



Community Work
Ireland

ANNUAL
REPORT

2022-2023

Community Work Ireland

Annual Report 2022 - 2023



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Chairperson's Note

I am pleased to present the Community Work Ireland Annual Report, which spans the period June 2022 – June 2023.

In the past year, we have seen many challenges emerge, grow and become ever more embedded in our communities, challenges that CWI has been to the forefront in addressing. In particular I would like to highlight the CWI response to the significant increase in migration to Ireland as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine' as well as increasing numbers of people seeking asylum here. CWI has collaborated and supported community workers working at the coal face to respond effectively - to network and build solidarity and support. The worrying increase in far-right mobilisation and their manipulation of local communities online and on the streets has been challenged effectively by community workers with CWI support in collaboration with the Hope and Courage Collective and will continue to be an important part of our work for the coming year.

CWI has continued to support the work of the All-Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training to advance the community work discipline and profession. The joint CWI/AIEB work on Continuous Practice Development for community workers is an important initiative and one which will continue into the future.

The realities of climate change and biodiversity loss are key issues that community work must begin to address. The new CWI/National Women's Council project, *Feminist Communities for Climate Action*, funded under the Community Climate Action Programme is an important development. The project focusses on developing a feminist, community work approach to climate action and climate justice. I welcome the collaboration with Maynooth University that will see the development of an accredited programme of training for community workers in this area.

The initiative to support the inclusion of marginalised communities in planning and decision-making was a welcome collaboration between CWI, DRCD, ILDN and others and we hope that it will improve engagement with communities all over the country.

Community Work Ireland continues to have a role supporting the Community Development Programme. The programme is essential in starting to build a new, dynamic autonomous community development infrastructure, which, as all CWI members know, is central to meeting the challenges faced by marginalised communities throughout the country. The inclusion of three new projects this year brings the total number of projects funded to ten and is testament to the work of the first seven projects whose strategic and effective work illustrates clearly the need for the programme and the impact that it can have. Whilst this small expansion is to be welcomed, we must continue to advocate and campaign for additional funding to build and further expand the programme so that many more communities can benefit.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the CWI Central Group members that are stepping down at this year's AGM – Liam McGlynn, Georgina Lawlor, Obert Makaza, Féilim Ó hAdhmaill and Seán Regan.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff team, the members of the CWI Central Group and all CWI members that are actively involved in the work of the organisation. Without you, the work of Community Work Ireland would not be possible.

Ann Friel, CWI Chairperson

CWI Central Group 2022/2023

The CWI Central Group is the board of directors of the organisation. Members for 2022-2023 were:

- Ann Friel (Chairperson)
- Anastasia Crickley
- Anne Nolan
- Liam Mc Glynn (Treasurer)
- Niamh Wogan (Secretary)
- Georgina Lawlor
- Siobhan McLaughlin
- Reuben Hambakachere
- Obert Makaza
- Seanie Lambe
- Marianne O'Shea
- Féilim Ó hAdhmaill

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.

Community Work Ireland is a membership organisation. Our membership comprises individuals and organisations involved in community work at local and national level. There are currently nearly 900 individual and organisational members of CWI.

CWI Funding and Staffing

In 2022/2023, the Scheme of Supports to National Organisations (SSNO) continued to provide core funding to CWI supporting the employment of staff and overhead costs. In 2022, CWI was successful in an application to SSNO support for a further three years, which secures core funding until June 2025.

CWI continues to employ two National Co-ordinators, Rachel Doyle and Ann Irwin, who continue to work on a 4.5-day per week basis.

CWI hosts the employment of Ciara Shanahan, who is the Co-ordinator of the All-Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training (AIEB).

A small organisation, resourcing for CWI remains a key challenge and we continue to be grateful to CWI members who give of their time to support the work of the organisation, bringing their experience, knowledge and insights to bear in our work to promote and advance community work as a key methodology and approach to addressing poverty, inequality, oppression and social exclusion and building a society which places human rights, equality and sustainability at its core.

CWI Mission

To promote and support 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.

CWI Values

Collectivity	Working in a collective way that emphasises the right of members to collectively influence the work of the organisation. CWI believes in and is committed to collaboration and partnership approaches to achieving common goals
Community Empowerment	Supporting people and communities to be resilient, organised, included and influential
Social Justice	Promoting a just society - challenge injustice, poverty, inequality, discrimination and social exclusion, and valuing diversity of identities and approaches
Sustainable Development	Promoting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable policies and practices
Human Rights & Equality	Promoting human rights and 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	CWI is committed to the right of all, particularly members of marginalised communities, to participate in all aspects of society

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 Strategic Plan 2021 – 2023

The CWI Strategic Plan is based on 6 core objectives as follows:

- Objective 1:** To embed community work in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes, policies and structures.
- Objective 2:** To collectively resource and support CWI members, community workers and community work organisations to strengthen and enhance community work practice.
- Objective 3:** To collaborate and engage with structures, organisations and initiatives in the community sector and the voluntary sector.
- Objective 4:** To contribute to community work education and training, and the development of community work as a professional discipline.
- Objective 5:** To develop the CWI membership and enhance communication.
- Objective 6:** Ensure sustainability and development of the organisation.



Report on CWI Actions 2022-2023

Objective 1: To embed community work in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes, policies and structures.

Community Development Programme



Supported by funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development, CWI continued to provide intensive support for the ongoing development of the pilot Community Development Programme and the Community Development Network.

During the last year, CWI worked closely with the seven funded projects to consolidate the CDP Network. We facilitated regular meetings and workshops of the Network to share information and learning, discuss issues and challenges arising and explore together how the core values of community work can be embedded in their work.



The announcement of the new projects, Amach! LGBTI+, Galway, the Limerick Traveller Network and Amal Muslim Women's Association, Dublin, was made in May by Minister Joe O'Brien.

Collaboration is central to the programme, and the CDP Network and the CDP Project Team (CWI, Pobal and DRCD) worked with Pobal to complete the co-design of the CDP Programme Planning and Monitoring Framework, now being used by the projects.

The Project Team also continued to work together to identify and address any issues emerging for the projects, as well as updating the application process for the three new projects.

The Project Team also continued to work together to identify and address any issues emerging for the projects, as well as updating the application process for the three new projects.

We developed a paper on defining autonomy in the programme to inform the involvement of the LDCs in the process as well as the work of the project team and the DRCD.

Niall Crowley and Rachel Mullen of ValuesLab were appointed as the external evaluators of the programme. Their first report included a number of recommendations that the CDP Network and the Project Team are working to address, including integrating an environmental sustainability dimension into their work, and establishing a shared definition and understanding of 'autonomous project' and what that might require.

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities – A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland

CWI has two places on the Cross Sectoral Group that is charged with overseeing the implementation of Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities – A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland.

Two meetings of the Cross Sectoral Group were held during this time, one in December 2022 and one in May 2023.

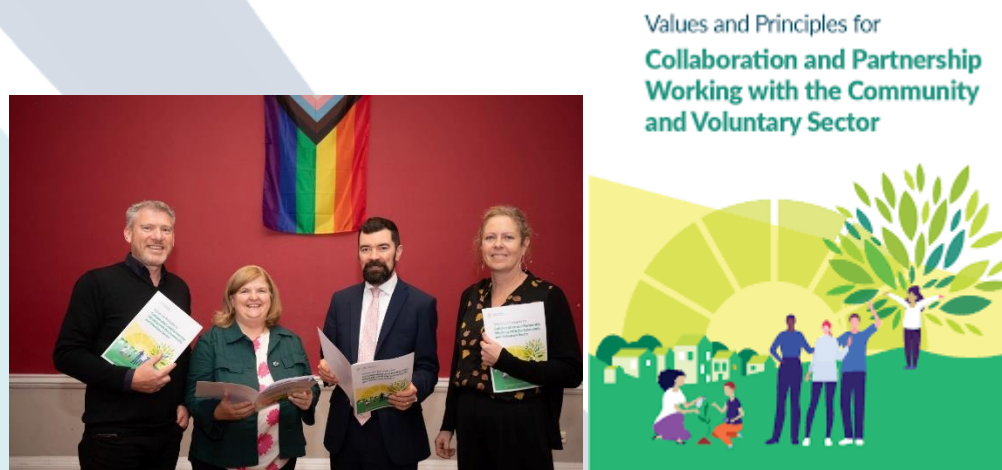
CWI continues to actively participate in all the CSG Working Groups that are focusing on the following:

- Deliberative and Participative Democracy, including the first Civic Forum held in October 2022.
- The training needs of community organisations.
- The inclusion of marginalised communities in planning and decision making.
- Commissioning.

In 2022, the Department launched *Values and Principles for Collaboration and Partnership Working With Community And Voluntary*. The values and principles are those that underpin *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities*, which in turn are based on the community work values as outline in the All-Ireland Standards for Community Work. These values and principles have been adopted by Cabinet and now will inform the engagement of every government department with the community sector and the voluntary sector.

CWI sits on each of the working groups and throughout the year fed into all discussions and documents pertaining to each theme. In addition, CWI supported the organisation of, and made a presentation at, a national LECP planning event for LCDCs to explore how their engagement with marginalised communities can be improved, particularly in the context of the development of new LECPs.

In relation to priority areas of focus CWI have highlighted the need for a focus on the objectives in the strategy in relation to autonomous community work, commissioning, climate action, the public sector duty and those linked to the theme of social dialogue.



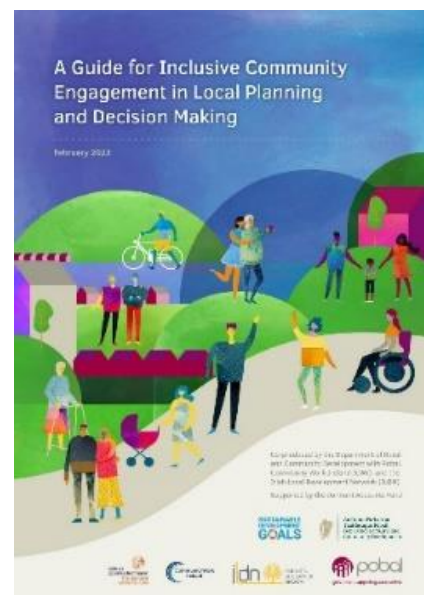
At the launch of the Values and Principles For Collaboration and Partnership Working With Community And Voluntary Sector L-R Ivan Cooper (The Wheel) Mary Hurley (General Secretary Department of Rural and Community Development), Minister Joe O'Brien, Rachel Doyle (CWI)

We assisted in the planning process for the first DRCD Civic Forum attended by the Taoiseach and Minister Joe O'Brien and gave a presentation at the Forum on the Community Platform position paper Towards a Progressive Model of Collaborative Governance. We continue to participate on the Civic Forum Working Group and are currently engaged in planning for the next Forum which we have suggested should act as a mechanism for highlighting good collaborative processes and good practice in this area across government departments and agencies as well as highlighting challenges.

The Department of Rural and Community Development launched their document Values and *Principles for Collaboration and Partnership Working with Community and Voluntary Sector* the production of which was supported by CWI. Agreed at Cabinet the document aligns closely with the values set out in the Strategy and with those articulated in the All Ireland Standards for Community Work. Speaking at the launch CWI noted that to assume that putting these values into practice is easy for any of us, would be naïve of us. Making a commitment to this practice requires all of us to recognise the need for ongoing trust building, increased power sharing, mutual recognition and respect, and putting in place structures, processes and resources to maximise all of our contributions.

Inclusive Community Engagement

One of the projects that began as part of the work of the Cross Sectoral Group Working Group on Community Engagement was the project with Pobal. The initiative has a number of elements. CWI and Pobal co-produced *A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Planning and Decision-Making*, with the support of DRCD and ILDN and a range of inputs from national and local organisations. CWI also delivered 15 in-person and one on-line workshops with all the LCDCs and others with responsibility for designing and implementing community engagement and consultation processes. We are currently finalising a video to accompany the Guide that will be a resource for LCDCs, local authorities and others.



Social Inclusion Forum

The theme of the Social Inclusion Forum 2023 was Revitalising the Roadmap: Progress and Priorities and it took place in Dublin on June 1st.

CWI worked with EAPN Ireland and the Department of Social Protection to organise the event, and organised four preparatory workshops, two on-line and two in-person events in Roscommon and one in Sligo, to ensure that the event was informed by experiences of communities living in poverty and with social exclusion. CWI and EAPN Ireland also supported a number of people to attend the event and the two organisations and the participants from the preparatory workshops gave a presentation to the opening Plenary.



Participants from SIF 2023 with Minister Joe O'Brien and Senator Eileen Flynn

Community Services Programme Review, National Advisory Committee

The work of the National Advisory Committee to the review of Community Services Programme, in which CWI participated, concluded its work in August 2022. A new programme design and funding structure has since been announced.

Community Work and SICAP

Building on discussions with CWI members, we met with Pobal to discuss a range of issues pertaining to the new programme, as well as making a submission at the final stages of the review and design process. Despite call to the contrary from CWI and others, following legal advice, the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal have announced a tendering process for the new programme.

Policy Submissions

Between July 2022 and June 2023, CWI made the following submissions:

- ▶ Not Just Recovery: Building Community Development, Building Community Resilience. CWI Prebudget Submission August 2022
- ▶ Submission to the Clean Air Strategy, with the Centre for Environmental Justice
- ▶ Submission to the Energy Poverty Strategy, with the Centre for Environmental Justice.
- ▶ Submission to the SICAP review and redesign process
- ▶ Submission and presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Integration and Refugee Issues
- ▶ Submission to the Department of the Taoiseach on the Sustainable Development Goals, with Coalition 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- ▶ Submission to the DRCD Statement of Strategy.

Objective 2: To collectively resource and support CWI members, community workers and community work organisations to strengthen and enhance community work practice

- Provide critical policy analysis to CWI members and other stakeholders.
- Undertake and engage in research where appropriate.
- Provide opportunities networking to CWI members and other stakeholders.
- Provide training and capacity building opportunities.
- Provide opportunities for information sharing, and inputting into policy for CWI members.

CWI Policy and Practice Working Group

The Policy and Practice Working Group met three times over the past 12 months providing advice, input and support regarding CWI policy and approaches. Key areas of discussion included CWI's response to the Ukraine crisis, the review of the SICAP programme, CWI's work on social dialogue and the Community Development Programme. In addition, a subgroup of the Policy and Practice Working Group met weekly from Jan to March to plan for the migration symposium on March 29th.

Addressing the Ukraine Crisis

The Ukraine Community Cluster convened and facilitated by CWI and comprising 118 members continued to meet regularly throughout the year and now meets the last Wednesday of every month. The cluster provides an opportunity for those working with the Ukrainian community to share information and highlight key issues to be brought to meetings of the DRCD and DCEDIY Stakeholder Forums.

Many cluster members are Ukrainian themselves. All face daily challenges in trying to support people experiencing extreme forms of trauma due to the war, displacement, challenges of resettlement, loss and grief, and yet none are mental health professionals themselves.

We were successful in securing funding from the Irish Red Cross to provide in person training in trauma for cluster members provided by an expert in the field of humanitarian crises and trauma which will be held in September.

We continue to participate in the Core Group of the Ukraine Civil Society Forum which meets weekly. We supported the organisation of and attended a briefing for Oireachtas members in the AV room of the Dáil once again highlighting our concerns and seeking broader political support for our asks in relation to national leadership and better co-ordination and collaboration in relation to Ireland's response.

We continued to attend regular stakeholder group meetings of DRCD and DCEDIY and held meetings with Roderic O'Gorman's advisors to try to shape the departments community response.

We gave a presentation at the National Women's Council member meeting on community responses to the Ukraine crisis.

Climate Justice

The joint application with the National Women's Council to the Community Climate Action Programme was successful. Feminist Communities for Climate Justice will develop a feminist and community work analysis, deliver an accredited training programme, establish a Communities for Climate Justice National Network, and develop resources and campaigns.



L-R Orla O'Connor NWC, Minister Éamonn Ryan and Rachel Doyle CWI at the launch of the Community Climate Action Programme

The Project will

- ▶ Establish an advisory group that will bring a group of people together with experience and expertise in feminism, climate justice, climate action and community work to advise on the project.
- ▶ develop a training programme for the community and women's equality sector. This will be designed and delivered in association with the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University along with a range of community work and women's representative organisations .
- ▶ build a 'Communities for Climate Justice National Network' of community groups to facilitate and support organisations to embed and embrace feminist climate justice in their work.
- ▶ produce resources including a 'Toolkit to develop campaigning strategies based on feminist climate justice' and a 'Toolkit to support the assessment of climate impacts, future risks on communities and climate justice proofing'.
- ▶ influence and engage with policy at a national and local level on climate justice.
- ▶ campaign and mobilise for climate justice.
- ▶ develop relationships throughout the community work, feminist, climate change and other relevant sectors.
- ▶ develop a model of feminist community climate justice.

The Climate Justice Working Group met in June and have agreed to organise a symposium/seminar in the autumn.

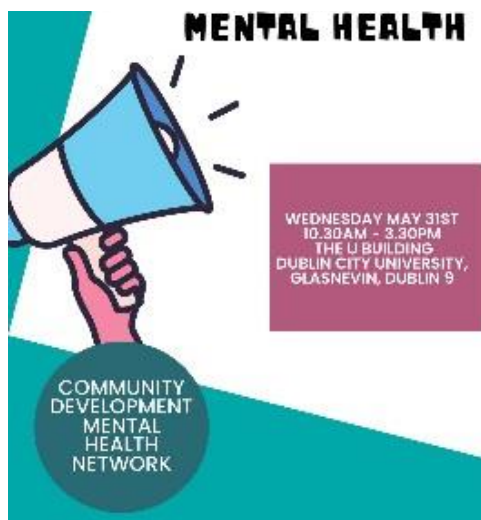
Migration Symposium

On March 29th CWI hosted a national symposium on the theme of *'inclusion and migration in Ireland – A Community Work Response'* In the F2 Centre, Rialto. Attended by over 85 participants, the symposium was a participative and engaging space for those who are migrants themselves and those working with people from migrant communities to share practice, skills and expertise, build knowledge, connect with each other and build a call to action. The outcomes of the symposium will set an agenda for CWI's work in this area in the coming year.



Community Development Mental Health Network

The network continued to meet regularly throughout the year and in May held a national symposium *'A call to Action – Shifting the Paradigm on Mental health'*. The event was attended by over 70 participants and was intended to set out key priorities for the network in the coming year and beyond. Participants called for a new paradigm in relation to mental health which includes recognition of the fact that services are not working especially for marginalised groups, the impact of racism on mental health and the impact of poverty, social exclusion and disadvantage on mental health (social determinants). They set out a broad range of demands including better resourcing for community mental health projects and initiatives, better mental health education, intercultural competency in mental health services, participation of those with lived experience in policy design and strong collaborative processes of engagement.

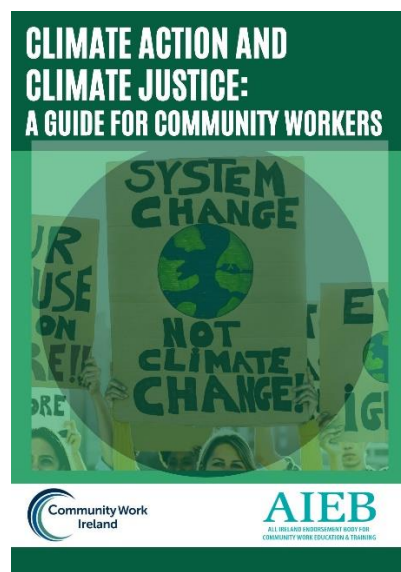
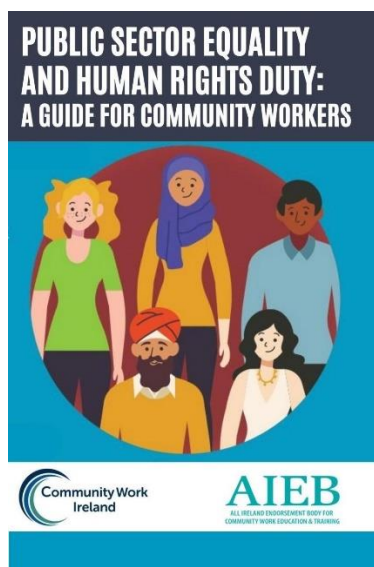


Continuous Practice Development

CWI and AIEB continued with the Continuous Practice Development initiative to provide community workers the opportunities to initiative to create opportunities for community workers to build on their skills and knowledge in areas of relevance to community work practice.

In 2022/2023, CWI and AIEB produced two guides for community workers based on the first two of the workshops, on the Public Sector Duty and on climate action and climate justice, with accompanying PowerPoint presentations and resource videos. We will be producing similar resources based on the other two workshop held to date, on community work approaches to drugs and community work approaches to anti-racism.

Thanks to Anastasia Crickley, Reuben Hambakachere, Jamie Gorman, Jacqueline Healy, Brian Melaugh and Gary Broderick for all their work and support in producing the resources.



Policy and Practice

The Policy and practice Working Group met 3 times over the past 12 months providing advice, input and support regarding CWI policy and approaches. Key areas of discussion included CWIs response to the Ukraine crisis, the review of the SICAP programme, CWIs work on social dialogue and the Community Development Programme. In addition, a subgroup of the Policy and Practice Working Group met weekly from Jan to March to plan for the migration symposium on March 29th.

Outreach/Support

- We facilitated a one-day workshop with Donegal Travellers project on the theme of community development as an approach to tackling racism.
- We held a joint seminar with ILMI on June 29th on community work approaches to working with disabled people.

Improving
Communities
through
Community
Development

SESSION 1
27th Sept 2022



Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme



- We designed and delivered a 6-session introduction to community development training programme *Improving Communities through Community Development* for a broad group of people involved in community groups supported by Leitrim Development Company. The training was held mostly in person with a final session held in person with a presentation of certificates of completion for all participants.
- We provided an input on the Public Sector Duty at an IHREC event in Nov. and delivered one day's training on the Duty to Tusla staff in Donegal.
- We gave a presentation on community work and the SDGs to over 70 students at MU to mark SDG week and followed this with a session on community development to 2nd year students.
- We were invited to attend a meeting with Safe Ireland to explore the theme of community development and violence against women which they hope will be a focus of their work into the future.
- We held a meeting with Galway City Partnership, Amach LGBT and Galway City Community Network to support the establishment of a network to promote equality and diversity in the city (Galway Communities against Racism and Discrimination).
- We attended a small roundtable discussion with the Lord Mayor of Dublin Caroline Conroy, Minister Roderic O'Gorman, IBEC, ICTU and a number of NGOs on the theme of supporting integration and tackling racism. We subsequently submitted a short document in association with NWC on potential next steps.
- We attended the launch of the National Action Plan against Racism in the Royal Irish Academy on March 21st.

Objective 3: To collaborate and engage with structures, organisations and initiatives in the community sector and the voluntary sector

- Build on collaboration and further develop alliances on a range of initiatives and priorities.
- Collaboratively organise conferences and seminars on current relevant themes

Community Platform

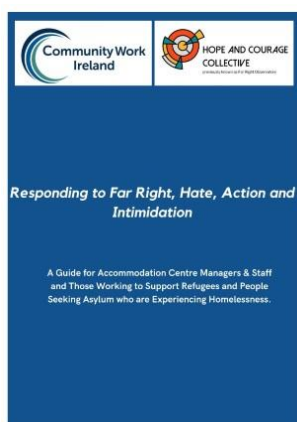
In response to the commitment, in the Programme for Government (PFG) 2020-2025, to the establish a Social Dialogue Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach and to “create new models of sectoral engagement”, CWI led the development of the Community Platform paper *Towards a Progressive Model of Collaborative Governance*. The purpose of the document is to propose a new approach to solving complex problems based on effective engagement between the state and civil society. In advance of the launch of the document CWI and other platform members held meetings with DRC and the Department of the Taoiseach and following the launch, have met with senior civil servants in a number of government departments to discuss the potential for greater collaboration in public policy making as set out in the document.



Panel speakers at the launch were from left: Karen Ciesielski (Irish Environmental Network), Rachel Doyle (Community Work Ireland - Panel Chair), Damien Walshe (Independent Living Movement Ireland), Wayne Stanley (Simon Communities of Ireland), Martin Collins (Pavee Point).

Hope and Courage Collective and Responding to the Spread of Hate and Extremism

In 2023 the Far Right Observatory changed its name to the Hope and Courage Collective and has now been constituted as a legal entity with CWI as one of 6 board members.



Over the past 12 months, CWI has worked closely with HCC providing support and assistance to communities and community groups seeking to prevent the manipulation of far-right organisers in communities. We collaborated with H&CC in the development of a community-based training programme which we have co-delivered to community groups and community workers including in the North of Ireland as well as providing assistance for rapid response to communities faced with immediate protests and far right mobilisation.

We were part of the oversight group for the HCC's forthcoming publication *Greater than Fear – A Community Based Response to Tackling Hate and Extremism*.

We produced a short guide in association with H&CC for accommodation centre managers and those working with asylum seekers and refugees who are homeless.

We provided workshops with Parable Communications on framing, messaging and countering the spread of hate speech for CWI members and others.

We spoke at a day North South event organised by the Community Foundation for Ireland, the Rowan Trust and the Social Change Initiative on the theme of *Sharing Practice to Counter Polarisation and Extremism*.

Survivors Informing State institutions

We continue to sit on the board of SiSi. SiSi is the only survivor led domestic violence organisation in the country. Accessing core funding for SiSi has been very challenging and CWI have continued to support efforts in this regard.

International Association for Community Development

CWI is a member and the Irish partner of the International Association for Community Development. At their AGM 2022, IACD presented a Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously to Ronnie Fay, the much-missed former CWI Chairperson and co-director of Pavee Point. The IACD Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals who have provided an outstanding contribution to international community development throughout a significant portion of their career. At the ceremony, IACD expressed their warmest welcome to Philip Watt, Ronnie's husband, and to members of Ronnie's family who joined that day. There was also a welcome for Ronnie's colleagues from Pavee Point and Community Work Ireland. IACD stated:



Ronnie's outstanding contribution to community work, human rights, equality, and justice is well recognised, respected, and highly regarded at all levels from Presidents, politicians and policy makers to the people she worked with every day.

World Community Development Conference 2023

Anastasia Crickley represented CWI and AIEB at the World Community Development Conference 2023 in Darwin. Speaking at the closing plenary at the World Community Development Conference on Wednesday June 21st in Darwin Australia Anastasia stressed the ongoing global need for Community Work and Community Workers to articulate and address the key issues facing marginalised and minority communities as well as those facing Indigenous Peoples throughout the world. She pointed to racism and associated hatred, oppression of women, disablement, global

class divisions, criminalisation of migrants, and a dominant global economic system which makes the rich richer and the intersections between all of them as evidence of the systemic issues that community workers who subscribe to community work values cannot ignore and must reflect in practice however challenging that might be.



Anastasia Crickley with Anna Clarke, IACD Chairperson, Fung Kwok Kin, Suet Lin Hung, Hong Kong Baptist University and Daniel Muia, Kenyan Community Workers Association

In Ireland she said Community Work has a strong history of acknowledging that change beyond the community is required, that engagement is not participation, and that real participation has to include rights and not just needs. Change sought through CWK may rightly be about procedures and processes but change in laws may also be needed as well as change in the system and its ideological underpinning with power as an issue throughout.

Anastasia told of how our Irish Values and Standards are reflected in government policy and strategy as well as in a new Community Development Programme and also in the overall terms of our local development programme (SICAP) However she said this, and the current focus on support for inclusive CWK education did not happen by accident but took considerable and committed affirms over a period from Community Work Ireland and the All-Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and will continue to require this especially if the current support of a committed Minister and officials changed with a change of govt.

Anastasia started with an acknowledgment in Irish and English of the Larrakia country and people on show land the conference took place and finished by giving details of both CWI and AIEB.

Later that evening IACD made a presentation to Anastasia in acknowledgment of her contributions globally to IACD and Community Development

Objective 4: To contribute to community work education and training, and the development of community work as a professional discipline

Supporting the All-Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training

CWI continued to host the AIEB and to provide support for it's work. We continued to participate at board meetings and attended meetings with AIEB and DRCD including at a North South event organised by AIEB to discuss the work of AIEB and progress in achieving its objectives.



Other meetings attended –

In support of the work of AIEB we attended meetings of the Board and meetings with other stakeholders including NSETS (the youth work equivalent).

CWI also attended a meeting hosted by AIEB meeting of senior civil servants from DRCD and their equivalent in the North, and a number of civil society representatives to exchange learning and to discuss issues of mutual interest.

We provided 2 continuous practice development training session in association with AIEB one on the theme of *Community Work Responses to the Drugs Issue* and the other on the theme of *Community Work Responses to Racism*.

Objective 5: To develop the CWI membership and enhance communication

Website

The CWI website, www.cwi.ie is continually updated with news and resources. The new CWI website is continually updated with news and resources.

A series of updates were produced and disseminated to CWI members throughout the year.

Membership

CWI membership currently stands at 883an884 an increase of 8586 since our last AGM in June 2022. We extend a warm welcome to our new members and look forward to your involvement and participation in the work of CWI.

Objective 6: Ensure sustainability and development of the organisation

Funding

CWI is core funded under the SSNO (Support Scheme for National Organisations) and has further funding from DRCD and other sources.

Finance

The day-to-day accounts were consistently maintained throughout the year and presented to the Staff and Finance and the Central Group. The audited accounts were found to be a true reflection of the income and expenditure of the organisation.

Governance

The Central Group met approximately every 6 weeks over the past year. All returns were made in full and on time. CWI has continued to ensure compliance with the Charities Regulator through ongoing updating and monitoring of organisational policies and procedures.



- **Community Work Ireland (CWI)** the Irish 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 All-Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training (AIEB)** - An all-island body to support and promote quality community work/community development and ensure standards and quality in practice.



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