

**Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland  
Annual Report 2006 - 2007**



*Working to  
end violence  
against women*

Published by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

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**24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline: 0800 917 1414**

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**Annual report, 2006–2007**

**Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland  
2007**

## *Our Vision*

**Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland's vision for the 21st century is the elimination of domestic violence.**

## *Our Mission*

**Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs which perpetuate domestic violence. We seek through our work to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.**

## *Our goal*

**Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland strives to welcome and support all women and children, including those with disabilities and those without, women from minority communities, different cultures, races, languages and sexual orientations and from a wide age range.**





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## Violence Against Women



## A Human Rights Issue

### Chairperson's Report

Women's Aid has worked to end domestic violence and all forms of violence against women since its birth. This year our annual conference Violence Against Women – facing the facts focused on violence against women as a human rights issue, both locally and globally, linking the manifestations of violence against women from domestic violence to trafficking and prostitution. Our keynote speaker Lesley Ann Foster from South Africa was inspirational.

In May we undertook an external trawl to recruit fresh volunteer Directors onto the Women's Aid Federation NI Management Board which was a huge success, with six members joining the Board with expertise in law, health, finance, human resources and local group experience.

Thanks are due to the volunteer spirit which brings the Board regularly together early on Saturday mornings for meetings!

In common with other voluntary organisations this last period of direct rule was overshadowed by funding issues. The decision to close our Support Services office in Cookstown in August 2006 due to the ending of its funding stream was a tough choice. At the end of this period we also had to make the painful but unavoidable decision to make three valuable members of staff redundant. Our thanks are due to Lorna Dougherty, Anne Graham and Eithne Gilligan for their invaluable years of service.

Our strategic planning process was held in November albeit against the background of the uncertain parameters of the Review of Public Administration.

We are determined to ensure sustainability for Women's Aid work across Northern Ireland in future years and work on this is now ongoing.

Grateful thanks are due to our funders who supported our work throughout the year; a full list appears on page 38.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Annie Campbell whose skilful handling during her first year as Director helped steer us through a difficult period and out into open water again.

director's  
report



**'Stories behind  
the statistics  
inspire...'**

**Tackling  
Violence  
at Home-  
Partnership in  
Action**

## **Director's report**

The essential work of Women's Aid continued throughout this year with our 10 local autonomous women's aid groups providing shelter, solace, support and advice to women and children embroiled in the nightmare of domestic violence.

The stories behind the statistics come alive for us in Women's Aid Federation and inspire us to continue to work to support local groups, through our role in providing training; information; policy development, regional representation and management support.

We welcome the continued development of partnership work through the government's 'Tackling Violence at Home' strategy and ensure we make full use of our places on the variety of committees to bring our expertise to the shared task.

In the second full year of the operation of the freephone the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is thriving under the valued Service Level Agreement.

A snapshot of our work includes the launch of a Joint Working Protocol with Victim Support; our successful court support training; support to local groups working through the Supporting People Quality Assurance Framework and in a climate of ever-changing employment law phase one of a full overhaul of all our internal policies completed.

In May we testified on trafficking to the Joint Committee on Human Rights at Westminster based on our report Crossing Borders, which was the first piece of preliminary research into trafficking in Northern Ireland. In December we helped launch the first Making the Grade report assessing the governments work on Violence Against Women.

Thanks are due to all our excellent staff and our committed volunteers.

Thanks also to the leadership, professionalism and support of the Management Board, particularly our dedicated Chairperson Elsie Jordan, who kept the focus on our ethos and aim in a difficult funding environment.

Our aim is to eliminate domestic violence and until that happens Women's Aid will be here, and will continue with our work.

domestic  
violence  
is a  
crime



**PSNI attend an incident every 22 minutes**



**20% of all attempted murders in NI in 06/07 had a domestic motivation**

### **Crime statistics in context**

PSNI's statistics show that there are four times as many domestic related crimes as drug offences; nearly three times as many domestic related crimes as there were car thefts and more domestic crimes than domestic burglaries.

### **Women's Aid's work**

Women's Aid provides training to the PSNI on domestic violence and related issues. Given that domestic violence is such a prevalent crime, quality training is essential to a well informed police service which can respond effectively to women experiencing abuse.

### **Court Watch**

This year a need was identified to survey women's experiences of the court process in an effort to identify problems, difficulties and barriers that women have experienced and to support women through the courts.

A questionnaire was drafted which asked questions about court facilities, court staff, practicalities of court attendance, timing, legal representation, support accompaniment, general support and outcomes of court attendance.

In total 430 questionnaires were fully completed. Women's Aid is currently in the process of compiling the statistical analysis into a research report for publication.

### **Court Support Training**

#### **OCN Level III**

This year saw the introduction of an OCN Level Three Court Support Training program which was developed by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. This course is for Women's Aid workers and volunteers who have a role in supporting women through the court process. It is a six week course with input from the Courts, PSNI, Solicitors and Social Services.

The aim of the course is to equip Women's Aid staff to support women experiencing domestic violence through the court process. They have a duty to assess and explore with the women her fears and needs for protection and support.

domestic  
violence  
is a  
health  
issue



**Domestic violence victims are 4 times more likely to be suicidal**

**One third of women experience abuse during pregnancy**

### **Deaths**

It is estimated that more than 2 women die in the UK every week as result of domestic violence, not including indirect deaths such as suicides which are consequences of abuse.

### **Physical Injuries**

The World Health Organisation indicates that domestic violence is one of the most significant causes of injury in women including permanent disability, chronic pain, seizures resulting from head injury or partial strangulation and eye damage.

### **Gynaecological problems**

Abused women are 3 times more likely to experience problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, bleeding and infections, and pain during intercourse and it is likely that the increased number of gynaecological problems is linked to forced sex.

### **Pregnancy**

Domestic abuse during pregnancy doubles miscarriage risk, and has been associated with stillbirth, late entry into prenatal care, premature birth, foetal injury (including broken bones and stab wounds) and foetal and maternal death.

### **Depression**

Victims are 4 times more likely to be depressed than women in general, with severity and duration of depression being closely linked with prevalence and severity of violence.

### **Suicidality**

Prevalence rates for suicidal thoughts/attempts amongst abused women were 18% across 13 studies. Victims were 4 times more likely to be suicidal than women in general.

### **Women's Aid's work**

Women's Aid Federation has continued to support the roll out of routine enquiry, instrumental in supporting pregnant women who are being abused, across maternity units in Northern Ireland.

The Helpline has consolidated its links with health and wellbeing agencies who can support women experiencing abuse.

domestic  
violence  
costs



**Domestic violence costs £180 million in Northern Ireland every year**

The Cost of Domestic Violence (Walby, 2004) confirms what Women’s Aid has argued for many years – that the price being paid for violent and abusive behaviour at home is not only too high for women but for society as a whole. The research, commissioned by the Women’s Equality Unit, estimates that the total cost of domestic violence in England and Wales is a staggering £23 billion per year, with human and emotional suffering costing at least £17 billion. Further, it is estimated that time off due to domestic violence costs employers and workers £3 billion.

#### **The financial cost in Northern Ireland**

There has been no similar research conducted in Northern Ireland. However, *Tackling Violence at Home*, gives an estimate of the annual costs in Northern Ireland by extrapolating the research figures for England and Wales on a pro-rata basis. Thus “it is estimated that the direct costs of services (ie for police, criminal justice system, health and social services care, housing, civil legal cases and legal aid) plus the loss of economic output in Northern Ireland due to domestic violence, could amount to about £180 million each year. A similar estimate for the “intangible costs” associated with pain and suffering of victims could amount to some £500 million each year.”

For over 30 years Women’s Aid in Northern Ireland has learnt of the physical, emotional and psychological cost of violence from individual women and these figures provides graphic details of the cost to our whole society. Such costs are a direct consequence of inadequate measures to prevent domestic violence occurring in the first place.

This research demonstrates that it costs more to ignore the reality of domestic violence than it would to put resources into preventing it from happening. Women’s Aid believes that resources directed towards prevention, particularly in schools, will help achieve the goal of eradicating domestic violence.

domestic  
violence  
affects  
women





**1,104 women  
stayed in  
Women's Aid  
refuges this year**

**Over 30%  
of all abuse  
starts during  
pregnancy**

A World Health Organisation review of 48 international population-based surveys found prevalence rates for women, experiencing domestic violence at some point during their lifetime, ranged from 10% to 69% (WHO 2002).

The British Crime Survey (BCS) in 2001 indicated that 1 in 5 women had experienced domestic violence. This is a lower level of victimisation than previously reported in the BCS in 1996. However, the 2001 survey excludes sexual assaults (although 40% of all those reporting domestic violence had also been sexually assaulted). Subsequent inclusion of financial and emotional abuse returns the figure to 1996 level of prevalence of 1 in 4.

It is worth noting that crime surveys have proved unable, in the main, to reach black and ethnic minority communities, migrants and older women. Higher disclosure rates are reported for these groups of women when more sensitive survey methods are used. (Burnish, 2006).

In Northern Ireland, the PSNI's most recent figures show that the police attend a domestic incident every 22 minutes. Further, the PSNI statistics show that one in five attempted murders have a domestic motivation and approximately one third of all aggravated assaults.

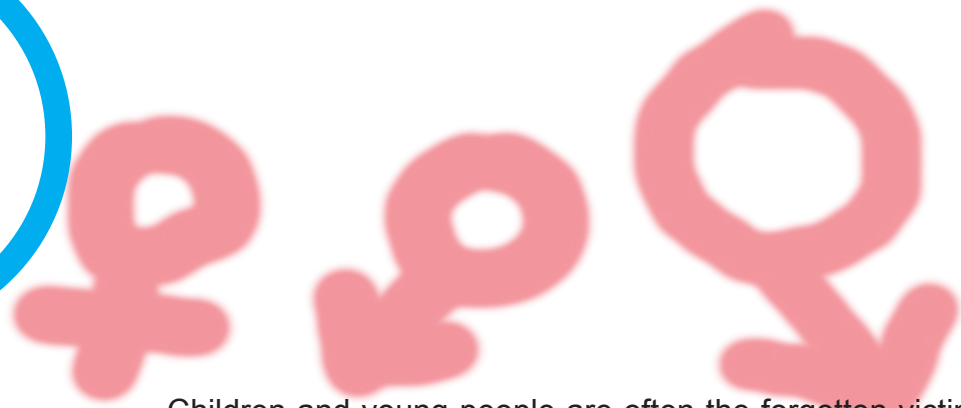
### **Women's Aid's work**

Women's Aid Federation continues to support the work of autonomous Women's Aid groups across Northern Ireland.

The growth of outreach service offered by local groups has been significant and the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline has noted that an increasing number of women are being referred to these services which our ten local groups run throughout Northern Ireland.

domestic  
violence  
affects  
children

**An estimated  
32,000  
children live  
with domestic  
violence in NI**



Children and young people are often the forgotten victims of domestic violence. UNICEF research, released earlier this year showing per capita incidence, indicates that there are up to 32,000 children and young people living with domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

Women's Aid recognises the importance of supporting children and young people. Refuges and resource centres, operated by autonomous Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland, provide access to fully equipped play rooms, dedicated child support staff and therapeutic work to encourage the child or young person to speak out about their feelings and wishes.

Women's Aid Federation provides training and support to ensure that an understanding of children's experience of domestic violence is central to the work of Women's Aid.

**902 children  
stayed in  
Women's Aid  
refuges this year**

#### **Women's Aid's work**

Women's Aid Federation ensures that the needs of children affected by domestic violence are well represented in the children services planning processes of Health and Social Services Boards. All Board Areas now have groups focussing on children and young people affected by domestic violence. Women's Aid's representation on these groups is prominent and effective.

Through consultation with local Women's Aid groups we assure that children's issues are high on every agenda and government strategy. We will continue to lobby for the children and young people of Northern Ireland who are affected by domestic violence.

This year also saw the development and piloting of a new programme aimed at mothers. 'You and Me, Mum' is a ten week programme for mothers supporting children and young people who have lived with domestic violence.

**Less than 3% of child contact  
applications were refused in court this  
year**

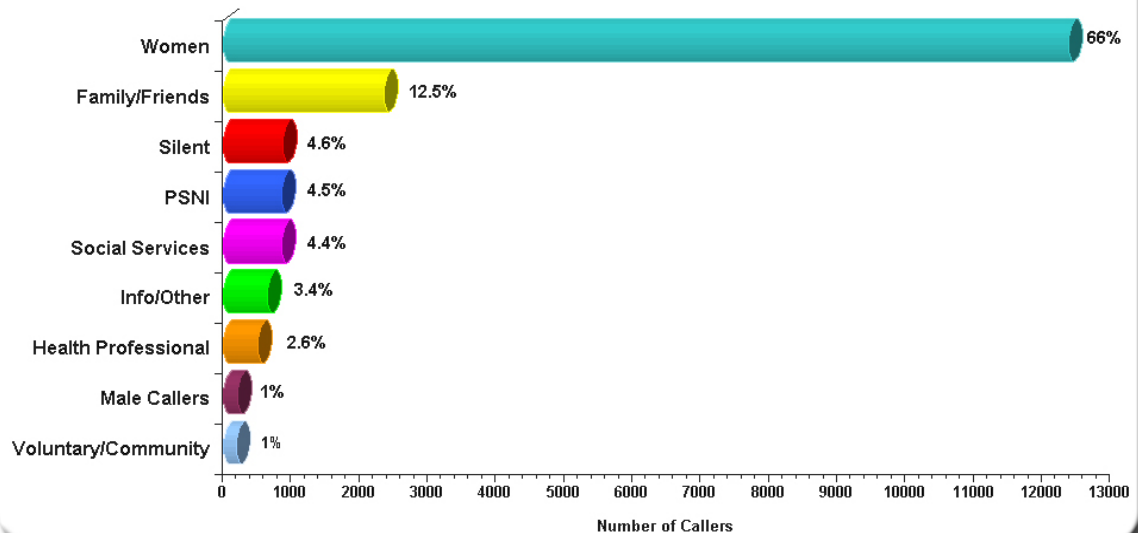
the  
year in  
statistics

**The 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline managed 22,620 calls between April 2006 and March 2007**

### 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline

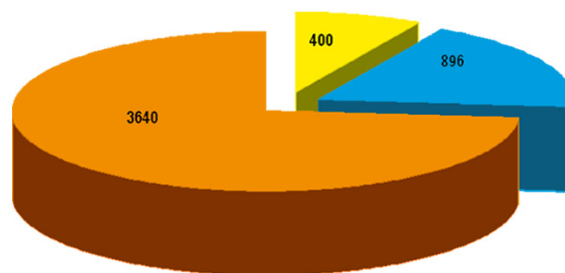
The majority of callers to the Helpline are women . The Helpline also supports concerned friends and family. A broad range of Statutory agencies contact the Helpline and are provided with relevant information e.g. PSNI attending domestic violence incidents often liaise with Helpline staff to arrange refuge accommodation for women and children.

**Breakdown of Callers to the Helpline April 06 - March 07**



### Referrals to Women’s Aid Services

- 3640 Callers were given information on Floating Support services
- 400 Women were referred to refuge
- 896 Children were referred to refuge



### Referrals

This chart shows the number of women and children referred on to Women’s Aid services. The highest number of referrals are to the Floating Support service which enable women to access support while still being able to remain in their home .

We also sign post male callers experiencing domestic violence to a variety of support agencies eg, MAP, Men to Men, Men’s Action Network, The Tara Counselling Centre and The Aisling Centre.

Between April 2006 and March 2007

**1104** women

**902** children

stayed in Women's Aid refuges

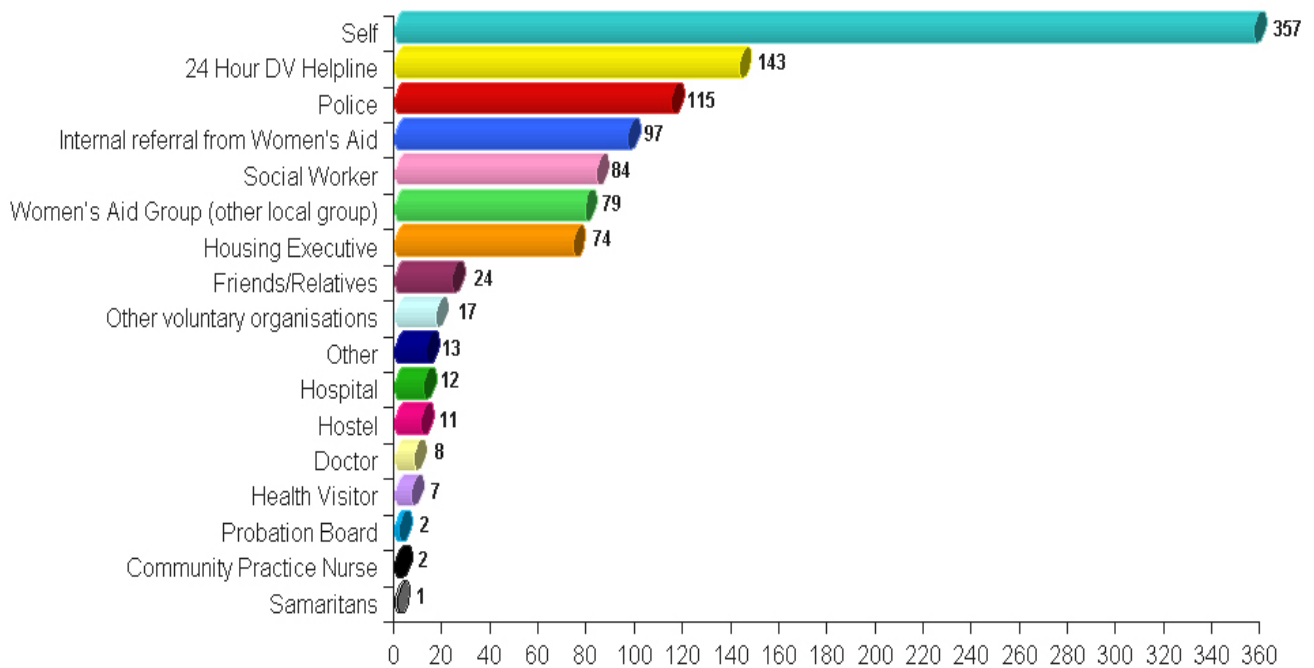
Statistics can never give the full picture of what is happening to women and children living with the pain and misery of domestic violence.

We know from the increases in first time callers to the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline that coincide with each advertising campaign that there are still women who

have not accessed the help and support that Women's Aid can offer.

However, statistics can give a snapshot of the work of Women's Aid Federation and the ten autonomous groups that span Northern Ireland.

**Source of Referrals to Refuge**



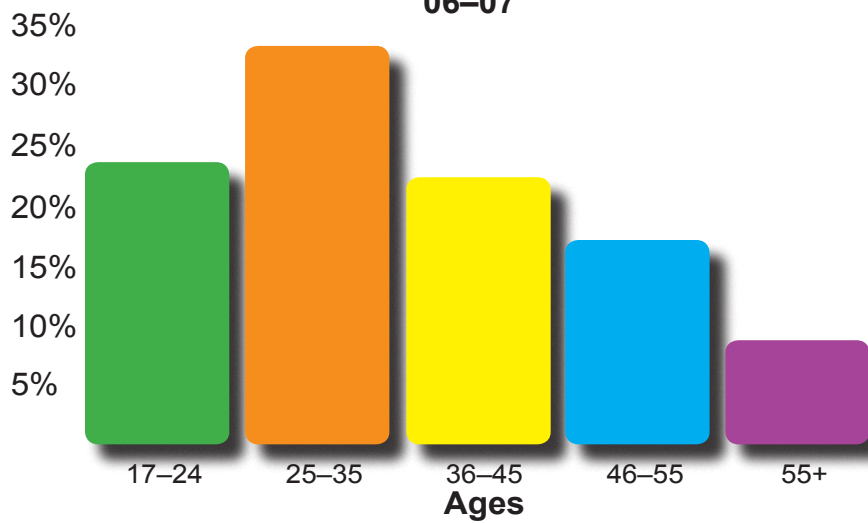
### Age range

The spread of women's ages is illustrated on the following page. The most predominant age group is the 25–35 year olds, accounting for almost a third of all women staying this year, and the 17–24 year olds at 23%. This is closely followed by the 36–45 year olds (22%), then the 46–55 grouping (16%) and women aged over 56 at 7%.

Some research indicates that youth is a risk factor in experiencing domestic violence. (Walby and Allen, 2004). However, it should also be noted that younger women are more willing to disclose. (Bunge and Locke, 2000).



**Age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges  
06-07**



**Women from Minority Communities**



- 40 Women who do not speak English as a first language
- 43 Women from the Travelling Community
- 91 Women with a disability

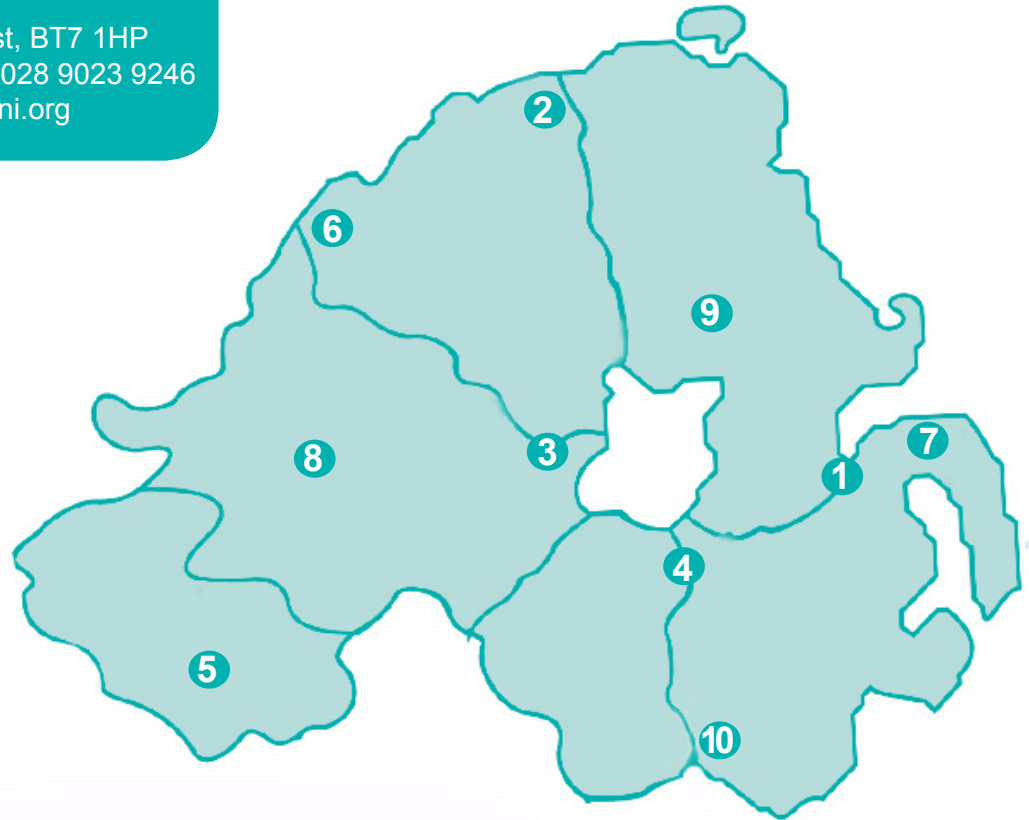
**Diversity**

The increasing diversity of Northern Ireland's population is reflected in the increased number of women using our services who did not speak English as a first language. To address this issue we have translated our services information leaflets into nine different languages and our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline has both translation and textphone services. The number of women coming into refuge who disclosed having a disability has increased by almost 45% this year.

domestic  
violence:  
women's  
aid local  
groups

**Women's Aid Federation  
Northern Ireland**

129 University St, Belfast, BT7 1HP  
tel: 028 9024 9041, fax: 028 9023 9246  
email: info@womensaidni.org



**1. Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid**

30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY  
tel: 028 9066 6049, fax: 028 90682874  
email: admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk

**3. Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid**

61 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, BT80 8PA  
tel: 028 8676 9300, fax: 028 8676 9300  
email: womensaidcookstown@hotmail.com

**5. Fermanagh Women's Aid**

27a High Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7EH  
tel: 028 6632 8898, fax: 028 6632 8859  
email: womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com

**7. North Down & Ards Women's Aid**

18 Bingham Street, Bangor, BT20 5DW  
tel: 028 9127 3196, fax: 028 9145 5245  
email: ndawomensaid@hotmail.com

**9. Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena,  
Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey.**

2 Cullybackey Rd, Ballymena, BT43 5BS  
tel: 028 2563 2136, fax: 028 2565 3304  
email: womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com

**2. Causeway Women's Aid**

23 Abbey Street, Coleraine, BT52 1DU  
tel: 028 7035 6573, fax: 028 7032 6949  
email: womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com

**4. Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid**

Horizon House, 198 Union Street, Lurgan, BT66 8EQ  
tel: 028 3834 3256, fax: 028 3832 2277  
email: info@craigavonbanbridgewomensaid.org.uk

**6. Foyle Women's Aid**

Pathways, 24 Pump Street, L'Derry, BT48 6JG  
tel: 028 7128 0060, fax: 028 7128 0061  
email: admin@foylewomensaid.org

**8. Omagh Women's Aid**

27 Market Street, Omagh, BT78 1EL  
tel: 028 8224 1414, fax: 028 8224 1414  
email: fiona@omaghwomensaid.org

**10. Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South  
Down & South Armagh**

7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road, BT34 1DZ  
tel: 028 3025 0765, fax: 028 3026 9606  
email: newrywomensaid@btconnect.com

**24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414**

Each  
autonomous  
group has its  
own full report



Throughout this  
year 493 women  
were engaged in  
Floating Support  
services at  
Belfast & Lisburn  
Women's Aid

## Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

### New Refuge

In May 2006 the new purpose built high standard refuge in South Belfast, costing £1.4 million, was officially opened by the Honourable Mr Justice Gillen, Family Court Judge, and Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner of the NI Human Rights Commission.

### Floating Support

The Floating Support Service is providing a lifeline of support to women, while also helping them to remain safely in their homes with 1-1 support and access to personal development and domestic violence programmes. The team was increased to respond to demand.

### One Stop Shop

A One Stop Shop was established in January 2007 in the Resource Centre at Adelaide Park. It provides women with access to information and advice on a range of domestic violence issues from a number of agencies and is staffed by Women's Aid, solicitors, the PSNI, advice agencies, and the NI Housing Executive.

### Children and Young People's Programmes

Children and Young People's Programmes focus on the needs of young people through the provision of parallel personal development preventative and support programmes through activities on a 1-1 and group basis. This work benefits mums and their children by enabling them to talk and get support about their experience.

## Causeway Women's Aid

### Preventative Education Programme

The pilot Preventative Education Programme, delivered in local schools, was well received to the extent that successful funding was obtained from the Big Lottery to employ two new members of staff to deliver the programme on a full time basis to schools across the Causeway Area.



**66 women  
accessed  
Causeway  
Women's Aid  
Floating Support**

**49 women  
accessed  
Cookstown &  
Dungannon  
Women's Aid  
Floating Support  
services this year**

### **Creche**

After a period with no creche provision funding was secured from the NHSSB to employ three part time crèche workers. The crèche is now available daily in the Women's Centre, Coleraine which greatly supports the services delivered to women by other staff in the centre.

### **Supporting People**

After considerable work and time on the part of administration staff accreditation for Supporting People was achieved.

This year has seen staff at both Centre & Refuge expend a considerable amount of time on the preparation for the Supporting People service review including the preparation of Desktop Folio's. The validation visit took place in March but no decision on review had been received by end of tax year.

### **Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid**

#### **New Resource Centre**

Our current services have outgrown the facilities and the need for a new Resource Centre has become even more pressing. Thanks to funding from the Henry Smith Charity, we can look forward to moving to new premises by the end of 2007.

#### **Programme Delivery**

This year our new Floating Support Worker began delivering and facilitating the group work programme for women who have survived domestic violence. We also started delivering the Helping Hands programme to primary school children.

#### **Pilot Programme**

This year our Community Based Childworker devised and developed a pilot programme to give additional support to children. The programme was a great success with the children and feedback from parents was very encouraging.

#### **Accommodation**

In this year emergency refuge accommodation was provided to 41 women and 44 children of various nationalities including Polish, Brazilian, Latvian, Indian, and Portuguese. The women came from several Trust areas including Armagh/Dungannon,

**Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid accommodated 92 women & 37 children in their refuge this year**



Sperrin/Lakeland and Homefirst.

## **Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid**

### **Community Based Service Provision**

The Community Based Service provision is still growing and peaked to its highest in terms of the different types of provision offered. This includes Outreach, Drop - Ins( 3 venues), Court Service, Counselling ( 4 venues), and Programmes.

### **Strategic Plan**

Towards the end of this year we embarked on a new strategic plan development for the years ahead 2007/9 with the theme Safer Women - For a Change, Safer Children - For a change, Safer Families - For a Change, Safer Lives - For a Change, Safer Homes - For a Change.....Safe as Houses!

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

This year saw the first real ongoing experience of providing safe accommodation to women with no recourse to public funds with all the challenges that involves. External support was received from the Law Centre NI to help address those challenges to the agencies involved.

### **Challenges Ahead**

The year end also presented a lot of challenges with funding streams drying up across the sector. The challenge is how to continue to improve services whilst securing and maintaining sustainable funding levels. Projections for future demand for the services are high.

## **Fermanagh Women's Aid**

### **Prevention Work**

The essential prevention work which has been built up in schools has increased due to demand; programmes have been delivered in 12 schools delivered to 792 children. Training for 86 teachers has also taken place.

### **Education Programmes**

For the women an innovative education programme is continuing consisting of creative writing and art; both these



This year 380 women accessed Fermanagh Women's Aid Floating Support services



365 women were supported through Foyle Women's Aid Floating Support services & 200 women were accompanied to court

courses have been very successful with 30 women attending. We have also trained 405 professionals this year.

### **Homework Help**

For the children a 'Homework Help' programme has been developed and a speech and drama programme. Both programmes are led by teachers who volunteer; 20 children have taken part in these rewarding programmes over this period.

### **Art Auction**

In September building on strong local community connections a very successful Art Auction was held raising over £8000 to help take forward all of the essential work.

## **Foyle Women's Aid**

### **Supporting People Inspection**

This was a key activity last year and a lot of work went on before the inspection, reviewing forms, practices and services to ensure accreditation. This ensures a quality standard of services and practices for all of the service users.

### **Childcare Services**

After continued fundraising by the administration team, building renovations were started to provide appropriate and purpose build space to work with children and young people. This work includes running programmes and the much needed intervention which children and young people experiencing domestic violence require. A new childcare Co-ordinator has been appointed to lead this very important service.

### **Avert**

Avert, the social economy training section has been busy over this period providing training in domestic violence and community safety issues to a wide range of organisations.

### **"Broken Toys Shattered Lives"**

The play "Broken Toys Shattered Lives", produced in partnership with the Playhouse is now being further developed to DVD by the Nerve Centre and will be launched at the Foyle Film Festival.



During this year  
154 women  
accessed Newry  
Women's Aid  
Floating Support  
services



## Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh

### Prevention Programmes

The delivery of prevention programmes to primary and post primary schools was very successful and received a wonderful evaluation of excellence from participants. In total 275 primary school students and 400 post primary students took part in these programmes which were funded by the local Community Safety Partnership.

### Quality Assurance Framework

The Quality Assurance Framework for all core services which have been developed and implemented for a number of years was successfully achieved this year with the QAF service review by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

### Awards

The conference "Violence against Women Knows No Borders" was selected for a special cross-border award by the Daily Ireland Newspaper. Further acknowledgement was received from Newry and Mourne District Council for a local recognition due to the success in the Daily Ireland award ceremony.

### Fundraising

Fundraising continued to be a significant element of work during the year. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to exceed the £30,000 target. The local businesses and community were extremely supportive at responding to our campaign and as a result an overall total of £52,818 was raised to continue the invaluable work.

## North Down & Ards Women's Aid

### Training in the Community

A new development this year has been the involvement in providing domestic violence awareness training to midwives and health visitors in the Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust. This supports their new initiative of Routine Inquiry for women



**94 women  
accessed North  
Down & Ards  
Floating Support  
services this year**

**36 women  
accessed Omagh  
Women's Aid  
Floating Support  
services this year**

attending anti-post natal appointments which is being rolled out regionally.

### **Helping Hands**

This programme was initiated by a request from women who felt their older children benefited from Transformers and were looking for support for their young children. Based on the principles of Helping Hands the programme supported children aged 4-7 with their mothers in attendance.

### **Floating Support**

Outreach work with women in the community continues to grow in demand and delivery. This year 94 women accessed the Floating Support programme with a further 34 women waiting for an available place. To help meet this demand it was necessary to employ an additional part time member of staff.

### **Preventative Work in Schools**

By working with pastoral teams in the Senior Schools there has been an increase in one-to-one work for the young people. This has to be seen as a positive in that our programme of Healthy/ Unhealthy Relationships is obviously causing teenagers to reflect on their own relationships and access support.

## **Omagh Women's Aid**

### **Children's Services project**

Thanks to Big Lottery funding, Omagh Women's Aid launched its Children's Services project. Providing support work in refuge, the project also undertakes preventative work with children and young people in schools and other settings.

### **You and Me, Mum**

Our staff and volunteers were involved in creating, developing and piloting *You and Me, Mum*, an exciting new programme to support mothers in working with their children about their domestic violence experiences.

### **Inter-agency work**

The local inter-agency worker helped develop a screening



**Women's Aid  
in A, B, C, L & N  
supported 503  
women and 493  
children through  
Floating Support  
services**

tool for pregnant women, This was supported by seminars held for GPs and health workers highlighting domestic violence and the risks for pregnant women and unborn children.

### **Court Survey**

In conjunction with sister organisations, Omagh Women's Aid surveyed women at the family courts on their experiences. The project was supported by NI Courts Service and the results will be useful for all those involved in the family court system.

### **Women's Aid Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey**

#### **MARAC**

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences evaluation was completed and the pilot project was extended pending further decisions for a regional roll out.

#### **Childcare Co-ordinator**

Secured Funding for Childcare Co-ordinator from NHSSB to implement Childcare Strategy – “from prevention to intervention”

#### **Elder Abuse**

Developed “Older but no safer” initiative in conjunction with Action on Elder Abuse. Focusing on older victims, training was provided on the barriers and restrictions for older victims in recognising and addressing abuse within their homes.

#### **Perpetrator programmes**

Secured funding from Homefirst Domestic Violence Partnership funded a briefing paper on perpetrator programmes. It is hoped that this will influence the development and implementation of good practice regionally in relation to these programmes.

domestic  
violence  
requires  
funding



Please note that the accounts that follow are an extract from the original document. A copy of the full accounts is available upon request by calling 028 9024 9041 or emailing [info@womensaidni.org](mailto:info@womensaidni.org)

**Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd  
(Company Limited By Guarantee)**

**Extract from the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31  
March 2007**

**Company Information**

<b>Management Board</b>	Elsie Jordan (Chair) Anne McMahan (Secretary) Christine Whiteman (Treasurer) Donna Coyle Margaret McMurrin Debbie Coyle Kim Harvey Margaret Kennedy Lorna McAlpine Ursula Marshall Laura McMahan
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne McMahan
<b>Auditors</b>	Lynn, Drake & Co Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 40 Main Street Moira BT67 0LQ
<b>Bankers</b>	First Trust Bank Donegall Square North Belfast
<b>Solicitors</b>	Flynn & McGettrick 26 Arthur Street Belfast
<b>Registered Office</b>	129 University Street Belfast BT7 1HP
<b>Charity Number</b>	XN 45049
<b>Registration Number</b>	NI 021741
<b>Governing Document</b>	Memorandum and Articles of Association
<b>Legal Status</b>	Company Limited by Guarantee



## **Report Of Management Board**

The Management Board (Board of Directors) presents their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2007.

### **Objects of the Charity**

The aims of NIWAF (which has ten member groups throughout Northern Ireland) have been encapsulated in the following mission statement:

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence. We seek, through our work, to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

#### **The following are key aims of NIWAF:**

- 1 To educate and inform others of the social context of domestic violence, in particular the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate abuse.
- 2 To support and promote the core aims of Women's Aid, which are:
  - To provide temporary refuge to women and their children affected by mental, physical or sexual abuse within the home.
  - To encourage the woman to take control of her own future, whether this involves returning home or beginning an independent life.
  - To recognize and care for the emotional needs of the children involved.
  - To offer support and advice to any woman who asks for it.
  - To encourage the promotion of a self-help ethos to achieve effective and equitable working relationships.
- 3 To monitor and evaluate the work to be inclusive and accountable to all communities of interest.

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, together with its member groups, are the lead voluntary agency challenging domestic violence. The charity strives to create a safe and supportive society for women, children and young people affected by domestic violence.

### **Decision Making Structures**

The governing body of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, the Management Board, is largely drawn from membership of affiliated groups. The Management Board are responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversee the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of the activities are carried out by a staff team, lead by the Director and Management Team, who also report regularly to the Board.

### **Identified Risks**

Uncertain and short term funding continues to make future planning extremely difficult. We will continue to negotiate with government departments to extend their commitment to ensure that our core work



can effectively continue and secure the sustainability of all our projects. Some projects continue to be at risk with short-term funding.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers play a key role in all the services of Women's Aid. Our Helpline could not be maintained without the vital support of our volunteers. The Management Board members (Directors) also volunteer their time freely to attend regular monthly Board meetings, sub groups and offer ongoing support to the organisation.

### **Review of the transactions and financial position of NIWAF**

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland funds have mainly been applied to the objects specified by each project's funders. It is policy to meet all restricted fund deficits by transfers from the accumulated unrestricted funds.

The Statement of Financial Activities, indicates that the organisation had incoming resources of £697,776 in the year which was exceeded by resources expended of £844,493 by £146,717 and this amount has been transferred from the organisation's accumulated funds.

The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2007 shows a net Accumulated Funds balance at that date of £283,653.

No significant events have occurred since that date of the Balance Sheet which affect the organisation or which materially affect these financial statements.

### **Fixed Assets**

Additions to fixed assets are per note 11 of the Accounts.

### **Management Board (Board of Directors)**

The following persons were members of the Management Board at some time during the year to 31 March 2007: -

Maggie Bryson	Donna Coyle	Ursula Marshall
Elsie Jordan	Angela McGuckin	Margaret McMurrin
Anne McMahan	Julie Waters	Debbie Coyle
Christine Whiteman	Kim Harvey	Margaret Kennedy
Lorna McAlpine	Laura McMahan	

The Management Board in each year shall consist of one member nominated by each affiliated group. If a Group has no-one able to serve, its committee may ask a second member of another group to act on their behalf. In the event that there are insufficient nominations and/or an identified skills deficit, the Management Board will seek co-options.

### **Management Board Responsibilities**

Company Law requires the Management Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Directors are required to: -

select suitable policies and apply them consistently;  
make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;  
prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Management Board are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Reserves Policy**

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to six months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

### **Charitable Status**

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd enjoys charitable status by the authority of the Inland Revenue under reference XN 45049.

### **Members**

The members of the company at 31 March 2007 were as follows: -

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid  
Foyle Women's Aid  
Causeway Women's Aid  
Newry & Mourne Women's Aid  
Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid  
North Down & Ards Women's Aid  
Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid  
Omagh Women's Aid  
Fermanagh Women's Aid  
Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

### **Auditors**

In accordance with Article 392(1) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, a resolution proposing the re-appointment of Lynn, Drake & Co as auditors to the Company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Management Board



**Anne McMahon**  
Secretary

**11 August 2007**

**Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd**  
**(Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2007**

*all amounts are in pounds sterling*

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2007	Total Funds 2006
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objectives:</b>					
Grants Receivable	1,002	—	633,052	634,054	656,844
Income from charitable activities	56,080	—	—	56,080	56,776
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b>					
Interest receivable	7,642	—	—	7,642	8,012
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>64,724</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>633,052</b>	<b>697,776</b>	<b>721,632</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
<b>Costs of generating funds:</b>	16,213	—	—	16,213	15,271
<b>Charitable Expenditure:</b>					
Costs in furtherance of charitable objectives	4,150	—	792,565	796,715	701,297
Management and Administration of the Charity	11,267	—	20,298	31,565	28,204
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>31,630</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>812,863</b>	<b>844,493</b>	<b>744,772</b>
<b>Net (Outgoing)/</b>					
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Before Transfers	33,094	—	(179,811)	(146,717)	(23,140)
Transfer between Funds	(190,618)	—	190,618	—	—
<b>Net Incoming Resources for the Year</b>	<b>(157,524)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10,807</b>	<b>(146,717)</b>	<b>(23,140)</b>
<b>Funds Balance brought forward at 1 April 2006</b>	205,373	148,498	76,499	430,370	453,510
<b>Net Movement in Funds in Year to 31 March 2007</b>	(157,524)	—	10,807	(146,717)	(23,140)
<b>Fund Balance carried forward at 31 March 2007</b>	<b>47,849</b>	<b>148,498</b>	<b>87,306</b>	<b>283,653</b>	<b>430,370</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above.

**Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd**  
**(Company Limited By Guarantee)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2007**

*all amounts are in pounds sterling*

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	72,747	83,841
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors and Prepayments	59,775	73,113
Bank Accounts	179,270	300,385
Cash in Hand	103	393
	239,148	373,891
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	(28,242)	(24,989)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>210,906</b>	<b>348,902</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>283,653</b>	<b>432,743</b>
<b>Liabilities</b> – Amounts falling due after more than one year	—	—
	283,653	432,743
<b>Provisions and charges</b>		
Deferred Capital Grant Reserve	—	(2,373)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>283,653</b>	<b>430,370</b>
<b>Represented by: Accumulated Funds</b>		
Unrestricted – General	47,849	205,373
Unrestricted – Designated	148,498	148,498
Restricted	87,306	76,499
<b>Balance at 31 March 2007</b>	<b>283,653</b>	<b>430,370</b>

Approved by the Management Board on 11 August 2007 and signed on its behalf by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Elsie Jordan**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Christine Whiteman**

# Thank you



We would like to thank all the donors of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation for their ongoing support and acknowledgement of our work and for enabling the continuation of so many vital projects.

- Charities Aid Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Community Safety Unit
- Craigavon & Banbridge H&SS Trust
- Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
- Domestic Violence Unit
- Eastern Health & Social Services board
- Northern Ireland Office
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- Private Investors
- The Body Shop
- The Enkalon Foundation
- The Hilton in the Community Foundation
- Top Shop (Arcardia Group)
- Volunteers
- Individual Donors



**Thank you to  
all those who  
contributed  
anonymously  
throughout the  
year**

Source documents

*Domestic Violence; a literature review* by Mary Barnish, HM Inspectorate of Probation. Sept 2004  
*Statistical Report 06-07*. Published by the PSNI

*Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland respects the right to privacy and anonymity.  
While the images are representative of the women, children and young people who use our  
services, all photos used in this publication are posed by models.  
Mindful of the very real danger to women and children even after they have escaped abuse,  
names and ages have been changed in personal stories to protect identities.*

**The PSNI  
attend a  
domestic  
incident every  
22 minutes**

**Over 30%  
of all abuse  
starts during  
pregnancy**

**An estimated  
32,000  
children are  
living with  
domestic  
violence**

**More than  
1000 women  
stayed in  
refuges this  
year**

**The 24 Hour  
Domestic  
Violence  
Helpline  
handled  
22,620 calls**

**One quarter  
of all murder  
attempts this  
year were  
domestic**

**Over 900  
children  
stayed in  
refuges this  
year**

**women's aid**

Federation Northern Ireland