

A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network welcomes the recent handover of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's advice on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland to the British government. The Commission is recommending an all-inclusive Bill of Rights which includes new and wider provisions on equality and discrimination and importantly, includes a wide range of social and economic rights.

We would like to take this opportunity to add our support for a strong and inclusive Bill of Rights, especially one which adopts a robust set of standards which seek to redress women's inequalities. The women's sector will closely examine the NIHRC's advice but at this juncture of the Bill of Rights' journey for Northern Ireland, we will continue to campaign for a Bill of Rights which as the Chief Commissioner of the NIHRC, 'reflects a common commitment to fairness, equality and justice for all'. After all, as a former well-known jurist has stated 'justice without equality is no justice at all'.

The Government is currently considering the advice from the Commission and hopes to consult on the way forward in 2009. We anticipate and hope for a consultation process that allows for real engagement and a level of participation and ownership necessary to inject legitimacy and create a feeling amongst the public that this is 'their Bill of Rights'. Failure to do so will result in a sad ending for the Northern Ireland's Bill of Rights' journey.

A full report can be downloaded from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's website www.nihrc.org

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE €50MILLION PEACE III PROGRAMME IN YOUR AREA

As part of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace III), €50 million is available to local and county councils. Find out more about the Peace III Plans in your area at one of the following roadshows.

These meetings, facilitated by the Special EU Programmes Body, are being held to outline the opportunities for the funding of projects across local and county council areas. Those who attend will gain information on the Peace III Programme and an understanding of the significant differences between this new fund and the previous EU Peace Funds. The local and county council groups will present their Peace III plans and explain their role in accessing funds.

Derry, Omagh & Strabane Cluster - 3 February 2009, 2.00pm, Fir Trees Hotel, Dublin Road, Strabane, BT82 9EA

Coleraine, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Limavady, Larne & Moyle Cluster - 4 February 2009, 7.00pm, Cloonavin, 66 Portstewart Road, Coleraine, BT52 1EY
6 February 2009, 10.00am, Larne Leisure Centre, Tower Road, Larne, BT40 1AB

Cookstown, Magherafelt, Dungannon & Fermanagh Cluster - 10 February 2009, 12.30pm, Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Burn Road, Cookstown, BT80 8DN

Antrim, Carrickfergus & Newtownabbey Cluster - 11 February 2009, 6.00pm, Mossley Mill, Carnmoney Road North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA

Lisburn & Castlereagh Cluster - 12 February 2009, 7.00pm, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL

Cookstown, Magherafelt, Dungannon & Fermanagh Cluster - 17 February 2009, 12.30pm, Clinton Centre, Belmore Street, Enniskillen, BT74 6AA

For more information please visit www.seupb.eu

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Agricultural Wages Board

DARD invites applications for the posts of Chair and Ordinary member within the "Agricultural Wages Board for Northern Ireland" (AWB). Successful candidates will be appointed for a 2 year period from 1 April 2009.

Further details can be obtained on their website www.dardni.gov.uk/index/public-appointments.htm

Appointment of Non-Executive Directors to the 4 New Health & Social Care Bodies

Regional Health and Social Care Board (RHSCB)
Regional Agency for Public Health & Social Well-Being (RAPHSW)
Regional Business Services Organisation (RBSO)
Patient and Client Council (PCC)

For further information

E: public.appointments@dhspsni.gov.uk

T: 028 9052 3232 **Closing Date:** 12.00 noon on Friday 23 January 2009. Late applications will not be accepted.

NIRWN is currently seeking to appoint 2 Directors from Co. Tyrone as part of their drive to ensure representation of rural women from across Northern Ireland.

If you are interested in becoming a Director of NIRWN please get in contact with our Co-ordinator to discuss what is involved and how this will benefit women from the Tyrone area.

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND SERVICES FOR RURAL WEST

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Investment, Arlene Foster has confirmed £237,000 of financial assistance to help deliver high speed broadband services into Northern Ireland's rural west. The funding from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's (DETI) £1.9million Broadband Fund, has been awarded to North West Electronics, a local enterprise based in Derry which specialises in the provision of wireless broadband services and will enable them to offer both residential and business customers across the Western region a wide range of high speed broadband products.

The Broadband Fund, which is co-financed under the European Regional Development Fund Sustainable Competitiveness Programme 2007-2013, has a specific rural focus and aims to assist companies undertaking broadband technology trials in Northern Ireland.

Announcing the new funding, Arlene Foster said: **"The North West Electronics project is strategically very important. It will provide affordable access to next generation broadband services for business and customers located in some of the most rural parts of Northern Ireland. The improved broadband service will provide businesses with the most up-to-date network connections, typically only available in major cities, and will create a platform for rural businesses to compete on a global stage."**

The Minister encourages all of those in the Western region to exploit the opportunities that this improved broadband service will bring. She said **"It is vital that local residents and businesses take full advantage of the enhanced high speed broadband services that North West Electronics can bring to the region. I welcome the support given to the company by a range of local stakeholders, including local councils in the West."**

Scott McClelland, owner of North West Electronics said: "We look forward to working with DETI on this important project. We also welcome support for the project expressed by local community associations and the five western councils."

NEW MAGHERAFELT ADVICE SERVICE

Magherafelt District Advice Service Ltd is an independent, impartial, confidential and free advice Service for all clients in the Magherafelt District Area. The organisation provides: Full Benefit Checks; Form Filling; Negotiation and Representation; Advocacy; Money Management and Debt Advice

Office Opening Hours

9am-1pm & 2-5pm (Mon to Thur) 9am-1pm & 2-4.30pm (Fri)
6pm - 9pm (Tuesday Evening Clinic)

(Home visits are available on assessment for housebound clients and telephone advice is provided on a rota basis according to staff availability).

Magherafelt District Advice Service Ltd
50 Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN

Tel: 028 79300444 Email: info@magherafeltadvice.co.uk



UnLtd is a charity which supports social entrepreneurs - people with vision, drive, commitment and passion who want to change the world for the better. We do this by providing a complete package of funding and support, to help these individuals make their ideas a reality. UnLtd gives awards to people with passion, whose ideas will benefit the community.



UnLtd currently offers two levels of award;

Level 1 Awards (between £500 and £5,000) are designed to help make new ideas become real projects. UnLtd gives out a thousand Level 1 Awards each year across the UK. Level 1 Awards are aimed at individuals or informal groups of people who have an idea and want help getting it off the ground. The money is to help with the running costs of the project.

Level 2 Awards (between £10,000 and £20,000) support people whose ideas are already developed or pay for the living expenses of Award Winners to help them devote more time to their projects. Awards are given out in the spring and the autumn.

Opportunity Knocks Events

Would you like to find out how UnLtd and The Social Economy Network can help you? If, so please sign up for an 'Opportunity Knocks' event in a town near you throughout 2009. The lunch time events will provide you with all you need to know about the funding and support that is available from both organisations. Our last event in Derry has already resulted in two cash awards being made in the area. Both individuals received their awards 4 weeks after attending the event with both unaware at the support available to them before attending.

Our next event is in Omagh at the Enterprise Centre on **Wednesday 25 February 2009** log onto www.unltd.org.uk for more information or contact us on 028 9024 4007.

Further events will take place throughout the year at the following locations:

- ◆ Enniskillen - 16 April 2009
- ◆ Cookstown - 17 June 2009
- ◆ Armagh 20 - August 2009
- ◆ Derry - 14 October 2009
- ◆ Ballymena - 2 December 2009

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