

TICC PREPARES FOR CENSUS DAY

TICC, The Irish Community Census Campaign is stepping up its campaign as Census day approaches on 21st April. Enclosed with this edition of "AGIY INFO" is publicity material produced by the group which explains how the ethnic origin question on the Census looks. TICC believes that the format of this question means that the Irish community could lose the opportunity to find out more about its needs. If enough Irish people identify themselves when answering the question the answers will be coded separately for the Irish which will provide the most accurate picture ever of the Irish community in Britain.

Information obtained from the Census will be used by the Government and Local Authorities to identify what the populations' needs are and where they are to be found. Information obtained from the ethnic origin question is confidential and will be used to plan and ensure that everyone has a fair and equal chance to have their own needs met.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- You can display posters and distribute leaflet material which explains the campaign.
- You can make a donation to TICC which will enable it to print more publicity material. (TICC is an unfunded organisation. Cheques, postal orders etc. should be made payable to TICC).

- You can join TICC. TICC's membership now consists of over 30 Irish community groups and individuals who are affiliated to the campaign.

For further information about the campaign and for more copies of publicity material please contact:

TICC, c/o 72 Stroud Green Road, Finsbury Park, London N4 or Tel . 071 278 1665

- In a related development the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) are meeting with representatives from several Irish community groups on Friday 22nd March 1991. As we reported in "AGIY-INFO" (Issue No.19) the Commission are setting up the meeting with the Centre for Ethnic Relations at the University of Warwick to address one of the Irish community group's request for the commissioning of a full scale study and production of a contemporary report on the Irish in Britain under the auspices of the CRE.

FORUM FILE

At the last meeting of the London Irish Youth Forum on 31/1/91 an outline proposal for a six month feasibility study on establishing standardised methods of collecting and collating data from front line services working with Irish people was discussed. Agencies expressed both interest and a willingness to participate in such a project and it was recognised that through consultation, there would be a collective understanding of the need and value of such a centralised system. Again, through consultation, the aim of the project would be that agencies would "set the terms" for the system identifying key areas of information required. The collection of

such data from a range of agencies would aim to provide a co-ordinated picture but would never single out any agency's individual statistics and agencies would never be individually named. Statistics gathered from individual agencies would be presented in a collated form to give an overall picture of the demands placed on their services. Individual agencies naturally could and would still continue to use their own statistics as before. Since the proposal was presented, AGIY are examining the project further with the assistance of the Federation of Irish Societies Welfare Sub-Committee. Watch out for further developments which will be reported in future editions of "AGIY INFO".

FUNDING NEWS

DION 1991 DEADLINE

DION, The Irish Government's Advisory Committee on Emigrant Services has just announced its funding timescale for 1991. On a standstill budget of IR£500,000 DION will be advising on the disbursement of funds to voluntary organisations which accord with the Committee's current priorities which are:

- front-line information and advice services for emigrants;
- outreach services for unemployed youths, travellers and women and children in temporary accommodation;
- promoting access for emigrants to opportunities for employment and accommodation;
- services for elderly emigrants.

Feasibility studies, action research and evaluation projects may be considered if they can be completed within 12 months (or exceptionally 2 years) and if the end result will definitely serve to promote the welfare of Irish emigrants.

The committee say that they expect to approve in principle requests for grant aid within six months and release funds to groups shortly after. Voluntary organisations already in receipt of Irish Government funding will automatically receive an application form within the next week or so.

For further information and an application form please contact:

Mr. Breandán Ó Caollaí, Secretary, DION Committee, Irish Embassy, 17 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HR. Tel. 071 235 2171 Ext. 213.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 19th April 1991.

LBGS AND IRISH GROUPS

The failure of the London Boroughs Grants Scheme (LBGS) to set a budget for the next financial year could have serious implications for Irish voluntary organisations funded by the Scheme.

With the LBGS currently deadlocked, the Secretary of State, Mr. Michael Heseltine has recommended that an upper limit to a budget of £30.155 million. The Conservative group on the committee have proposed a compromised budget of £28 million while the Labour and Liberal Democratic groups have supported the stand still budget of £30.155 million. Even if the Secretary of State's recommendation is agreed to and there is no guarantee that it

will the earliest meeting at which a budget can be announced will be 27th March or 17th April.

Payment of grants to organisations will undoubtedly be delayed which could cause serious cash-flow problems for the Irish groups funded by the Scheme. If there is a budget cut there are likely to be a substantial reduction in funds to voluntary organisations while approval of a standstill budget represents a cut in real terms.

The Irish welfare groups funded by the Scheme, **Brent Irish Advisory Service, CARA Irish Homeless Project, The London Irish Women's Centre, An Teach Housing Association and the Action Group for Irish Youth** are currently being considered for renewal of funding by the LBGS.

On 6th March, the five groups wrote jointly to the leaders of the three political groupings on the LBGS Committee requesting their continuing support as demand for the organisations' services increases. The groups pointed out in their letter that the LBGS *"allocation comprises 1% of the total budget targeted at the Irish community - a community which actually makes up 10% of London's population"*.

LEGAL AID FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS !

Law Aid Trust, a new charity established by the legal profession which organised the fundraising campaign Law Aid 90 is now inviting applications for grants from organisations working in the field of homelessness. The Trust's aim *"is to make an effective contribution to relieving the present suffering of homeless people and to prevent future suffering through*

homelessness. The single homeless have been identified as a special priority".

The Trust also state that *"it is most unlikely that any grant in excess of £10,000 will be made"* and that the average grant is likely to be considerably less.

For further information and an application form contact:

Jon Siddall, Campaign Co-ordinator, Law Aid 90, 113 Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1PL. Tel. 071 320 5870

Closing date for receipt of applications is 24th March 1991.

WORKING ON THE BUILDINGS INFO LEAFLET

Enclosed inside this edition of "AGIY INFO" is AGIY's new information leaflet **"Young and Irish - Working on the Buildings"**. The leaflet details young people's rights and responsibilities while working on a site and provides them with information on health and safety and where they can obtain further help. It also explains how a young person can acquire skilled training and provides information on Trade Unions organised in the construction industry.

- A further 5,000 copies of the information leaflet **"Young and Irish - AIDS Know the Facts"** have been printed with funding received from Brent HIV Centre.

Copies of both leaflets are available from AGIY.

IRISH YOUTH FESTIVAL

The fifth Kilburn Irish Youth Festival will be held on Sunday 28th July 1991 and plans are underway for organising the event.

The Kilburn Irish Youth Project, which organises the event are inviting volunteers to join the Organising Committee so if you feel like checking out bands, designing posters, fundraising and stewarding on the day etc. come along to the first meeting on **Tuesday 19th March at 7.00pm in the Abbey Community Centre, 222c Belsize Road, London NW6 or Tel. 071 372 1764**

AGENCY PROFILE

THE IRISH CHAPLAINCY IN BRITAIN

The Irish Chaplaincy was formed in 1957 as a result of the large scale emigration from Ireland in the fifties and formalised the working agreements already in place between individual dioceses in Ireland and dioceses in Britain relating to the pastoral care of Irish immigrants. The Irish Church agreed at that time to send priests specifically to work among immigrants in the various areas and development projects that were taking place in Britain. The purpose of this pastoral presence was and still is to enable Irish immigrants to adjust to living in Britain.

The role of the Chaplaincy is first of all to be conscious of the immigrant's needs and inform the local church of these needs, the first of which are pastoral ie. to make the immigrant feel welcome. The second need

and equally important as the first is for the Chaplaincy and local Church to support an immigrant against injustice, discrimination, exploitation, prejudice and racism. The Chaplaincy aims therefore to empower immigrants so as to enable them to make their migration a positive experience, expressing their identity and contributing to the political, social and cultural life of their new society. In fulfilling this role the Chaplaincy is present in immigrant networks supporting them and occasionally initiating them for their benefit in the form of projects etc. which enhance the quality of life of the individual. Another important role of the Chaplaincy is to inform the Church and society in general in Ireland on the emigration experience of Irish people.

Chaplaincy members work in parishes and projects in the Irish populated centres in Britain, Germany and the United States. In Britain there are 50 Chaplaincy members working across a range of activities including parish apostolates, specialised apostolates, hostel provision and welfare advice work. In the specialised apostolates for example, members of the Chaplaincy work with prisoners, the homeless and people who are HIV +.

Chaplaincy members also provide outreach services to immigrants and can be contacted on the special outreach telephone number on **071 272 9843. Mon - Fri. 9am - 5pm.** There is an answerphone service outside these hours.

For further information contact:

The Irish Chaplaincy Centre, St. Mellitus' Church, Tollington Park, London N4 3AG.

Tel. 071 263 1477