

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

COIS TINE and the SMA JUSTICE OFFICE



Cois Tíne - SMA Justice Office Report 2012

Introduction

Cois Tíne is an outreach project of the SMA Justice Office and as the working relationship between the both has grown closer in programmes and activities an amalgamated Annual Report is being issued for 2012.

During 2012 our work focused on four main areas:

- Immigrant support services,
- Human Trafficking,
- Interfaith Dialogue and
- Raising awareness of Justice and Peace Issues.

While these were areas of primary interest other activities which supported them were also engaged in, for example administration, maintaining our website, organising and running events, training etc. How we addressed these issues is outlined below.

Research, Writing and Awareness Raising

As in previous years raising awareness of issues affecting Africa and African immigrants was a priority. This work took many different forms and was targeted at different audiences. However, whatever focus or form this took it began with research and writing. This was undertaken for the wide range of topics addressed on the Cois Tíne website, (www.coistine.ie) the SMA magazine, Justice Briefings and for various Presentations delivered during the year. By far the most comprehensive and in-dept research during the year was that undertaken for the book "Open Secrets, an Irish Perspective on Trafficking and Witchcraft and also for the interfaith dialogue resource "A Journey Together" published early in 2013.

Publications

Four Justice Briefings; Africa – Street Children; Africa – Human Trafficking; Africa – Arms Trade and Africa-Ireland Muslim Christian Dialogue were researched and published as planned during the year. As in previous years the Briefings aimed to give a clear overview of a particular justice issue, what the Church says about the issue and highlight actual Church responses being made. To date a total of nineteen Justice Briefings have been published. These are available at <http://www.coistine.ie/resources/justice-briefings>

Articles were also written for two issues of the SMA's African Missionary. These continued the "Working for Justice in Ireland and Africa" theme begun in 2011 and focused on connecting the local and the global. Specifically the two issues focused on were Muslim Christian relations and Homelessness.

Internet/Website

This was a major vehicle for raising awareness of immigrant issues, for promoting integration and for promoting a Christian response to immigrants. In all 62 articles/reflections were posted on the Cois Tíne site during the year highlighting issues affecting immigrants. Some

were written by staff or volunteers while others were relevant articles published elsewhere but linked to on the Cois Tine website.

Web statistics provided through Google Analytics shows that the Cois Tine website had, in the twelve month period from Oct 2011 to Oct 2012 - a total of 12,678 visits were made by 10,009 individuals during which 30,256 page views were made. Clearly the website is worth maintaining. The Human Trafficking Section remains the most popular with 14,576 hits. Four thousand five hundred of these were made in 2012. The newer Briefings Section has reached 6,342 hits - an increase of roughly 50% in the last year.

Muslim Christian Dialogue

2012 was the second and final year of the project funded mostly by the European Union's Integration Fund. In all five events took place. These consisted of a Workshop in Limerick, a Seminar at Cois Tine, a post Ramadan meal, a Women's Discussion Event and the Launch event for of "A Journey Together – a Resource for Muslim Christian Dialogue" event early in 2013. During the second part of the year notes from previous dialogue events and workshops were collated and research undertaken in order to write up the resource which went to the printer just before Christmas. A Resource website was designed and set up within the Cois Tine web domain at www.coistine.ie/dialogue-resource . This contains the full content of the resource, links to all the websites referred to in the text and a downloadable pdf version of the resource.

Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants (IECI)

Gerry Forde, from the SMA Justice Office, participated in meetings of the IECI Board in Maynooth. These focused on the development of a Parish Toolkit for welcoming the stranger. In 2013 a pilot project involving eight parishes will take place – they will make use of a draft Toolkit developed by the Board and then report back. The Toolkit will then be updated on the basis of the learning and experience gained and launched nationally in 2014. One of the areas the toolkit will focus on will be interfaith dialogue – the resource published by Cois Tine will be one of the main resources associated with the Parish Toolkit.

Cork City Integration Strategy

Cois Tine's involvement in this area continued in 2013. Our aim is firstly to ensure that the needs of African immigrants are included and addressed in the strategy and secondly to ensure the recognition and inclusion of faith and faith based groups as a positive impetus for integration. Almost all of the consultation stage in the development process is completed. It is hoped that Strategy will be launched by summer 2013.

Service Usage

During 2012 Cois Tine focused almost solely on its original vision of providing support for African Immigrants. However, in 2012 the situation regarding immigration in Ireland continued to change. The number of new asylum seekers coming into the Cork area decreased. Many Direct Provision Centres around the country were closed reducing the total from a high of 60 centres in the past to just 37 at present.

In 2011 the total number of sign-ins was just under 8,000. In 2012 this dropped to 5,000. Many of these were repeat visits by individuals. This drop in client numbers reflects the reality that very few new asylum seekers are coming to Ireland and that those already here and now living in the community no longer need a drop-in centre. In addition to individuals the

activities of seventeen community groups were also facilitated at Cois Tine during 2012 – **see appendix 2.**

While the demand for the drop-in services declined a clear need was identified for a greater level of pastoral outreach care in the direct provision centres and in the community. Seventy four visits were made by the Director and one volunteer to the Direct Provision centres during the year and 27 visits were made to families/individuals living in the community.

Counselling on one-to-one support

One hundred and seventeen Counselling sessions were delivered during the year by trained counsellors. In addition a further 212 one-to-one support sessions were also provided. Presenting issues during the year included relationship issues, depression, trauma, self-esteem issues, personal growth and interpersonal skills, faith related issues, suicide attempts, domestic abuse, loss/making sense of current situation, deportation issues, sickness caused by anxiety, sexual abuse, bereavement, isolation/loneliness, homelessness.

Computer Facility

At the beginning of 2012 Cois Tine had a dedicated computer room with 12 computers which was used extensively by clients at the beginning of the year and provided them with the opportunity to develop IT skills as well as social networking, job search and contact with family. Another room with 5 computers was made available to volunteers and students who were in work placement with Cois Tine or for students who needed access to computers with software necessary for their courses of study. The need for this service declined in the course of the year as internet and computer services became available in the Direct Provision Centres.

Training Provision

In 2012 three different types of training programmes were delivered. These focused on:

- a) service providers and those interested in working with immigrants
- b) service users in order to build their skills and self- reliance
- c) work specific training for Cois Tine staff and volunteers

Building on a pilot programme in 2011 we delivered an extensive training programme to respond to the needs of personnel working with the immigrant community. The aim was to help build their capacity to understand, communicate and engage with people from other cultures. **See Appendix III**

FAS Community Employment Scheme Staff

Cois Tine depends heavily on FAS Community personnel. There is a high turnover of staff. 2012 saw four staff moving on. Two of the positions were filled and there are two positions vacant (one has been vacant since May 2012). With the Government cutback in finances and benefits for CE personnel there is no longer sufficient incentive for people to take up Community Employment posts, therefore it is unlikely that these positions will be filled.

Volunteers

Volunteers were, as in the past, essential to Cois Tine's work in 2012. Their time in Cois Tine ranges from an hour per day to one day per week. In 2012 there were fewer

applications to volunteer at Cois Tine than in the previous year. However, we still have 25 volunteers on our books who work in areas of research, counselling, training, reception duties, housekeeping and general assistance. **See Appendix I for a list of volunteers.**

Work and Study Placement Students

In the 2011 report we indicated that Cois Tine would take no further study/work placements in 2012 due to the administrative workload that this generated. Nonetheless, in 2012 as many of the applicants were from immigrant backgrounds, particularly of African origin this decision was changed. This resulted in 9 students being placed which included immigrants from USA, France, Ethiopia, Sudan and Nigeria.

Acknowledgements

During 2012 we received grants for specific pieces of work which were carried out in accordance with the grantors requirements. We also received donations from individuals, from the Diocese and Cork & Ross and also the Little Way Association for which we are most grateful.

We are also in a very special way grateful to the Dominican Community at Popes Quay. Without the premises, which they provide at a nominal cost, Cois Tine could not operate.

Our sincere thanks to all who have supported the work of Cois Tine during the last year. Below is a list of contributors who provided support in kind or financially. In addition to those listed below a number of individuals also made donations to Cois Tine. We are most grateful for their support.

Donors and Supporters

Health Services Executive.	Douglas Parish.
The Diocese of Cork and Ross.	The Dominican Community
European Integration Fund	The Little Way Association.
FAS	The Society of African Missions

Finances During 2012 expenditure was kept to a minimum. In all a total of €32,761 was spent less than half the expenditure in the previous year. Income during the year was €31,339 leaving a deficit of expenditure over income of €1,422 which was met from the €24,006 was carried forward from 2011. This leaves a balance of €22,484 carried forward. This will cover most of the expected expenditure in 2013. **See Annual Accounts on the next page.**

Cois Tine - Accounts for 2012

COIS TINE	Expenditure 2012	Income
1. Bank Charges	27	
2. Insurance	420	Donations 13,618
3. Equipment	2,046	Grants 12,111
4. Housekeeping /Hospitality	1,331	Charity Shop 4,586
5. Building Maintenance	605	Refunds 1024
6. Office Costs	2,979	
7. Publications	5	
8. Training (for Service Users)	1,021	
9. Staff/Volunteer Expenses	2,537	
10. Staff/Volunteer Training	2,089	
11. Utilities	3,670	
12. Events/Activities Services	6843	
13 Research/Book	5,840	
14. Shop	2,461	
16 Salary	887	
Total	32,761	31,339
BALANCE SHEET		
Balance at start of year	€24,006	
+ Income during the year	€31,339	
- Expenditure during the year	€32,761	
Balance Jan 1st 2013	€22,584	

1	George Jameson -	Basic research/resource
2	Michael Blaney UCC -	Client support/English classes
3	Jen Dewane (finished May 2012)	Research
4	David Lohan	Research/Administrative support
5	Dervilla Bohan (finished April 2012)	Accounts
6	Rajabu Kilimi	General/Assisting at events
7	Saskia Walters	General/Organic Gardening
8	Jerry O'Sullivan	General
9	Ameen Hassan	Garden Project Coordinator/General
10	Yasir Younis	Social/drumming programme
12	Eugene Sarachov	Shop Manager/IT support
13	Samuel Ssebulia (finished April 2012)	Shop
14	Jose Martinez	General/housekeeping/social
15	Habtom Berhane	General/Assisting at events
16	Sr. Enda O'Donovan	Reception
18	Emenike Ukachukwu(finished July 2012)	Reception
19	Rodrigue Nkways	Reception
20	Hussain EL Houdaigui	Reception/housekeeping
21	Yasir Younis	Misc/Drumming
22	Lorraine Singleton	Housekeeping
23	Julie Gill	Counselling
24	Toni McDermott	Counselling
25	Anne O'Malley	Counselling

1. Cork Domestic Violence Network
2. Nigeria Community Cork
3. Igbo Union
4. Anambra Association
5. Cork Integration Strategy Steering Group
6. Trocaire
7. Lifelong Learning Festival
8. Mna Feasa
9. National Youth Council
10. Anambra Association
11. EDA – Ethical Development Action
12. Akidwa
13. Igbo Union (ongoing)
14. Cork Community Art Link
15. Cork African Women’s Group
16. Common Purpose (site visit)
17. Cork Anti Poverty Resource Network

APPENDIX III TRAINING DELIVERED DURING 2012

a) For service providers and those interested in working with immigrants

Integration - a luxury or a necessity?

Exploring voices that influence National Integration Policy and Practice. Information on rights, advice and advocacy for immigrants in respect of their rights and entitlements. *Facilitated by Kathy O'Connor, SW Outreach and Development Officer at Integrating Ireland. MA from UCC in Contemporary Migration and Diaspora Studies.*

Human trafficking - a problem in Ireland?

This presentation explored the issue of how one defines human trafficking and what it means to be the victim of human trafficking. The objective was to provide an understanding of what human trafficking is and what it is not, for the purpose of raising awareness. *Facilitated by David Lohan MA in Politics, UCC and has been researching the issue of Trafficking both at a National and Global level.*

Witchcraft and African Traditional Beliefs and Practices in the Irish Context

Witchcraft can be used in some contexts as a tool for domination and is being used as such in Ireland today to control and trap trafficked persons in abusive and exploitative situations. This presentation put African

witchcraft beliefs into context with the Irish and European histories of witchcraft and looked at its practice in Ireland today. *Facilitated by Dr. Jennifer DeWan Ph.D.- Anthropology from Columbia University, New York.*

Patterns of migration management internationally

This explored the international drive to 'manage' migration in 21st Century and issues relevant to migrants in Ireland including borders, bordering, command and control of movement, policy and operational infrastructure, forced repatriation, assisted voluntary return and family reunification. *Facilitated by Dr. Liam Coakley, UCC. Currently coordinates the Masters in Contemporary Migration and Diaspora Studies , UCC.*

Social Policy and Social Inclusion

Understanding how policy is created and realising its potential for positive impacts on targeted groups and how it benefits society. *Facilitated by Michael Blaney, MSc in Social Policy, UCC.*

Effective Management of Cultural Diversity in Ireland: The role of Immigrants and host Communities.

This presentation explored the dynamics of immigration and integration policies in the Irish context and how as individuals, we can leverage the opportunity immigration and immigrants bring to the advantage of our society. *Facilitated by Olaniyi Kolawole MS in Migration and Diaspora Studies UCC and 3rd year PhD Social Science student at the University College Cork.*

Living Between Memory, War, and Daily Life

This explored the Impact of the Nakba (Palestinian Catastrophe) on Internally Displaced Palestinian Women in Israel. Analysing the narratives of Nakba women survivors, their daughters, granddaughters, and great granddaughters in the context of on-going ethnic conflict in the context of Israel/Palestine, managing anxiety while caring for others, in addition to coping with loss of land and tradition. *Facilitated by Rola (Hamed) Abu Zeid – O'Neill, Department of Sociology, UCC.*

The wearing of the hijab among teenagers in Irish society.

This was explored from a number of perspectives including the social, cultural, economic, political and religious. The study of the specific phenomenon of the hijab and school uniforms was contextualised within the wider processes of gender relations, youth culture and fashion, and immigration. *Delivered by Jack O'Neill, currently a PhD student in UCC in the department of Sociology: Arts, Celtics Studies and Social Sciences.*

APPENDIX III CONTINUED

b) Training for Service Users

How to grow your own organic food

Following the setting up of a small organic garden at the rear and front of Cois Tine premises a six day course on How to grow your own organic food. The aim of this course was to prepare clients to become more self-reliant when they moved into independent accommodation in the community as well as learn about the principles of growing organic foods. 13 people completed this course. *Facilitated by Saskia Walters, a graduate of Practical Sustainability, Permaculture and Horticulture from Kinsale College.*

Ireland and Identity

This four day course run over a four week period explored how one's personal identity is formed and constructed, gender and race, culture, national identity, belonging to a society and positive policies for a modern, all inclusive Irish society fit for the 21st century. 9 clients participated in this course. *Facilitated by Michael Blaney, MSc in Social Policy, UCC*

Computer Courses

Two computer courses were run over a six week period tailored to the needs of the clients from beginners to advanced levels. 19 clients took part in the courses.

Facilitated by Catherine Burke and Siobhan Lehane, Cork Anti-Poverty Network Ltd., Education and Rights

Resource Centre.

Art Project- Your flag, Your Voice, your community

There were eight participants in this course which was part of a community based arts project undertaken in Cork. *Facilitated by Community Art Link, Shandon Street*

c) Training for Staff and Pastoral Outreach Care Workers

Issues in working with the impact of sexual violence and other Trauma (4 day training programme for staff working in key support roles with refugees and Asylum Seekers) which was intended to enhance the capacity to support clients who have experienced sexual violence and other trauma. *Provided by the Education and training Department of Dublin Rape Crisis centre*

Brief Encounters – Transforming frontline practice

A two day programme which provides training in listening to clients who are distressed and would like to talk, while managing time, recognizing boundaries and where appropriate empowering the client in moving forward. *Delivered by Ag Eisteacht is accredited by IASW, An Bord Altranais and ICGP.*

Child Safeguarding

Exploring policy, codes of behaviour and procedures in line with the Standards and Guidance in the Safeguarding Children Document published by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church *Facilitated by Fr. John Dunne SMA*