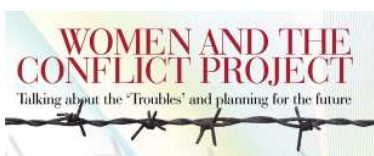


LAUNCH OF WOMEN AND THE CONFLICT REPORT



On the 17th September, the Women's Centres' Regional Partnership (WCRP) launched a report entitled "Women and the Conflict: Talking about the Troubles and Planning for the Future" at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, attended by Junior minister Jeffrey Donaldson. The report is the final product of a year long project developed by the WCRP, funded by CFNI under Peace II and coordinated by the Women's Resource & Development Agency (WRDA).

The purpose of the project was two-fold. Firstly, through the project WRDA wanted to give women an opportunity to reflect and share their experiences of the "Troubles" and secondly, to enable women involved in the project to highlight the issues that affected them during the "Troubles" and to compare and contrast these with current issues that have an impact on women's lives.

At the event, Minister Donaldson said "This project has enabled women from rural, urban, Protestant and Catholic backgrounds to discuss the various issues which affected their lives and their communities during the Troubles. It captures their emotions, hopes and fears, as well as their personal and moving stories. For the first

time it gives us an impression of the experiences of women in Northern Ireland during the last four decades and clearly illustrates that for many, it didn't really matter where you lived - worry, fear and anxiety - were the emotions experienced by all."



Minister Jeffrey Donaldson with the WCRP partners at the launch of the report

"The report also provides a sense of the issues that impact on women's lives today. There are still many issues that cause worry, fear and anxiety across our communities. This project recognised that each new era brings its own opportunities, concerns and challenges and sought to examine issues which concern women today, and in doing so to discover something of women's hope for the future," added Minister Donaldson.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW RURAL NETWORK

Rural Development Minister Michelle Gildernew MP, MLA has announced the establishment of a Rural Network to assist in the delivery of the NI Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013. The NIRDP is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The contract has been awarded to the Rural Development Council (RDC), who will manage the Network on behalf of the Agri Rural Forum, a consortium of key stakeholders in the rural development sector.

The Minister said: "I am delighted to announce this new dedicated rural network which will provide a range of services and support for those involved in the delivery of the NI Rural Development Programme. The Network will be able to draw on the experience of all of the members of the Agri Rural Forum and ensure there is an exchange of expertise between everyone involved in the NIRDP". The Rural Network will help to identify and share good practice, lessons learned and experience gained in delivery of rural development programmes. It will also provide training for those delivering the NIRDP and will work with Local Action Groups to promote and assist the development of co-operation projects.

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 was approved by the European Commission in July 2007. The programme is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and is worth £540m. The programme comprises fourteen measures which support:

- Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors;
- Improving the environment and the countryside; and
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.

Further details of the programme can be found at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/rural-development/nirdp2007-2013.htm>

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

CHAIR OF NEW CHARITY NORTHERN IRELAND

Age Concern Northern Ireland and Help the Aged plan to create a new charity in the spring of 2009 that will provide a united strong voice for older people in Northern Ireland. It will be a major influencer on older people's issues and will have substantial impact on services in the 21st century. They intend to appoint a visionary Chair to lead this new charity through its transition stage and into the future. Could that be you?

For further information contact:
Age Concern Northern Ireland
3 Lower Crescent
Belfast
BT7 1NR
Tel: (028) 90 24 57 29
Email: info@ageconcernni.org
Web: www.ageconcernni.org



CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Are you interested in helping to support and develop home based childcare?

NICMA – the Childminding Association is a regional charity and membership organisation whose mission is to support and develop quality home based childminding services.

NICMA has recently undertaken a review of their governance structure and wish to appoint new Board members in order to meet the demands of their expanding remit. Trustees are needed to help shape future strategy and achieve all missions.

NICMA welcomes expressions of interest from those in a variety of backgrounds, who may have skills in finance, fundraising, marketing, campaigning or Charity Law. The trustee role is unpaid but travel and expenses will be re-imbursed.

If you would like to help NICMA achieve its mission and have a little time and a lot of interest please request a Trustee Information Pack from **Valerie Earney** on **0871 200 2063** or email valerie.earney@nicma.org

Closing date for return of expression of interest forms is **24 October 2008**

For further information contact:

NICMA – the Childminding Association
16-18 Mill Street,
NEWTOWNARDS
BT23 4LU
Tel: **0871 200 2063**
Web: www.nicma.org



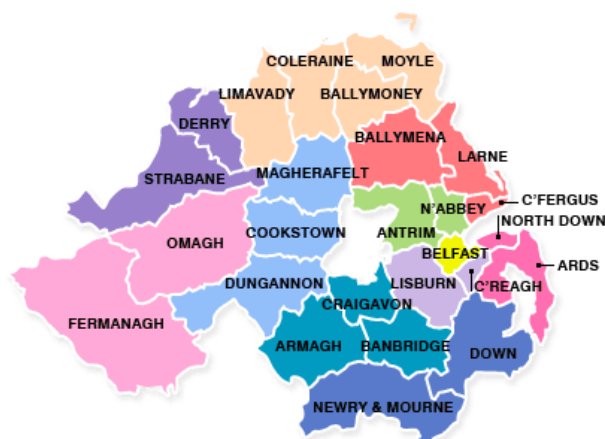
NEW COUNCIL BOUNDARIES OUTLINED

The boundaries and names of Northern Ireland's proposed new local government districts have been unveiled. There will be one councillor per ward. Belfast will have 60 wards and all other council areas will have 40. In general, where two councils are grouped together, such as Antrim and Newtownabbey, the names will be amalgamated. Where there are more than two, new district council names will appear like Causeway Coast, Mid-Antrim and Mid-Ulster. The number of councils has fallen from 26 to 11.

The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner Dick MacKenzie said he had not taken political considerations into account and had not spoken to any politicians. "The publication of my report is the first stage of a process which is designed to establish the district and ward boundaries for a completely new configuration of local government in Northern Ireland," he said. "The proposed boundaries of the districts are based on the amalgamation of the existing councils, with the exception of Belfast for which I am recommending a revised boundary to reflect the expansion of the city over the years."

FULL LIST OF COUNCILS

- ◆ Belfast City Council
- ◆ Derry City and Strabane District Council
- ◆ Armagh City and Bann District Council
- ◆ Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council
- ◆ Newry City and Down District Council
- ◆ Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council
- ◆ Ards and North Down District Council
- ◆ Causeway Coast District Council
- ◆ Fermanagh and Omagh District council
- ◆ Mid-Antrim District Council
- ◆ Mid-Ulster District Council



SOURCE: NI Review of Public Administration 2005

There will be a period for the submission of written comments followed by 11 public hearings until the end of November. It is up to the Northern Ireland Assembly to give its final approval.

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