

**All-Ireland Prayer Vigil Edition**

November 2017

Belfast Telegraph, 23 September 2017

***Judge slams 'woeful' sentencing powers in Northern Ireland domestic abuse cases***

Sentencing the accused to a five-month jail sentence, suspended for 3 years, the judge said he should have the power to be able to issue longer sentences.

"If this was in the USA he would be going to jail for a minimum of 15 years for choking this lady.....The maximum sentence is six months, which is wholly inadequate and inappropriate."

Jan Melia, the CEO of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland described non-fatal strangulation as extremely serious. "It has also been proven that non-fatal strangulation is a strong predictor of future domestic homicide."

Read the full article at  
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/judge-slams-woeful-sentencing-powers-in-northern-ireland-domestic-abuse-cases>



- What is Domestic Abuse?
- Domestic Abuse Behaviours
  - What can I do?
  - Who Can Help Me?
- What Should I Do Scenarios
  - Harassment and Stalking
    - LGBT Community
  - Honour Based Violence
  - Safe Place Campaign
  - Are you an abuser?
  - Emergency Plan
- Covering Your Tracks Online

[www.psni.police.uk/crime/domestic-abuse](http://www.psni.police.uk/crime/domestic-abuse)

If you have witnessed or experienced domestic violence or abusive behaviour by a partner, or you are concerned you have abused someone, you can prevent it from happening again.

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



**Gender-based violence (GBV) is any act of violence or abuse which is directed at someone because of their gender, and most commonly affects women and girls.**

*Reflect.....Pray.....Plan.....Act.....*



The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission said it should not be overlooked that the majority of victims of domestic violence are women and that domestic violence against them is "part of a wider pattern of discrimination and inequality".

**women's aid**

Federation Northern Ireland

24 HOUR

**Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline**

FREEPHONE

**0808 802 1414**

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

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



**WOMEN'S AID**

Making Women and Children Safe

**We're ready  
to listen even if  
you're not ready  
to speak.**

Like many women who call our helpline you might be too upset to talk about what you're going through. Don't worry. That's okay. We'll help you find the words you need so you don't have to suffer domestic abuse in silence.



**National Freephone Helpline  
1800 341 900**

10am to 10pm, 7 days a week



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

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

## What are our Governments doing? The Istanbul Convention



What does the Convention criminalize?

Domestic violence	Stalking	Sexual violence, including rape
Sexual harassment	Forced marriage	Female genital mutilation
	Forced abortion or forced sterilization	Psychological harm



**Irish government** - on track to fully ratify by Spring 2018

**British government** - Act of Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Northern Ireland** - Proposed legislation to make coercive and controlling behaviour an offence was drafted by the Department of Justice but has stalled because of current political situation.

*Reflect.....Pray.....Plan.....Act*



## 16 Days of Activism

### – why does it matter to me?

#### Northern Ireland

- 2016/ 2017 – 29,181 incidents of domestic abuse reported to police.
- 2015/2016 - PSNI were only made of 37% of 'worst' cases of domestic partner abuse (*Experience of Domestic Violence: Findings from the 2011/12 to 2015/16 Northern Ireland Crime Surveys*)
- 67 deaths as a result of domestic violence in the past 10 years (2005 – 2015 *Belfast Telegraph* 8/9/15)
- 2016 – 33 referrals of potential human trafficking victims. 50% were female and were victims of both sexual and labour exploitation.



## 16 Days of Activism

### – why does it matter to me?

#### Republic of Ireland

- 2016, saw 16,946 disclosures of domestic violence against women
- 1 in 5 women in Ireland in a relationship have been abused by a current or former partner.
- 2015 - 78 alleged victims of human trafficking reported to Gardaí. 2/3 of alleged victims were female. 19% were Irish nationals, all minors and alleged victims of sexual exploitation.
- Despite female genital mutilation (FGM) being outlawed in Ireland in 2012, there have been no convictions under the legislation.



**ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM**

AMEN provides information and support to men or their family or friends that seek it.

**Confidential Helpline** is open Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. The helpline is often the first point of contact for men, their concerned family members or friends.

046 902 3718

0035346 902 3718

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

*Reflect.....Pray.....Plan.....Act.....*

### 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



**Mothers' Union** is a member of **Restored**. Restored is an international Christian Alliance that aims to transform relationships and end violence against women by working through and with the church and Christians worldwide.

Reflect.....Pray....Plan.....

Check out resources and sign up for a very informative newsletter that guides individuals in reflection, prayerful and practical action at

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

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

### 16 Days All-Ireland Vigils 2017

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

#### Armagh:

Royal Hotel, Cookstown; November 25<sup>th</sup> ;  
10 30 to 11 45.

#### Cashel, Ferns and Ossory:

Old St Mary's, Clonmel:

Sat, November 25<sup>th</sup>; "Global moment" at 1pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December: 16 Days of Activism  
Vigil at 7.30pm

#### Clogher:

Lisbellaw Parish Church, Tuesday, November  
28<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 pm

#### Connor:

11 November: Belfast Cathedral MU 10.15am

26 November: Mid Connor - St. Jude's Church,  
Muckamore, afternoon service, time TBA.

#### Cork, Cloyne & Ross:

St. Anne's Church, (Shandon), Cork city, Sunday,  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 3pm.

#### Derry & Raphoe:

St. Columb's Cathedral, 2pm-4pm, Saturday,  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

#### Down and Dromore:

Rockmount Golf Club, Temple, Saintfield;  
Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10am

#### Dublin & Glendalough:

St John the Baptist Church, Seafield Road:  
Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11am

#### Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh:

St. John's Church, Longford; Saturday,  
November 25<sup>th</sup>; 3pm - 4 30pm

#### Limerick & Killaloe:

St Cronan's Church, Roscrea; 2pm-4pm,  
Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

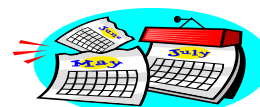
#### Meath & Kildare

All Saints' Church, Mullingar; Saturday,  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 3pm

#### Tuam, Kilalla & Achonry:

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway City;  
Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 am - 1 pm,

### Useful Dates for your Diary



16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – World Food Day

17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Child Poverty Day



30<sup>th</sup> October -Summer Time Ends

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov – National Stress Awareness Day

13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Alcohol Awareness Week

21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-Bullying Week

25<sup>th</sup> November – International Day for the  
Elimination of Violence Against Women

25<sup>th</sup> Nov – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – 16 Days of Activism  
Against Gender Based Violence

10<sup>th</sup> December – International Human Rights  
Day

*Reflect....Pray....Plan....Act*