

London Irish Women's Centre

59 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16
01-249 7318

Lewisham Women's Unit,

Conference Planning group.,
c/o London Irish Women's Centre,
59 Stoke Newington Church St.,
London N16 OAR
01 249 7318

Dear Geraldine,

Having tried on numerous occasions to get through to Lewisham Borough Council, I've now decided to write directly to you instead. I am writing to you on behalf of the next Irish Women's Conference Planning Group, to request a donation to host the conference. It is taking place on Sun 26th Nov. at the Albany Centre, Deptford and we would really appreciate the cost of Hiring the venue £950.00 - to offset the total costs of £6,000.00.

This is the 5th conference for Irish women to be held in London. It is the only forum in existence for Irish women to come together to formulate strategies and organise groups and campaigns in order to combat the problems facing the Irish women's community as a large and disadvantaged group in London. Research shows - (IRISH IN LONDON, LSPU 1988; and IRISH WOMEN IN LONDON, LSPU 1988) that, in proportion to their numbers in the population, Irish women are over-represented in the numbers of people with social problems - homelessness, poverty,, mental illness. Recent years have seen an increase in these problems.

The conference is being co-ordinated from the offices of the London Irish Women's Centre, a London-wide group, catering specifically for the needs of Irish women in the Greater London area. This group has strong links with the local Irish women's group in Lewisham, the local Irish Pensioner's Group, the Deptford & Lewisham Women's Centre, and the local Irish Group. A large population of Irish women live and work in Lewisham and yet the Irish community remain a very under-resourced group in terms of funds from the local council.

If the unit would like to discuss this proposal with us please ring us care of the centre at the above number. We appreciate that you may not have many grant making powers, in which case we would be very grateful if the unit would vouch for the request through the appropriate committee/unit.

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity.

Brid A Boland

Brid Boland (Conference Planning Group)