

## New AGIY Offices

**A**GIY have recently moved to new office premises. We are now based in the London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, a new centre which was developed to meet the needs and requirements of London's voluntary sector. The Centre was developed by the City Parochial Foundation and the London Voluntary Services Council and provides office accommodation to a range of voluntary organisations.

In addition, the Centre offers a range of facilities including a permanently equipped creche, a cafeteria, a library and information resource, an exhibition area and computer training rooms as well as a variety of meeting room space.

AGIY's new contact details are:

London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre,  
356 Holloway Road,  
London. N7 6PA.  
Tel. (071) 700 8137/8142 Fax (071) 700 0099.

## FAS Official for Britain

**F**AS, the Irish Training and Employment Authority, have recently located a member of staff, Margaret Toale to London for one year to liaise between the Irish and British Employment Services on labour market issues affecting Irish emigrants in Britain and in particular London.

This initiative has taken place following regular meetings over the past two years between officials of Employment Services in Britain, the Irish Embassy and FAS. This forum, the UK/Ireland Transfrontier Committee was established *"to discuss ways in which unplanned migration from Ireland could be tackled and to propose initiatives to ease the difficulties encountered by Irish migrants in Britain and particularly in London."*

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The main areas of Margaret's work are:

- to research and report on the experiences of the Irish migrant in the UK
- to consider the difficulties in the employment area that these migrants experience, particularly concerning their skill levels and in their dealings with the Benefits Agency and Jobcentres
- to advise FAS management and the Transfrontier Committee of any findings in the above areas which can be addressed and suggest courses of action
- to be alert to trends in the job market in the UK and to keep up to date on the unemployment picture.

Since her arrival, Margaret has been visiting Jobcentres, Unemployment Benefit Offices and has been receiving briefings from Employment Service staff members on various activities and programmes. She will be visiting the Employment Service Headquarters in Sheffield and will also meet with ES staff in other urban centres in England.



At the same time, Margaret is in close contact with staff at the Irish Embassy and is establishing contact with workers active in various voluntary and statutory groups working on behalf of the Irish community in England.

FAS say that they "*hope that her presence will foster better relations between the statutory bodies and the voluntary sector who work on behalf of the Irish community.*"

For further information Margaret can be contacted at:

**Programmes and Operations Development, Room 503, Employment Service, London and South East Region, 236 Grays Inn Road, London. WC1X 8HL.**  
Tel. (071) 211 4320.

## Forum File

### Irish Women and Domestic Violence Forum

Following the last meeting of the London Irish Youth Forum in July which addressed issues relating to domestic violence and Irish women and was attended by over 20 organisations, a subsequent meeting was held in September which agreed to establish the Irish Women and Domestic Violence Forum.

The key priority identified by the group is to establish an Irish women's refuge for those escaping domestic violence. The benefits of developing such a refuge identified by the group are:

- responding to unmet need amongst Irish women and their children for a safe and supportive environment protected from violence;
- ensuring that such a service would be culturally sensitive and supportive by ensuring that the ethos of such a refuge would positively reflect the women's Irish backgrounds and experiences;
- ensuring that Irish women have the option of escaping from violence within the framework and support network of their own community;
- an Irish dimension would be brought to the larger women's aid and local community welfare provision and it would also bring a "women's aid" dimension to the local and London-wide Irish community;
- ensuring the development of stronger partnerships between the local and London-wide Irish community, local authorities, housing associations and the Housing Corporation.

As a short term goal the group intend to produce an information leaflet early next year about the work of the Forum and the issues that they are attempting to address.

**For further information about the Forum and the dates of future meetings**  
Tel. (071) 700 8142.

- ALA Zero Tolerance Campaign - The Association of London Authorities (ALA) are organising a Zero Tolerance Campaign campaign on violence against women in January next year.

**For further information contact Madeline Williams, Deputy Secretary, ALA, 36 Old Queen Street, London. SW1 9JF.**  
Tel. (071) 700 2339.

## Racial Discrimination Training

The next meeting of the London Irish Youth Forum will be a training workshop on how to identify racial discrimination and how to support Irish people who wish to make complaints against racial discrimination.

The training is being facilitated jointly by AGIY and the Racial Discrimination Legal Defence Fund, a national voluntary organisation which has recently been established to provide advice, support and assistance to people who wish to pursue cases of racial discrimination.

**The Forum training workshop will be at 2.30 p.m. on**

**Thursday 28th October 1993 in Seminar Room 2 at the London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London. N7 6PA.**

**For further information contact: (071) 700 8137.**



## Training Initiative for the Irish Voluntary Sector

AGIY are currently in the process of developing two training courses aimed at the Irish voluntary sector which will provide training on funding and organisational development. Further details will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

## AGIY/Benefits Agency Training Developments

Following the publication of "Identity Crisis - access to Social Security and ID checks" and further discussions between AGIY and the Customer Services and Training branches of the Benefits Agency, AGIY have just carried out a pilot one day training course in conjunction with the Benefits Agency for their staff.

Entitled "Good Practice in Service Delivery and - an Irish dimension", the course aims to impart an Irish dimension to the BA's service delivery programme.

The training provides comprehensive information on the Irish experience in Britain and focusses on issues relating to the verification of identification documentation and access to Income Support for Irish claimants.

It is envisaged that AGIY will carry out 14 similar one day training courses throughout Britain during the current financial year.

## AGIY-FIS Database Pilot Begins

As reported in the last edition of *AGIY-INFO* the Action Group for Irish Youth/Federation of Irish Societies jointly commissioned project to carry out a feasibility study into establishing a centralised statistical information database across a range of welfare agencies providing services to the Irish community in Britain had ended its first phase.

Since then appropriate computer software for data collection has been developed by **Charities Evaluation Services**, the charity undertaking the study and the 14 agencies participating in the pilot have received training in the use of the software.

The pilot collection of data commenced on 11th October and will continue for 8 weeks.

The results of the project will be known in December and a final

report of the whole feasibility study will be published early next year.

## New Profile of Irish Women in London

**R**oots and Realities, a profile of Irish women in London in 1993 has just been published by the London Irish Womens Centre (LIWC).

*Roots and Realities* draws its information and its perspectives from a wide range of sources and includes analysis of data obtained from the 1991 Census.

The report provides a comprehensive insight into issues of direct relevance to Irish women and the Irish community in London; mental health - the personal reality and documented evidence; culture and related aspects - the historical roots; anti-Irish racism - its many faceted dimensions and its misunderstandings; homelessness and housing; employment and population figures.

There are also specific sections on Travellers, lesbians, women with disabilities, younger, older and second generation Irish women.

The report costs **£3.00** and is available from:

**The London Irish Womens Centre, 59 Stoke Newington Church Street, London. N16. Tel. (071) 249 7318.**





# **LONDON IRISH YOUTH FORUM**

The next meeting of the Forum will be held on

Thursday, 28 October 1993 at 2.30pm

in Seminar Room 2, London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre,  
356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA.

The focus of the Forum will be a Training Workshop on:

## **Racial Discrimination - What is it?**

The workshop will look at:

Direct and Indirect Discrimination

Victimisation

Case Studies

What can be done.

The workshop will be facilitated by

Mary Spencer, Racial Discrimination Legal Defence Fund and

Martin Tucker, Action Group for Irish Youth.

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