



IBRG

IRISH IN BRITAIN REPRESENTATION GROUP

245a Coldharbour Lane SW9 8RR

326 4740
622 7498

AN IRISH PERSPECTIVE ON BRITISH WELFARE

2nd COUNTRYWIDE CONFERENCE - Sat 9th July 1988

This Conference is aimed at Social Services Staff (in particular Social Workers and Home Care workers), Probation Officers and other related workers, Community activists, Travellers, First and Second generation Irish, Irish community organisations and all those interested in or affected by the various aspects of Irish welfare in Britain.

The guest speakers are:

A SPEAKER AS YET TO
BE CONFIRMED — will address the conference on CUTS
AND GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION - THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE IRISH.

TOM CONNOR B.A. Hons, M.A; author of the AGIY publication 'Irish Youth in London' will address the Conference on THE LONDON IRISH a recent LSPU publication.

A representative of the IRISH GOVERNMENT who will address the conference on THE IRISH GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SUPPORT OF EMIGRANTS

There will be a large choice of seminars throughout the day; see p.3 for details.

DATE: Sat 9th July 1988.
TIMES: 9.30 a.m - 6.30pm.
VENUE: Lambeth Town Hall (location map overleaf).
Disabled access.
Multi-storey car park in close proximity

FEE: £10.00 Statutory organisations;
£4.00 Individuals;
£1.00 O.A.P/UB40

CRECHE: Free if booked in advance.

CHEQUES: should be sent, together with reply slip to Mr G. MacGearailt Lambeth IBRG at the address above, payable to LAMBETH IBRG

Bookstalls and displays from a variety of different organisations and authorities will be on show throughout the day. If you require information relating to the conference please contact Mr MacGearailt or Ms Elaine Scott on the above telephone numbers.

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE:

9.30	-	10.30	Registration (Tea/Coffee available)
10.30	-	10.45	Opening by IBRG Chair Gearoid MacGearailt
10.45	-	11.30	CUTS AND GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION - THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE IRISH.
11.30	-	1.30	Morning session of Seminars
1.30	-	2.30	Lunch
2.30	-	3.15	THE LONDON IRISH - A FIRST ANALYSIS OF WHO WE ARE.
3.15	-	5.15	Afternoon session of Seminars
5.15	-	5.30	Break - Tea/Coffee
5.30	-	6.15	THE IRISH GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SUPPORT OF EMIGRANTS.
6.15	-	6.30	Close by the Chair.

SEMINAR SPEAKERS:

1. MARY CONNOLLY; HOMELESSNESS - THE IRISH EXPERIENCE; Mary is a housing worker for the Haringey Irish Liason Unit - a strategic policy unit set up to advise the Council on housing and other issues of concern to the Irish.
2. CLAIRE McELWEE; THE ABORTION TRAIL; Claire is an advice worker with the Irish in Islington Project and is a volunteer member of the Irish Womens Abortion Support Group. She is active on both womens issues and general housing issues.
3. SISTER JOAN KANE; IRISH TRAVELLERS; Sister Joan is the Secretary of the very active Haringey Irish Travellers Support Group and has extensive experience in this field.
4. LIAM CLARKE; ELDERLY - COMMUNITY CARE OR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT; Liam is a lecturer in Social Work and is currently doing a Phd on the needs of the elderly and the workers who support them
5. CLAIRE DOHERTY; MENTAL HEALTH; Claire is vice-chair of the Irish Mental Health Forum and has worked as a psychotherapist and trainer in a variety of statutory and voluntary agencies both in the six counties and in London;
6. NUALA KELLY; THE TRANSFER OF PRISONERS; Nuala is the Co-ordinator of the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas based in Dublin. The Commission is one of a number set up by Catholic Bishops in Ireland on areas of concern.
7. EAMONN SUMMERS; CLAUSE 28 - PREJUDICE ENSHRINED; Eamonn is a freelance trainer and former President of the National Gay Federation of Ireland. He has lived in London for two years where he has worked on Gay and Lesbian issues - until recently as Co-ordinator of the Haringey Gay unit.
8. PATRICK REYNOLDS; CHILDREN IN CARE - AN IRISH PERSPECTIVE; Pat is a Residential Social Worker in Brent Council and has extensive experience on working with children in care.

SEMINARS AVAILABLE:

Seminar
No.

Morning Session:

1. MARY CONNOLLY; HOMELESSNESS - THE IRISH EXPERIENCE; Homelessness has become increasingly relevant for the Irish in recent years - particularly with the changes in British law and the new emigration from Ireland. Mary considers this growing problem and the lack of recognition by many statutory authorities of an Irish dimension.
2. CLAIRE McELWEE; THE ABORTION TRAIL; Over 5000 Irish women come to Britain annually for abortions - often alone and in need of support. In Ireland the issue is hidden by legislation and the Trail causes political embarrassment and is ignored or marginalised. Claire explains the role of the voluntary IWASG and confronts the issues involved.
3. SISTER JOAN KANE; IRISH TRAVELLERS; Sister Joan will catalogue the history of disadvantage facing Travellers in this country and how they are received within the British 'gypsy' community and our own Irish community;
4. LIAM CLARKE; ELDERLY - COMMUNITY CARE OR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT; Liam will consider the options open to our community in supporting our people as they grow old and will look at what are the possible ways forward;

Afternoon Session:

5. CLAIRE DOHERTY; MENTAL HEALTH; Until 1987 and the formation of the Irish Mental Health Forum by the IBRG very little active work was being done to identify, quantify or respond to the problem of Mental Illness among the Irish in Britain. Claire now details its work and objectives.
6. NUALA KELLY; THE TRANSFER OF PRISONERS; Ireland signed the European Treaty for the transfer of prisoners in 1987 but has yet to implement it. As a result many relatives travel hundreds of miles at great expense and hardship to visit loved ones in British prisons. Nuala considers this dilemma and also talks about the role of the ICPO.
7. EAMONN SUMMERS; CLAUSE 28 - PREJUDICE ENSHRINED!; Sexuality is a deeply sensitive issue particularly in Ireland where Gays and Lesbians are rarely accepted. In Britain they face the additional prejudice of racism from the host Gay community. Eamonn looks at the effect of clause 28 in further alienating Irish Gays and Lesbians.
8. PATRICK REYNOLDS; CHILDREN IN CARE - AN IRISH PERSPECTIVE; Pat will detail the scenarios facing many Irish children placed in care to a local authority or in fostering and adoption situations and will consider whether the cultural needs of such children are being adequately met.

REPLY SLIP - PLEASE RETURN WITH FEE to Gearoid MacGearailt,
Lambeth IBRG at the address as on the preceding page BEFORE
6th JULY 1988.

NOTE: Please choose from the preceding page which Seminar in
the morning session and which in the afternoon session you
would like to attend and indicate the appropriate Seminar No.
in the section below. For your own benefit, please choose a
second preference for each session and indicate accordingly.
Every effort will be made to ensure your attendance at the
first choice Seminar.

Each seminar will break for five minutes after approximately
one hour to allow an opportunity for you to move to an
alternative should you wish.

		Seminar No.
MORNING SESSION	1st preference	
	2nd preference	
AFTERNOON SESSION	1st preference	
	2nd preference	

Name

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

Tel.No.....

Total Fee enclosed £ . p

Note: This form may be used for registering more than one
person. Please attach relevant details and correct fee.
COLLECT YOUR RECEIPT ON THE DAY.

Cheques to LAMBETH I.B.R.G.

If you are representing a statutory authority, community
organisation or formalised body please specify name, address
and tel. no.

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IMPORTANT:

CRECHE: No. of children:

Ages: