



women's

RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Supporting Women's Groups and Networks Across Northern Ireland

Newsletter ~ May 2021

Campaigning Success for Raise Your Voice

Raise Your Voice has been working alongside other organisations to push for urgent reform on Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) in schools. It is apparent through our work as well as through a wealth of evidence that our current RSE provision is insufficient, and it is not fully equipping young people with the information that they need to embark on healthy, safe and consensual relationships.



In light of the murder of Sarah Everard in March and, shortly thereafter the murder of two further women here in Northern Ireland, a debate took place in the Assembly during which mandatory, **standardised and inclusive RSE** was recognised as the crucial piece of the puzzle that we have always known it to be, alongside a strategy to combat violence against women and girls and the recognition of misogyny as a category of hate crime, which we have been campaigning on for some time.

In the past month Raise Your Voice have written to the Education Minister Peter Weir MLA to urge action on this, and you can read this letter here. You can also watch a recording of an event that took place in late April, where a number of the organisations who signed our letter joined us to explain why they, too, support our campaign; these included Rape Crisis NI, Relate NI, the Homeless Period Belfast, Alliance for Choice Belfast, Transgender NI, Unison's Education Branch and NIWEP. [This is available to watch here.](#)



In This Issue

Campaigning
Success for Raise
Your Voice

Upcoming Events
and Groups

Bowel Cancer
Screening
Awareness
Programme

The MAs Project
Looks Forward to
Next Stage

Out and About



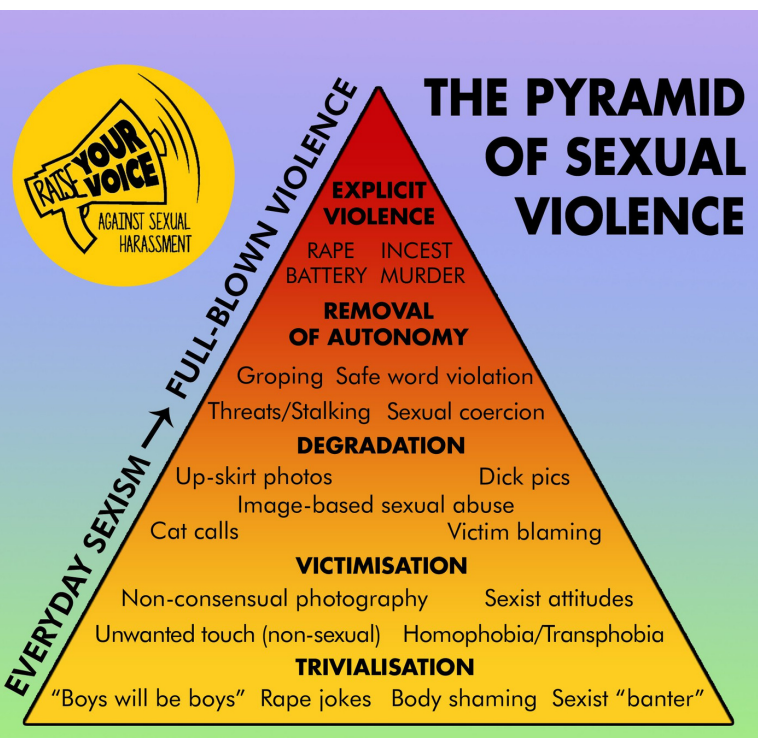
@WRDA_team



@WomensResourceandDevelopmentAgency

Campaigning Success for Raise Your Voice (Continued)

We recognise that education and awareness takes place outside of school settings, too, and Raise Your Voice is involved in the Gillen Review Implementation Team, which will soon release a survey that will be used to shape a campaign to tackle common “rape myths” across society.



We also provide free, interactive, online workshops on these issues which are available to everybody. We have scheduled two for early June; “What Is Sexual Harassment” on Tuesday 8th June, and “Everything You Wanted to Know About Consent, But Were Afraid to Ask”, on Tuesday 15th June. Both begin at 7pm, and last one hour, and [you can register on our website.](#)

ROSA

**THE UK FUND FOR
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

This project is funded by Rosa: the UK Fund for Women & Girls

Upcoming Events and Groups



Join the WRDA and Trócaire on the 22nd of April from 12.30-1.30pm for a talk on how women are taking the lead in defending human rights and the environment.

[You can register for this event on Eventbrite.](#)

Feminist Responses to Climate Change Discussion Group

Starting September 2021

email info@wrda.net to register your interest

The group will last for approximately four sessions and will be held online via Zoom. Places are limited.

Register Your Interest

Bowel cancer screening awareness programme launched by WRDA

A new session aimed at raising awareness of bowel screening is available both online and face to face to support the recent launch of a new, simpler bowel cancer screening kit (called the FIT Kit) in Northern Ireland.

The **Bowel Cancer Screening Awareness programme** highlights the importance of bowel screening in early diagnosis of bowel cancer. It includes information about bowel cancer screening, including how to complete the test, explains signs and symptoms to look for that should prompt an individual to contact their GP, and includes suggestions for individuals on reducing the risk of bowel cancer.

The awareness programme is for both groups and individuals and can be accessed through Zoom sessions(or face to face sessions once a risk assessment has been carried out and there is guidance from The Executive)

The aim is to raise awareness, explore and address fears surrounding bowel cancer screening and encourage people to use the new test kit when it is sent to them. The work is funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

The WRDA is currently taking bookings for group Bowel screening awareness sessions delivered on Zoom. Please contact Katherine.robertson@wrda.net to book or for further information including webinars [visit our website](#).

Bowel Cancer - Reduce Your Risk

- **Eat a high fibre diet**
- **Eat less processed and red meat**
- **Maintain a healthy weight**
- **Keep active**
- **Drink alcohol in moderation**
- **Don't Smoke**



The Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening programme is open to men and women aged 60-74 every two years. Eligible individuals are posted out a test kit which they can complete at home in private. This screening test looks for small amounts of blood within an individual's bowel motion. If blood is detected within the test, further investigations are recommended. The aim of bowel screening is to help find bowel cancer early, when it is easier to treat.

The WRDA also run Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening awareness sessions – see here for more info. The YouTube video discussing the symptoms of bowel cancer and how to use the new FIT kit [can be viewed here](#).

The MAs Project Looks Forward to Next Stage



Maternal Advocacy and Support

The Mas project is providing peer support for women with maternal mental health problems across 8 women's centres in the Belfast, Lisburn and Derry/Londonderry area. Due to the pandemic we had to adapt to online delivery and are now all phasing the return to face to face contact. The peer support has included a range of support and activities for the women and we will be integrating the NSPCC's Look Say Sing Play campaign for the women and children in the 8 centres. **The project is planning for the next phase by developing our own Mas OCN for workers and it will also be available for project participants.** We are planning advocacy activities for the months ahead and many are keen to use their lived experience to improve services for women in the future.



Project funded by the National Lottery
Community Fund

Out and About Virtually Zoom Deliveries

Clonmore Regeneration Men's Group
Galbally Womens Group
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council
Group
WRDA Member's sessions
Clonmore Regeneration Women's Group
The Carers Trust
Indian Community Centre
Chest, Heart and Stroke Association Better
Breathing Regional Group
Cithrah
Antrim Base
Maghera Day Centre
iAssist
Belfast Health and Social Care
Trust Staff
Mourne Stimulus

If you would like to find out more about our Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Awareness Programme or if you would like to arrange a delivery for your community group over Zoom please email katherine.robertson@wrda.net. If your group is for people with additional needs such as hearing impairment or learning difficulties please email paula.murray@wrda.net.



Project funded by the Public Health Agency