Established in 2010, AIEB seeks to build an inclusive framework for endorsement of community work education and training at all levels. Membership of the AIEB draws on the full range of relevant stakeholders from across the field of community work practice, policy and education and teaching for community work including qualified and experienced practitioners, qualified and experienced expert(s), employers of community workers, funders of community development, education providers including universities, third level institutions, from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The current members are:

- Anastasia Crickley - Chairperson
- Isy Hawthorne Steele - Course Director BSc(HONS) Community Development, University of Ulster
- Maria Joyce - National Co-ordinator, National Traveller Womens Forum
- Michelle Kearns – National Traveller MABS
- Helen Lowry - Community Work Co-ordinator, Migrant Rights Centre, Ireland
- Iryna Pokhilo - Community Development Worker, Cairde
- Liam Mc Glynn – Lecturer, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown
- Áine Deely - Coordinator Loughrea Family Resource Centre
- Paul Burgess - Senior Lecturer/ Director B.Soc.Sc. Youth & Community Work Department of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
- Maria Farry – Pobal
- Oonagh Mc Ardle – Lecturer, Department of Applied Social Studies Maynooth University

In 2018 two endorsement processes were undertaken by the AIEB. The re-endorsement of the Ulster University BSc (Hons) Community Development (undertaken by Rachel Doyle and Anastasia Crickley on behalf of AIEB) and the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown Degree Programme BA (Hons) in Community and Youth Development (undertaken by Ann Irwin, Michelle Kearns and Anastasia Crickley on behalf of AIEB).

The AIEB hosted a meeting of the Educators Forum in March 2018 – a forum which brings together 3rd level community work educators to explore challenges and opportunities in relation to community work education and practice. An international Educators Forum was held at the World Community Development Conference in June and a commitment made at the event to continue meeting and engaging on an international level as community work educators throughout the world.

A funding proposal to employ a full-time worker and support additional costs for the operation of AIEB was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development – we await a response to the proposal.

Training was delivered to Pobal staff based on the All Ireland Standards for Community Work and attended by 15 Pobal staff the majority of whom have responsibility for liaising with and supporting LCDCs in relation to SICAP. Others have responsibility for programme design and roles in other programmes including SSNO, LEADER and CSP.

A training event was also held with Mayo North East based on the Standards and looking at strategies to address the challenges for organisations such as MNE attempting to do community work in rural areas under SICAP II.

Our Communities: Framework Policy for Local and Community Development Cross Sectoral Working Group

In 2017, the Department of Rural and Community Development established a Cross Sectoral Group to develop an implementation plan for the Framework Policy on Local and Community Development. The Cross Sectoral Group comprises representatives from the Departments of Rural and Community Development, Justice and Equality, Health, Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Local Authorities, the Irish Local Development Network, Community Work Ireland, and the Community and Voluntary Pillar. The role of the Cross Sectoral group is to:

- Consider and prioritise the outputs from the national forum (held by the Department in Nov 2016), feedback received since the forum, original submissions on the framework policy and other relevant Government policies and strategies;
- Develop actions to progress implementation of the framework;
- Draft a five-year implementation plan to progress the actions and submit the plan for approval to the *Inter-Departmental Group on Local and Community Development* – the plan should include expected outcomes, the timeframes for delivery of actions, performance indicators, and an appropriate monitoring and review mechanism;
- Consider the need for revisions to the framework policy in the context of implementation and outputs from the Forum, and make recommendations to the Inter-Departmental Group in this regard; and
- Consider and agree mechanisms for consultation and participation in the development of the implementation plan, as appropriate.



Since the establishment of the Working Group CWI representatives have worked to engage with our members to establish the key values to underpin the implementation plan and key priorities for community work that the representatives subsequently sought to advance. This included a workshop with members in December 2017, a further workshop in September 2018 alongside ongoing engagement with members of the Central Group.

CWI proposed a set of values to underpin and these that were agreed by the Working Group as values to underpin its work. These include active participation, empowering communities, collectivity, social justice, sustainable development, human rights, equality and anti-discrimination, and social inclusion. As the drafting stage nears completion, CWI position has been to argue for:

- Recognition and respect for the contribution community work makes to addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality

- A programme to support autonomous community work;
- Programme of continuous professional development for community workers;
- Training for those charged with monitoring community work programmes or programmes with a community work element

Engagement in what has developed into an intensive process, including the Working Group and a Task Group of the Working Group that was established to refine the strategy, has required a significant investment of CWI resources.

Training and Workshops

In November 2017, CWI delivered training to Pobal staff, Entitled, *Think, Reflect, Share, Discuss*. The workshop was based on the All Ireland Standards for Community Work and attended by 15 Pobal staff the majority of whom have responsibility for liaising with and supporting LCDCs in relation to SICAP. Others have responsibility for programme design and roles in other programmes including SSNO, LEADER and CSP. Pobal have stated that these staff will have a more developmental role in supporting LCDCs in SICAP II and that community development will be a stronger focus of this work and will be based on the definition in the Standards.

In January/February 2018, the Department of Rural and Community Development asked CWI to deliver inputs on *Successful Community Engagement* to three workshops for new members of Local Community Development Committees. The workshops were held in Ballina, Limerick and Dublin. The inputs were well received and provided us with an opportunity to profile the work of CWI and engage in discussion and dialogue with LCDC members.

In April 2018, CWI presented to the National Women’s Council of Ireland event in Longford, *Women in Rural Communities - NWCI’s Members and Friends meeting*. Entitled, *The Unseen, Women in Rural Areas*, the CWI presentation explored the impact on the participation and voice of women by the decimation of community work.



CWI finalised its work with Mayo North East with a workshop on Standards and support for embedding community work in the application to SICAP II.

In November 2017, CWI teamed up with the Loughrea Family Resource Centre and the West Clare Family Resource Centre to organise a roundtable discussion on the current context for rural community work and the extent to which existing programmes, policies and structures, including the new Department of Rural and Community Development, can and should support and enable quality community work. The report was issued to the Department for Social Protection as a submission to the new national Strategy for Social Inclusion.



Strategic Priority 2 To resource community work and CWI members through the collaborative development of information and analysis and representation of core issues on existing, new and emerging structures.

Community Work under SICAP and the new SICAP Programme

In 2017, CWI published *Community Work under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2014-2017*. The publication sought to build on the previous publication *In Whose Interests? Exploring the Impact of Competitive Tendering and Procurement on Social Inclusion and Community Development in Ireland* and was based on primary research with community workers working under the SICAP programme in efforts to positively influence the second iteration of the programme. The report outlines the risks associated with commissioning and how a number of these were experienced by community workers

under the SICAP programme. The CWI submission and engagement with the consultation process for SICAP II were based on the research. CWI participated in the national consultation event in Dublin Castle at the end of February and in a SICAP Focus Group in April.



CWI Newsletter and Briefs

In 2017 and 2018, CWI continued to produce the CWI Newsletter, *Community Work News*, and a series of Briefs.

Representation

Representing community work at national level

CWI continued to engage with the Community Platform and the Community & Voluntary Pillar. CWI continued to be the Community Platform lead with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government/Department of Rural and Community Development and attended a number of at bi-lateral meetings in that role.

In addition, CWI had a number of meetings with the Department in Ballina and Dublin, including with the Secretary General of the Department. The CWI consistent message was the need for independent community work and a programme and structures to enable this work.

Irish Refugee and Migrant Coalition and Community Sponsorship

Community Work Ireland continued to work with the Refugee and Migrant Coalition. The Migrant and Refugee coalition set up in July 2015 brings together organisations working in the fields of international development, humanitarian aid, community development, migrant and refugee rights and justice issues, to respond collectively to the EU crisis and to add value to the ongoing work of individual organisations. The coalition aims to facilitate the sharing of information and analysis, to respond to the fast-moving pace of policy change at Irish and EU level, and to advance key responses to the migrant and refugee crisis at a National and EU level.

A key piece of work of the Coalition during this period has been to proactively engage with the Department of Justice and equality on the development of a community sponsorship programme as part of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) in 2018. The decision to embark on this path was made at an event hosted by the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017. Unlike traditional refugee resettlement models, where the state or state-supported actors provide settlement and integration services directly to refugees in their country of resettlement, community sponsorship invites members of the community to play a role in the delivery of those supports.

Community Work Ireland was requested by the Irish Refugee and Migrant Coalition to represent the coalition in the negotiation of the Policy Framework for Community Sponsorship Ireland. A series of meetings with the Department were held and the Framework is almost at finalisation stage. CWI have received funding from the Coalition (provided by the St. Stephens Green Trust) to undertake a number of initiatives to support communities and organisations seeking to become community sponsors or to support the process. The Refugee and Migrant Coalition have been clear, that Community Sponsorship must be about supporting additional numbers of refugees to come to Ireland

National Strategy for Women and Girls (NSWG)

Community Work Ireland represents the Community Platform on the Strategy Committee for the National Strategy for Women and Girls. The NSWG 2017 – 2020 is the framework through which the Government develops actions to advance the rights of women and girls and to enable their full participation in Irish society. The role of the Strategy Committee is to advise on: the development and implementation of the Strategy; key issues for women and girls in Ireland; prioritisation of actions (including new actions needed); development of monitoring reporting systems including indicators and targets.

The committee meets 3 times per year and CWI plays an active role in consulting and engaging Platform members on all of the above and at each stage of the process.

Repeal the 8th

CWI participated in the Together for Yes campaign, including work on social media.

NWCI

CWI is represented on the NWCI Women in Local Government and Local Development subgroup.

Sustainable Development Goals

Jamie Gorman, Anastasia Crickley and Seanie Lamb share the CWI representation on the NGO Coalition2030. CWI edited and updated the Coalition’s shadow report, published to coincide with the voluntary review at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018. Chief among the findings were the weaknesses in Ireland’s recently-published National Implementation Plan; its poor performance in meeting commitments on overseas development aid (ODA); its continuing facilitation of international tax abuse; and extremely worrying trends in greenhouse gas emissions. The full report can be found [here](#)



International Linkages

We continued to be represented on the Boards of the European Community Development Network (by Oonagh McArdle) and the International Association for Community Development (by Anastasia Crickley). Many thanks to our reps for sharing their time, expertise and commitment.

Submissions

In efforts to ensure that community work and the concerns of CWI members are reflected in all relevant policy development, CWI made a number of submissions in this period.

DRCD Statement of Strategy

A new Department of Rural and Community Development was established in 2017 with Michael Ring TD appointed as Minister. Meetings were held with the new General Secretary of the Department Kevin Mc Carthy and with the Assistant Secretary in the Department, Bairbre Nic Aongusa. CWI wrote a submission to the new Department's Statement of Strategy outlining values and principles, as outlined in Standards, which

should inform the Departments work, our vision for community work (as per submissions to the Framework policy), our position on commissioning and competitive tendering, the importance of the Statement of Strategy overtly referencing the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring that policies and programme include the Irish targets under the SDGs and the importance of ensuring implementation of the Positive Duty. Download [here](#)

[Review of Local Community Development Committees](#)

Community Work Ireland made a submission/comment on the terms of reference of the Department of Rural and Community Development review of Local Community Development Committees. CWI stated that, as the structure charged with responsibility for the implementation of LECs, the Local Community Development Committees must be fit for purpose. Download [here](#)

[National SDG Implementation Plan](#)

In December 2017, CWI made a submission to the National SDG Implementation Plan, welcoming the first draft of the Implementation Plan but noting our concern at the short timeframe and limited circulation for the consultative process. CWI supports the plan's top-line strategic priorities of awareness, participation, support and of policy alignment. We suggest that these goals can be strengthened by an increased emphasis on:

- Participation – Naming a commitment to support the participation of those most at risk from inequality, exclusion and discrimination, including through community development, as a key approach to ensuring that “no one is left behind.”
- Support – Including a commitment to support and encourage communities and organisations to engage with the State and hold it to account for its implementation of the SDGs as part of an ongoing and robust democratic process. Again, this commitment must recognise the importance of addressing barriers to participation in community life and policy making such as inequality, exclusion and discrimination. Download [here](#)

[The National Planning Framework – “Ireland 2040 – Our Plan”](#)

CWI made a submission to the National Planning Framework – “Ireland 2040 – Our Plan” in March 2017. The Framework will set a new strategic planning and development context for the Ireland and all its regions in the period between now and 2040, setting a strategic, high-level framework for the co-ordination of a range of national, regional and local authority policies and activities, planning and investment. Download [here](#)

[National Strategic Framework for Health Workforce Planning](#)

CWI made a submission to the National Strategic Framework for Health Workforce Planning, highlighting that work to address health inequalities has been underpinned by community work and community work organisations for many years and noting that community work has been a critical element in addressing the significant health inequalities faced by marginalised groups such as Travellers, migrants, asylum seekers, older people, members of the LGBTI+ community and others. We called for professional community work to be named as one of the professional disciplines listed in the Framework and for planning for the development and expansion of the discipline where appropriate in all areas of the country. Download [here](#)

[National Women's Strategy](#)

In January 2017, CWI made a submission to National Women's Strategy, recommending:

- The National Women's Strategy takes cognisance of and uses as its basis the UN Sustainable Development Goals towards the advancement of women's equality in a manner that promotes human rights, equality and sustainable development.

- That all actions and measures within the National Women’s Strategy have at their core, an aim to address the needs and advance the collective human rights of the most disadvantaged and marginalised women in Ireland. • A new national community development fund should be established to support autonomous community work with women.
- Specific interventions need to be designed and resourced to target marginalised and disadvantaged women, including those affected by poverty, inequality and discrimination. In addition, all mainstream interventions need to include disadvantaged and marginalised women in their target groups. Download [here](#)

Budget 2018

In November 2017, CWI prepared a summary of Budget 2018. Download [here](#)

Submission on LECP Monitoring & Evaluation

In April 2017, CWI made a submission on the LECP Monitoring and Evaluation calling for LECPs to be based on up to needs analysis of the area in which they are to be implemented, including a specific focus of the needs analysis should be on the needs of the most marginalised individuals and communities. Download [here](#)

Strategic Priority 3 To provide networking and learning opportunities for community workers and other stakeholders

World Community Development Conference 2018



Introduction

In 2016, Community Work Ireland and the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University, made a successful bid to the International Association for Community Development to hold the biennial International Community Development Conference in Ireland. Agreement was reached that the conference would be co-hosted by the three organisations and held in Maynooth University in 2018.

Conference Advisory Group

To advance the conference planning process, the conference partners established a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) to advise on the organisation and academic programme of the World Conference with an excellent mix of statutory and non-statutory bodies coming together to ensure a successful Conference. As well as representatives of each of the conference partners, members included CWI members working at local, national levels, Pobal, the HSE, the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, the County and City Management Association, the Social Change Initiative and Local Development Companies.

About the Conference

This conference drew over 400 participants from approximately 40 countries from the Global North and South, including community development workers working with the most disadvantaged communities throughout the world, academics, policy makers and other stakeholders. It provided an important opportunity for sharing experiences, practice and learning, deepening our analysis of current and future global challenges and possibilities for enhancing community development approaches to address them.



Funding for the Conference

A significant amount of time and effort was spent in raising much needed funding for the conference. Funding was allocated by every local authority in the country (Including larger allocations from Meath and Kildare County Councils), the HSE, Irish Aid (which allowed us to provide bursaries to 28 conference delegates from low and middle-income countries), the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal. In addition, conference fees were sponsored for approximately 20 Traveller and 17 women's representatives by the Department of Justice and Equality and for over 50 Local Development Company representatives by DRCD. The contribution of Maynooth University was also extremely important providing us with an excellent venue at a very limited cost to the conference organisers.

International Induction

Sunday June 24th saw 120 international delegates attend the Irish Induction event for those attending WCDC2018 from abroad. Key note speakers at the event included; Maurice Devlin (Head of Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth), Caitriona Ruane (Former MLA and Minister for Education in the North of Ireland), Martin Collins, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, Amel Yacef, Chairperson, European Network against Racism, Catherine Marshall - writer, national and international contemporary art curator, lecturer and founding head of collections at the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Conference Programme



Getting Started

The conference programme provided participants with an opportunity to participate in a choice of over 80 parallel sessions, book launches and poster presentations as well as 4 plenary sessions over the duration of the conference.

Key note speakers included;

- Mary Robinson – Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, Former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Anita Paul, Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, India
- Peter Westoby, Activist, Analyst and Academic, Australia
- Bernadette McAliskey, Former MP, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme, N. Ireland
- Francisco Cali Tzay, Guatemala
- Jim Ife, Academic and Analyst Australia
- Yaser Alashqar, Academic, Palestine and Ireland
- Kwok-kin Fung, Academic and Community Worker Hong Kong
- Rachel Doyle, Community Work Ireland
- Suzanne Keating, Dochas Irish Association of Development Organisations
- Lynne Segal Feminist, Academic and Community Activist





At the Conference Opening



Mary Robinson Visits Rohingya Exhibition

We were delighted that the Irish Rohingya Coalition were able to attend, launch and display their photographic exhibition in the Maynooth University library visited by both Mary Robinson and Minister Sean Kyne.

Post Conference Practice Exchange

Following the conference, international delegates were invited to take part in a 3-day practice exchange in Dublin and Galway. Visits were organised to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, Fatima Groups United, Bluebell CDP and St. Michaels Family Resource Centre. In Galway conference delegates had the opportunity to visit the Migrant Bridge Project (Galway City Partnership), First Class Insulation (Galway Traveller Movement Social Enterprise Initiative), Oughterard Youth Café, Domestic Violence Response (Oughterard), Connemara West, Connemara Community Radio, Forum Letterfrack, Inis Oirr Arts Centre and Inis Oirr Community Development Co-op.



Making their way on Inis Oirr

Volunteers

The conference could not have happened without the help of 20 amazing volunteers – students and recent graduates in community work and youth work at the Department of Applied Social Studies NUI Maynooth. Their huge role in supporting and assisting conference delegates was invaluable as was their enthusiastic and creative contribution to music and cultural events organised throughout the conference.



Our volunteers – community and youth workers of the future!

Comments from Participants

“Has really been the best ‘summer school’ I’ve been to. Mary Robinson, Bernadette McAliskey, Yaser Alashqar, linking local and global activism. Challenging & visionary...”

“Thank you @WCDC2018 for organising the space to reflect on values analysis and action in our work”.

“The conference was absolutely fantastic. Maynooth University was the perfect venue. I met people from all over the world, it was an inspirational experience”.

“It was a great experience and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend. Congratulations to you all for the event which was very well organised, informative and more importantly very enjoyable”!

I really enjoyed this conference. I began to feel a part of a global community of persons doing similar kinds of work or having similar interests. Also, the volunteers were really-really helpful and I appreciate them very much”

“All the topics of WCDC2018 are very interesting. The conference was organized very professionally and created a wonderful space for sharing and networking. Thanks for all the effort from the supportive organizing committee, staff and participants”

“The use of students as volunteers was wholesome and they did an awesome job - It was a wholesome experience and great learning all through the WCDC2018 - Already working on a forum to share lessons learnt from WCDC2018 - Ever grateful to have been part of WCDC2018”

“What a conference! Energetic, committed, friendly, engaged, creative...the highest of bars has been set by @WCDC2018”

WCDC2018 Conference Declaration

Community Development for Rights, Recognition and Re-distribution

Recognising the many challenges, including poverty, racism and inequality, which are enduring features of all societies and present the global context for community development;

Acknowledging that the way we are living in/treating our world is unsustainable and the urgent need for climate and environmental justice actions globally;

Emphasising the intersectional nature of poverty and oppression, which exacerbates and multiplies forms of injustice and rights abuse that are experienced by women, children and men and systematically ignores and undermines the diversity of cultures, communities and peoples that form part of our world;

Recognising with concern, the role of neo-liberalism in deepening poverty and rights abuses by creating economic systems that sustain and deepen inequalities, and by eroding the capacity of national governments to uphold their responsibilities as human rights duty bearers;

Remembering the role community development workers have played in mobilising communities and creating the conditions for civil society to address needs, concerns and interests;

Reasserting our commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights architecture enshrined in human rights treaties and covenants of the United Nations, as well as regional multilateral organisations across the globe;

We, the participants at the World Community Development Conference held in Maynooth University, Ireland in June 2018, make the following declaration collectively:

We reaffirm community development as a process where people concerned with human rights, economic, social and environmental justice act collectively to change societal circumstances. With good processes determining good outcomes, community development will continue to address power imbalances and strengthen the capacities of rights holders to define, claim and realise their rights by holding stakeholders to account. Working in and with communities that share a neighbourhood, identity or interest, particularly communities marginalised by gender, ‘race’ and class, community workers will continue to work to address the causes and consequences of these challenges.

We acknowledge the on-going contribution of community development to addressing local to global concerns. We recognise its contribution to the deepening and invigorating of democracy, in the creation of better policy, in enhancing equality and in realising rights, in contributing to social cohesion, and in strengthening the collective voice of communities experiencing poverty, prejudice, social exclusion and inequality in the decision making processes that affect their lives.

We restate community work as a proven means of community learning and organising, and call on local, national, regional and global authorities and governments to support and resource community work as a means of building a just, sustainable and peaceful world.

Social Inclusion Forum 2017 and 2018

CWI collaborates annually with European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland (EAPN) Ireland to organise a series of workshops to support participation at the Social Inclusion Forum and to identify issues of concern to people affected by poverty and the organisations working with them.

In 2017, the theme of SIF was *Reflecting on the Past and Informing the Future Developing a new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion*. CWI and EAPN took the opportunity to review the current National Action Plan for Social Inclusion and to look at priorities for the new strategy. CWI held two preparatory workshops in Galway and Dublin prior to SIF and one post-SIF on issues for community work in rural areas. At the Forum CWI and EAPN reminded the Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar, of the ambition of the first National Anti-Poverty Strategy and urged that the new strategy:

- Recognises rights
- Mobilizes the whole of Government
- Invests serious resources in services, quality of work and income
- Ensures all policies promote inclusion
- Ensures plans are adapted to deliver targets

All the CWI/EAPN documents and presentations from SIF 2018 can be found [here](#)

In 2018, the theme of SIF was *Social Inclusion in a Changing Environment*. CWI held preparatory workshops in Ennis, Tipperary and Cork.

As well as presenting to the Plenary at the SIF, CWI gave a presentation to one of the workshops with a representative of the Department of Rural and Community Development. Entitled, *Community Work At Local Level: Its Contribution To Understanding And Responding To Poverty And Social Exclusion*.

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The challenge involved in tackling poverty is a major one. It means bringing about significant change in Irish society. It requires putting poverty among the issues at the top of the national agenda. It involves the mobilisation of all sections of Irish society in building a fair society. It requires listening to and involving those who are directly affected by poverty. It means making difficult choices about priorities and policies. It challenges existing departments and agencies to develop new and more open and inclusive ways of doing things. Above all, given the deep-seated structural causes

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Goal 2 Organisational Sustainability and Development

Strategic Priority 4 To consolidate and develop the CWI membership

Membership

Membership is a critical feature of Community Work Ireland. Members provide the mandate for CWI activities and CWI works to represent issues of concern and to support the work of members. Throughout 2017 and 2018, CWI continued to work to support and maintain existing members and to recruit new members.

In 2018, in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations, CWI amended its application process.

Communication

CWI continued to communicate with members through emails, the CWI website, Facebook and Twitter, enhancing CWI communication systems. CWI now has over 1,500 followers on Facebook and Twitter

Strategic Priority 5 To ensure the sustainability and further development of CWI

Funding and Governance

Community Work Ireland is core-funded by the Scheme to Support National Organisations. All requisite reporting was submitted on time and CWI was acknowledged for the work that it completed in 2017 and 2018.

The annual accounts were completed and submitted to the Companies Registration Office. Reports were submitted to the lobbying regulator and the register of charities.

A proposal for additional resources was made to the Department of Rural and Community Development – we are awaiting a response.

Community Work Ireland is supported by the Support Scheme for National Organisations



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

