

5th LONDON IRISH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

WORKSHOPS

TITLE	Room	Time
Housing	Cafe(downstairs)	11.15 - 1.00
* Emigration	Cafe(downstairs)	11.15 - 1.00
	"	2.30 - 4.00
* 2nd Generation	Cafe(downstairs)	11.15 - 1.00
"	"	2.30 - 4.00
Older Women	Room 2(downstairs)	11.15 - 1.00
* Women and children	Room 2(downstairs)	11.15 - 1.00
"	"	2.30 - 4.00
Disabled Irish women (DISABLED WOMEN ONLY)	Room 2(downstairs)	2.30 - 4.00
* Women and our experiences and feelings about the six counties	Room 23(first floor)	11.15 - 1.00
"	"	2.30 - 4.00
* Ireland: Partition and the changing political climate in Britain	Room 21(first floor)	11.15 - 1.00 2.30 - 4.00
Irish language	Room 20(first floor)	11.15 - 1.00
Travellers	Room 20(first)	2.30 - 4.00
* Lesbian	Room 19(first floor)	11.15 - 1.00 2.30 - 4.00
Irish Women and the Poll Tax	Cafe(downstairs)	2.30 - 4.00
<u>EVENING ENTERTAINMENT</u>		
Set Dancing	Cafe	6.00 - 7.00
Relaxation	Room 23 Upstairs	6.00 - 7.30
Readings from Irish writers	Room 21 "	6.00 - 7.00
Smell No evil theatre Co	Cafe	7.00 - 7.30
Sheelas Ceili dancing	Cafe	8.00 - 10.00
Confused Sisters Caberet	Cafe	9.00 - 9.30
Disco with Viv Acious	Cafe	10.00 - 11.00

* Workshops with an asterisk run in the morning and afternoon

Emigration Workshop

Since 1861 more Irish women than men have emigrated from Ireland, 51% of the Irish women's community in Britain are women and Irish women represents approximately 10% of all women in London. Are we the invisible majority? Is our voice heard? Who shouts for us? The morning workshop will be led by a representative of Glor an Deorai who will look at the disenfranchisement of Irish people by the Irish government. Ireland remains one of the few countries in Europe denying it's citizens in abroad a vote in general elections in their native country.

The afternoon workshop will be lead by Mary Hogan, an attached youth worker with ILEA. Mary will highlight her work with young Irish women in the Kilburn area, and will look at the needs of young Irish women coming to London.for There will be an opportunity to explore our own individual emigration experiences

Lesbian Workshops

Morning workshop - Sexuality

This is a discussion workshop looking at what it means to be Irish and to be lesbian. There will be space for groups to concentrate on specific issues such as coming out, relationships, religion, patriarchy, imperialism.....

Afternoon workshop - Identity

In this workshop we will explore the the things that unite and divide us, class religion, race, politics.....

Ireland: Partition and the changing political climate in Britain Workshop

Recent developments and statements from both Conservative and Labour elements points clearly to Ireland being firmly back on the political agenda. Does this mean another British solution is in the offing? Will compromises be demanded from progressive forces in Ireland? What are they? What price for women?

IRISH LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

Led by Siobhain Ui Néill

Céad Míle Fáilte

Test your skills in another language - learn and use Irish greetings and phrases in speech and writing.

You may be a complete beginner or perhaps you feel your Irish is rusty - whatever the case, this workshop may have something to offer you. The programme includes

- a) Information on courses currently available
- b) Introduction to home study courses
- c) Examinations for the Institute of Linguists explained
- d) A new awareness of the need for non-sexist learning material discussed.

Let's hear your opinions and suggestions.

DISABLED IRISH WOMEN

This workshop aims to address issues important to disabled women living in this country.

It is first important to look at how we define disability and we define it as follows:

Disability is a social and economic discrimination faced by disabled women throughout our experiences in our daily lives. This means disabled women are denied access to transport, public buildings, employment, information, media representation, leisure and sexual freedom. To explore what we mean by this and how it affects us as Irish women living in London, please come to this works

THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR DISABLED WOMEN ONLY.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN WORKSHOP

THIS WORKSHOP IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN INTERESTED IN CHILDREN ie. WOMEN WHO WORK WITH OR CARE FOR CHILDREN, WOMEN THINKING ABOUT HAVING CHILDREN IN THE FUTURE, TO PREGNANT WOMEN, AND TO WOMEN WITH SMALL BABIES, YOUNG CHILDREN OR ADOLESCENT CHILDREN.

SECOND GENERATION

This workshop aims to explore attitudes and feelings about being 2nd generation Irish, and to discuss whether past and present Irish Governments have failed the children of emigrants.

WOMEN AND OUR EXPERIENCES AND FEELINGS ABOUT THE SIX COUNTIES

This workshop is open to all women.

The aim is to provide an open and safe space for all Irish women, first and second generation women from the 26 counties and women from the six counties, to explore our feelings and experiences about the six counties.

TRAVELLERS WORKSHOP: Stopping In London Video to be shown

Travelling women are amongst the most disadvantaged and discriminated against group within the Irish community. Socially, culturally and economically travellers are treated as outcasts, and these prejudices are reinforced by dicriminatory legislation and the hostile practices and policies of Local Authorities.

This workshop will use the Video 'Stopping in London' as a starting point for discussion and we will be asking how the rights of Travelling women can be defended in the currentpolitical climate.

Travelling women and non-^{-travelling} women are all welcome to this workshop and we would encourage women who wish to learn more about the problems and issues around our community.

* Information from London-based organisations working with Travellers will be available at this Workshop.

HOUSING WORKSHOP: Ada Burns (CARA Irish Homeless Project)

The level of homelessness amongst Irish women, and young single Irish women in poarticular, are higher today than ever. In the face of Council and Central Government cuts the problem is increasing.

How can we address the problem of homelessness? And what solutions are available?

Ada Burns will explain why CARA was established and how it operates.

This workshop particularly welcomes women who have had experience of the problem of homelessness and all women who have faced discrimination in housing and related areas.

Representatives from the Irish Womens Housing Action Group will also be present at this workshop and will report on the campaigning that has been undertaken in the last year.

OLDER WOMENS WORKSHOP: Kathleen Dermody (Camden Irish Pensioners)

Up to a quarter of all the Irish Women living in London are over 55. The problems facing our community are diverse. They include loneliness, racial discrimination, isolation, lack of social provision, bad housing, and at a time when the Government is cutting back on Benefits and Income Support - sheer poverty.

How should these diverse problems be confronted? And what positive steps have already been made?

Kathleen Dermody will explain why Camden Irish Pensioners was established and what the group has been able to achieve.

This workshop is open to anyone who is interested in organising to meet the needs of older Irish women and all ideas and experiences are welcome.

IRISH WOMEN & THE POLL TAX: Jacqui Kelly (Author: Irish Women in London)

The Poll Tax is a direct threat to our community. It is aimed specifically at people on low incomes and the objective of the Poll Tax is to cut jobs and services. Irish women are already over-represented amongst London's poor and vulnerable. The Tax will make us poorer and reduce the level of services available to us.

How will the Tax affect Irish women specifically? And how can we organise against it?

Jacqui Kelly will outline the main changes that the Poll Tax will bring about, the impact of these changes on our lives, and we will consider the various ways in which we can organise and defend our community against the Tax.

This workshop welcomes all women who are worried about the Poll Tax as well as women who are already organised and campaigning against it.

RELAXATION WORKSHOP

From 6.00pm to 7.30pm

This workshop is an opportunity to unwind from the day's activities through a combination of relaxation exercises, massage and meditation.

Starts promptly at 6.00pm.

Lead by Rae Dowds and Fran Fleming.