

January 2017



**All-Ireland Faith & Policy Team**  
**2017-2019**

We welcome Jean Thompson, as Northern Social Policy Rep. and Norma Bell as AI Indoor Members Contact.

Southern Policy Rep: Vacant

AI Faith & Policy Co ordinator:

Jacqui Armstrong

AI Vice President: June Empey



**Northern Assembly Elections**

As Polling Day has been set for March 2<sup>nd</sup> we pray for the leaders of political parties who seek to provide leadership in Northern Ireland and all of the candidates who will be running for office in the election.

We pray that they may have wisdom and insight to lead and follow the best course forward for the common good of all.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen



**Are you registered to vote?**

If you live in Northern Ireland there will be many important decisions to be considered during the next few weeks.

To guarantee that your voice is heard, make sure you and your family are registered to vote.

Registration form available at  
<http://www.eoni.org.uk/>



Women's World Day of Prayer

**World Day of Prayer 2017- March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Am I Being Unfair To You?*

Filipino Christian women of all denominations have compiled the 2017 service which reflects the many problems which have plagued this nation through time. It has suffered greatly from disasters, injustices, poverty and forced migration. Yet the peoples trust and faith in God and His justice has not faltered.

[www.worlddayofprayerireland.com](http://www.worlddayofprayerireland.com)

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

# CSW61

Commission on the Status of Women



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT IN THE  
CHANGING WORLD OF WORK

11 & 12 March 2017



## 16 days of Activism Follow Up

Write to, or visit, your political representative asking them to take action to end gender-based violence.

One could tell them about something that is a particular issue in the community, and ask that they take action. Alternatively, one could ask them to put in to practice the agreed conclusions from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.



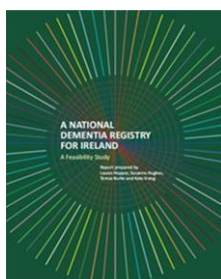
## **New Year's Resolutions!**

Made and already broken?

Why not make a 'Random Act of Kindness' resolution instead!

Resolve to do at least one random act of kindness a day. It might be ...buying somebody a cup of coffee/tea or...leaving a thank you note for the milkman/postman/window cleaners..or helping someone load their shopping into the car. Start today and spread the happiness.

*'Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see - Mark Twain'*



## **A National Dementia Registry for Ireland**

This report, commissioned under The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, provides much needed information on the feasibility of developing a dementia registry within the Irish context.

An accessible summary document is available at <https://alzheimer.ie/About-Us/Research.aspx>



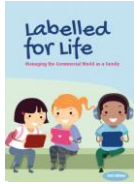
## **Are you worried about your memory?**

Memory often changes as one grows older. But memory loss that disrupts daily life is not a typical part of ageing. It may be a symptom of dementia.

You can find out more by visiting:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-dementia>

If any of your symptoms are causing you concern, it is a good idea to visit your GP.



The updated version of *Labelled for Life: Managing the Commercial World as a Family* is now available from your Diocesan Enterprise Rep or [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)  
Copies cost £2 each or £1.50 when ordering more than 10.



**February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>**

*It's time to put Fairtrade in our break!*

Don't delay  
Download today  
and order your resources

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/resources-library>  
<http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk/fairtrade-fortnight-2017>  
[www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie)



Let's join thousands of others across the UK & Ireland this Fairtrade Fortnight to help our members, friends, neighbours, colleagues and communities to put Fairtrade in their tea breaks and dispense with exploitation.

MU are ordinary people doing extraordinary things in their communities for Fairtrade - let's be the change we would like to see in the world.



**Safer Internet Day 2017** | **Tuesday 7 February**

Be the change: Unite for a better internet

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



Also [www.saferinternetday.ie](http://www.saferinternetday.ie)



### Understand Text Language!

Young people are constantly developing the language they use when talking to friends and associates on social media. If you really want to know what's going on in their lives then you need to understand this new 'language'.

To see the text language that every parent, grandparent, responsible adult needs to know, have a look at the following websites: [www.popsugar.com](http://www.popsugar.com) [www.netlingo.com](http://www.netlingo.com) or [www.noslang.com](http://www.noslang.com)

Knowledge is power - help keep your young people safe on line



#### Useful Contact Details:

Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator: Jacqui Armstrong Tel: 028 71516436 :  
Mobile: 07928747354 email: jacquelin.armstrong.donegal@outlook.com  
Southern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Vacant - Contact Jacqui Armstrong  
Northern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Jean Thompson Tel: 02882245369  
Mobile: 07731635627 email: jeanius65@aol.com



### **Marriage Week February 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Marriage Week offers an opportunity make a positive contribution to celebrating marriage.

The only limit to what's possible is your imagination! Here's 25 ideas for you and/or your group to get you started!

<http://marriage-week.org.uk/get-involved-in-mw/>



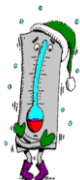
International Women's Day

### **International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Men and women around the world will take part in celebrating International Woman's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The day is a time to remember the huge contribution that women make in all areas of life, and to keep focus on reducing the inequality that still exists between the sexes.

For more information, please visit  
[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)



### **Looking out for others!**

Don't forget to look out for elderly neighbours at this time of year. 70% of older people worry about staying warm in winter; a third of older people say television is their main form of company; 44% feel more isolated than ever before. Do your bit to help reverse these worrying statistics.

Websites where you can get more information on what you can do to help  
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland/> or [www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)



### **Useful Dates for your Diary**

**Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

**World Cancer Day Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Red Hand Day, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**UN World Day of Social Justice, Feb 20**

**Zero Discrimination Day, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**World Wildlife Day March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**World Day of Prayer, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Mothering Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>**