

## The Aims of the West Clare Women's Forum are:

- ⊙ To assist women to participate in decision-making structures in their local community and beyond.
- ⊙ To assist women to explore, analyse and express their experiences of inequality and disadvantage
- ⊙ To support women to identify appropriate ways to articulate these issues.

## The West Clare Women's Forum has Two Core Principles:

- ⊙ "The West Clare Women's Forum believes that all people should have equal opportunity to maximise their potential."
- ⊙ "The West Clare Women's Forum believes in the right to challenge inequality in our society."

The forum is affiliated to the National Women's Council of Ireland and four of our members sit on each of the four executive working groups of the Council.

"We look forward to the day when women's participation in all levels of Government is an unremarkable feature of Public life."

Mary Robinson

"Why is women's participation so important? In the first place, there can be no true democracy, no true peoples' participation in governance and development without the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of life and levels of decision making"

UN NGO Group on Women and Development.

**The West Clare Women's Forum is supported by:**



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The West Clare Women's Forum believes in the right to challenge inequality in our society.

# Women in Government & Influencing Policy

What are the main issues for women in West Clare?

- ◆ Lack of flexible/part-time job opportunities.
- ◆ Lack of part-time training opportunities.
- ◆ Lack of recognition for unpaid work in the home.
- ◆ Lack of childcare facilities.
- ◆ Lack of public transport.
- ◆ Distance to essential health services.
- ◆ Lack of consultation regarding the education of their children.
- ◆ Lack of commitment to tackling domestic abuse.
- ◆ Lack of commitment to achieving gender balance in government and all publicly funded boards.

The West Clare Women's Forum believes that more women should be involved in national and local government so that women can keep these issues high on the political agenda.

It will be a long time until women and men are equally represented in government, so, in the meantime, the West Clare Women's Forum believes that it is vitally important to have women well represented in bodies that influence government policy. This is why we are affiliated to the *National Women's Council of Ireland* and are active on their four executive working groups. In the future, the WCWF hopes to be represented on many other boards and committees dealing with policy and services affecting women.



# Domestic Abuse

EIRÍ Corca Baiscinn and the West Clare Women's Forum recently opened an exhibition on Violence Against Women in the Temple Gate Hotel Ennis organised by Ennis West Partners. The group opened with a piece of drama depicting several areas of abuse experienced by women in the home. These ranged from emotional through to financial, social, physical and sexual abuse. The Forum has a video of this drama. If any groups are interested in the video, or indeed in inviting the drama group to present this very powerful piece of work contact the Forum.

# Health Services

Members of the West Clare Women's Forum have been working with the Mid Western Health Board on a project called Raising Women's Voices. This exciting project aims to find creative ways to collect, and provide, information on women's health needs in West Clare.

# Education System

The West Clare Women's Forum recently sent a questionnaire to each of the secondary schools in West Clare. The purpose of the questionnaire was to get information for young people and parents on school policies. This information could help when deciding what school they want to attend, or to find out whether adequate policies are in place to tackle discrimination, bullying, study supervision and other important issues.

Do You Want  
To Join Us?

The West Clare Women's Forum is always looking for women who want to help us work towards equality.

If you are interested please contact Mary Farren, 905 6611, and she will let you know when the next meeting is taking place.

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