

April 2019



2018 – Mothers' Union held 17 events across the whole of Ireland to mark the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

From the MSH website: Members across **All Ireland** were extremely busy with talks, exhibitions, vigils, prayer walks and breakfasts. Members in Derry and Raphoe spoke to over 700 pupils across the area about their support for 16 Days. All Ireland President Phyllis Grothier highlighted the importance of the 16 Days of Activism. She said, "This campaign is at the core of what Mothers' Union is all about as we reach out to families who don't enjoy all that should be in a family relationship." "We seek to stand with people who are in trouble and let them know that we care, to let them know that there is another life out there"

Numerous letters were sent to local and national political representatives resulting in questions being asked in both the Oireachtas and Westminster

Generous donations to many women's refuges have demonstrated in a very practical way Mothers' Union's commitment to helping adult and child victims of domestic violence.

Let us continue to build on this momentum during 2019



#### **Ireland –**

8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Ireland ratified the Istanbul Convention and it will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

Director of Women's Aid, Margaret Martin said the Government must now step up fully to the commitments made in ratifying the convention. She said "the ratification of the Istanbul Convention is a major milestone in tackling domestic, sexual and gender based violence. At the heart of any progress there must be the increased safety and protection for women and children affected by domestic violence."

[www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)  
[www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie)

#### **United Kingdom –**

Signed up to the Convention in 2012 but have not yet ratified it. The draft Domestic Abuse Bill published in January 2019 is a major step towards ratification.

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)



**WOMEN'S AID**  
Making Women and Children Safe

**National Freephone Helpline**  
**1800 341 900**

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

24 HOUR

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

0808 802 1414

Open to all women and men affected by domestic & sexual violence

text support to 07797 805 839 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS  
ALLIANCE  
Uniting Voices For Children



The Children's Rights Alliance and the Irish Times are collaborating on a new initiative, No Child 2020, inspired by the Democratic Programme issued by the First Dáil a century ago.

"It shall be the first duty of the Government of the Republic to... secure that NO CHILD shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as Citizens..."

A hundred years on, the first Dáil's "no child" pledge remains unfulfilled. About one tenth – 105,000 – of Ireland's children grows up in consistent poverty. That means they live in a household with a very low income and go without basics such as heat or nutritious food.

Government has a key role in reducing child poverty, but its eradication will require a broad effort involving all of society.

Poverty isn't inevitable and there are solutions. Our Government and decision-makers are being asked to act upon five key goals:

- 1. Food:** Every child will have a hot nutritious meal every day
- 2. Health:** Every child will have access to basic healthcare when they need it
- 3. Participation:** Every child will have the opportunity to take part in community-based arts and cultural activities
- 4. Education:** Every child will receive free primary education
- 5. Housing:** Every child will live in secure and affordable housing

**'As of November 2018, 3811 homeless people are under the age of 18'**

CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS  
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Orla's story- works full-time as a nurse, separated and has 2 young daughters. After paying essential bills including mortgage, house insurance, childminding costs, she's left with €580 a month to survive on. Orla frequently skips meals, telling the children she's not hungry. She receives a food parcel once a month from a local charity. She dreads her children having to see a GP at €50 a visit. The €200-plus cost of going back to school each August, car-tax, car insurance, television licence, Christmas and birthdays are other dreaded milestones.

*"You feel that much a failure as a mother."*

*"People don't talk about how much they're struggling because of the shame."*

*"...don't want to hear about the poverty of people like me and my children. But it's very real, very real when you're going through it."*

*"If there was a hot meal in school, that would be absolutely amazing,"*

The Irish Times – 'We know that consistent, well-managed and well-resourced services, especially if they are delivered from the beginning of a child's life, can transform the lives of children, families and communities.'

Find out more at:-  
[www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie)  
[www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE

Uniting Voices For Children

## Report Card 2019

This edition of the *Report Card* evaluates the Government on its progress during 2019 and up to the end of December 2018. The Government is awarded an overall 'C' grade, which is an increase on last year's 'C-'. The highest grade awarded was an 'A-' grade for 'LGBTI+ Youth Strategy' while the lowest grade awarded was for 'Child and Family Homelessness', which received an 'F' grade.

[www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie)

# CiNI

Children in Northern Ireland

Children in Northern Ireland carried out research with parents to find out how long their children are spending using screens and what their biggest concerns were around screen time.

The report, *Virtual Lives*, found that 63% of parents had a concern regarding their child's screen use. 77% said they would like their children to spend a little less or a lot less using screens, while 82% said they would like more guidance on the issue.

The research also revealed that children are spending on average 11 to 34 hours per week using screens.



Jessie & Friends: online safety education for 4-7s

This series of three animations aims to give 4-7 year olds knowledge, skills and confidence to help them respond safely to risks they may encounter online.

*Jessie & Friends* is a safe and age appropriate resource developed by National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

For more advice on how to keep children and young people safe online visit:-

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



Mental health problems affect about 1 in 10 children and young people. They include depression, anxiety and conduct disorder, and are often a direct response to what is happening in their lives



[www.place2be.org.uk](http://www.place2be.org.uk)



<http://www.younghealthymindsni.co.uk/>

### Useful Contact Details:

Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator: Beth Wortley Tel:02838841126  
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Southern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Vacant - Contact Beth Wortley  
Northern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Jean Thompson Tel:02877765141  
Mobile: 07731635627 email:jeanius65@aol.com



Mental Health Awareness Week –  
13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The theme this year is **Body Image - How we think and feel about our bodies.**



[www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)



### The Five Ways to Wellbeing



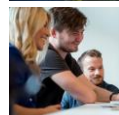
Connect;



Be Active;



Take Notice;



Keep Learning;



Give

[www.mentalhealthireland.ie](http://www.mentalhealthireland.ie)



*Two Northern Ireland men scammed out of £40,000 by telephone fraudsters'*

*'Police urge caution after 58 scam reports in one day'*

*'Scammers steal large sums of money from Northern Ireland women'*

*'Police issue warning after nearly £80,000 stolen through scam'*

*'Dublin law firm conned out of €97,000 in cyber scam'*

### Useful Dates for your Diary



**Mental Health Awareness Week May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**International Day of Families May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Dementia Awareness Week May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**World Hunger Day May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**International Children's Day June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Child Safety Week June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Men's Health Week June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Carer's Week June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Cervical Screening Awareness week June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Father's Day June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**World Refugee Week June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Day for International Justice July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**World Day Against Trafficking July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Mary Sumner Day August 9<sup>th</sup>**