

EMIGRATION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTED

LONDON IRISH YOUTH FORUM

The next Forum meeting is on:

Thursday 30th April at
2.30 p.m. in Irish
Centre, 50 Camden
Square, London NW1.

Main Agenda Item

Access to housing -
how advice/welfare
agencies can get
referral rights to
housing projects

Speaker: Marian
McGowan, Housing
Development Worker,
Social Pastoral Action.

Preliminary results from the 1991 Census in the Republic of Ireland highlight the dramatic impact of emigration both on the national population and on local communities.

The Census indicates a net emigration loss of 136,486 persons between the previous 1986 Census and the 1991 Census.

- The net estimated level of emigration amongst women was 61,100 or 44.7% of the total emigration figure.
- For men, the estimates were 75,400 or 55.3% of the total.
- When these figures are set against the 1986 population figures, they indicate that 3.85% of the total population has emigrated in this five year period.

They also highlight that emigration has impacted marginally more on men - at a level of 4.26% from the total male population since 1986. Amongst women, emigration has been at a level of 3.45% from the total female population since 1986.

The 1991 Census findings also confirm that in the 5 year inter-censal period, the average annual rate of emigration was at its highest for 35 years and this coincided with a period when the average natural increase (births) in the

Rep. of Irl. was at its lowest for 50 years. On a regional basis, the average annual rate of emigration was also at its highest since 1956 for the provinces of Leinster and Munster and no county achieved net immigration between 1986-1991.

Nonetheless, the Census highlights that the Rep. of Irl. continues to have a burgeoning youth population - the highest in Europe. The table below gives an age profile summary.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of persons</u>	<u>% of total pop</u>
Under 15s	962,758	27%
Under 20s	1,296,461	37%
Under 25s	1,561,254	44%

Ireland's labour force is increasing at 3 times the European average. Even though emigration is thought to

have slowed down recently, as a result of the depressed economies in the traditional destinations for Irish emigrants, Britain and America, it is expected that the exodus will substantially increase again before the end of the decade. When the results of the 1991 UK Census begin to be published, new data will emerge that will inform on the patterns of emigration from Ireland to Britain during the last decade 1981-1991 and on the experiences of the latest wave of Ireland's diaspora.

New AGIY Worker Appointed

As we go to press AGIY have just appointed a third worker to the newly created position of Training and Consultancy Worker within the organisation.

Martin Tucker who previously worked with the Travelling community as a social worker employed by Haringey Council will be joining AGIY at the end of May.

As Training and Consultancy Worker Martin will be responsible for promoting and developing an Irish dimension to agencies' equal opportunities work through the provision of training services and for developing a range of consultancy and training services for the Irish community and statutory and voluntary organisations at a local and national level in Britain.

Funding News

London Boroughs Grants Scheme

Irish voluntary organisations have been informed that they are to continue to receive funding from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme (LBGS) for the financial year 1992/93.

In decisions announced during the past few weeks **Brent Irish Advisory Service (BIAS)** will receive £10,190; **CARA** £110,885; **London Irish Women's Centre** £88,370 and the **Action Group for Irish Youth** £24,552.

While CARA received a small increase in its annual funding from the LBGS, the grants to the remaining groups were frozen at their 1991/92 levels.

The LBGS are currently in the process of considering longer term funding over three years for all groups which may also be of benefit to the Irish groups funded by the Scheme especially in terms of planning and stability.

ITV Telethon

The third Telethon will be broadcast live by ITV on 18th and 19th July 1992. All monies raised within the Thames/LWT area will be administered and distributed by the Thames/LWT Trust which is a registered charity.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Tuesday 1st September 1992.**

Application forms can now be obtained from:

Thames/LWT Telethon Trust Ltd, 306 - 316 Euston Road, London. NW1 3BB.
Tel. (071) 387 9494

Southwark Appoints Irish Policy Officer

The London Borough of Southwark has just appointed **Patrick Reynolds** as its first Irish Policy Community Liaison Officer. Southwark has a large local Irish community and it will be part of Pat's job to progress issues of concern to the Irish community within the Council.

In November 1988 the Southwark Irish community held a Consultative Conference which made over 60 recommendations to Southwark Council for policy changes which would improve the lives of Irish people living in the Borough. Since then the Southwark Irish Forum has been instrumental in pursuing these recommendations with the Council and Pat said on his appointment that "*my role will be*

to build upon this solid foundation in advancing Council wide policies to meet the needs of the large local Irish Community."

For more information contact:

Pat Reynolds,
Irish Policy Community Liaison Officer,
Race Equality, Southwark Town Hall,
Peckham Road, London. SE5 8UB.
Tel. (071) 525 000

- Southwark Council have just funded the costs of printing 5,000 copies of the information leaflet "Young and Irish - AIDS Know the Facts" which is jointly produced by AGIY and Positively Irish Action on AIDS (PIAA).
- To obtain copies of the leaflet which has been up-dated Tel. AGIY on (071) 278 1665 or PIAA on (081) 983 0192.

Shelter Nightline

Inside this edition of "AGIY-INFO" is a leaflet with information about Shelter Nightline.

Shelter Nightline is a free helpline for those in emergency housing need and operates from 6 pm to 9 am on weekdays and 24 hours over weekends.

The service provides practical help and advice and will assist callers with such problems as finding emergency temporary accommodation, illegal evictions, domestic violence and harassment, including racial harassment. The service also provides advice on a wide range of housing problems and callers will also be referred to day-time agencies for further assistance when appropriate.

Ann Doyle, the manager of the Nightline said that "the Nightline is committed to assisting the Irish Community in London and also to encourage take up of the service by travellers, lesbians and gay men and people with HIV."

Agencies who require further copies of the Nightline leaflets should contact:

Sophie Meddings during office hours.
(071) 253 0202 ext. 306

New Drugs Service for Irish Women

The London Irish Women's Centre are launching a new drop-in service every Wednesday afternoon from 2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. at the Centre for Irish women concerned about drug related issues. A trained drugs counsellor, Clare Gavin from Hackney Community Drugs Team will be available to provide advice, support and counselling.

For further information contact:
London Irish Women's Centre,
59 Stoke Newington Church Street,
London. N16.
Tel. (071) 249 7318

Agency Profile

North Kensington Law Centre

North Kensington Law Centre was the first law centre to be established in the UK in 1970 and is run by a voluntary Management Committee comprising of local people and a full time Director. It currently has a staff complement of 14 workers and is open to the public daily from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 6 pm.

The Centre is a charity funded by a grant from the Legal Aid Board, Legal Aid income and additional funding from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It offers legal advice, representation, research, education and support to people and community groups who live or work in North Kensington.

At the time of the last Census in 1981 4.98% of the population resident in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea were Irish by birth. At least 40,000 Irish people therefore were resident in the Borough. With the increased rate of emigration from Ireland to London over the past 10 years the number of Irish people living in the Borough has undoubtedly increased and the Law Centre now reports that in some areas of their work up to 40% of their clients are Irish.

AREAS OF WORK

Immigration and Nationality

The Centre provides advice on nationality, representation at immigration tribunals and appeals, deportation cases and related matters.

Employment

Representation in Industrial Tribunals, county court action for recovery of unpaid wages, employment law as it relates to racial and sexual discrimination, disability, equal pay, and health and safety.

Housing

Representation in court in possession proceedings, legal advice and representation of the homeless, legal advice and assistance in getting repairs done, on cases of harassment and illegal evictions, advice and assistance on racial harassment, advice and help to community groups and

tenants associations, with research, training and constitutions.

Crime/Policing

Representation of generally young people at police stations and on criminal charges, civil actions against the police, police complaints, suspensions from schools, educational talks, research and advice and representation for victims of violent crime at the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

The Centre operates a 24 hour emergency service for people detained by the police. This service can be contacted out of normal working hours by telephoning (081) 840 7000 and asking for page number 0737564.

Other Law Centres

There are law centres located all over London. To find out where your nearest Law Centre is contact:

**The Law Centres Federation,
Duchess House, Warren Street, London.
W1P 5DA.**

Tel. (071) 387 8570

AGIY-INFO is produced bi-monthly by the

Action Group for Irish Youth, 5-15 Cromer Street, London. WC1H 8LS.

Should your group wish to publicise any events, notices etc. please contact Dave or Joan at AGIY Tel. (071) 278 1665.