



International conference in Dublin today on human trafficking

2015 was the second busiest year since the Immigrant Council of Ireland started work in this area a decade ago. Thirty-one trafficked women sought support in Ireland in 2015 and the country is fast becoming a destination country the Immigrant Council of Ireland has warned.

The Council stated that its preliminary figures confirm that the women it supported were trafficked into Ireland from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

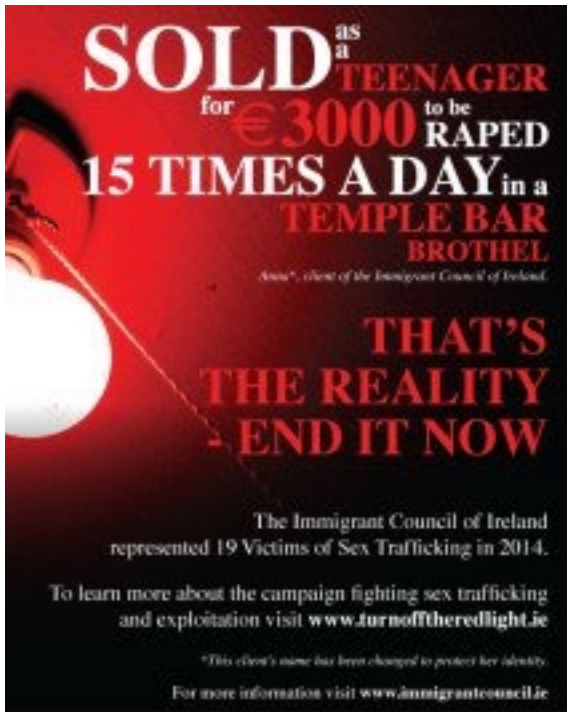
“Of the 31 women who sought the protection and support of our frontline services and independent law centre, 11 were new cases – making the year the second busiest since we started work in this area a decade ago,” said Catherine Cosgrave, Legal Services Manager with the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

She explained that it is vital to remove these women and girls from the ‘clutches’ of pimps and sex- traffickers.

The women need help with being officially recognised as a victim of trafficking, as well as with immigration and visa issues, asylum applications and supports to restart their lives.

“With women from four continents seeking our services it is clear that Ireland is a destination country for criminal networks with a global reach and we need laws and procedures in place which will jail the guilty while at the same time ensure that their victims are protected and supported,” said Catherine Cosgrave.

Laws aimed at protecting and supporting victims will be the focus of an international legal conference hosted by the Immigrant Council in Dublin on today Thursday (14 January).



Turn Off the Red Light
End Trafficking and Sex Trafficking in Ireland

Immigrant Council
of Ireland

Experts on human trafficking are attending the conference titled 'Upholding Rights: Early Legal Intervention for Victims of Human Trafficking.'

Speakers include UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland OBE and Human Rights Barrister and US recognised 'Trafficking in Persons Hero 2015' Parosha Chandran.

As regards Irish laws, agencies working with victims of sex trafficking in Ireland fully support

proposed new legislation and again call on the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald, to enact them before the General Election.

“In the coming week the Oireachtas will resume its debate on sex buyer laws which will smash the business model allowing organised crime to pocket millions,” said Brian Killoran, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

Those seeking refuge in Europe, especially children and women refugees, risk sexual exploitation and trafficking on their journey, according to an Al Jazeera report.

It also highlighted the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)’s assertion that women travelling alone face a heightened risk of abuse as they move through Europe or stop in cramped reception centres.

Unaccompanied minors face even greater risks and EU member states have reported at least 7,000 unaccompanied minors, although the actual figure is thought to be much higher.

Data collected by Missing Children Europe, a network of 30 European NGOs, states that more than half of unaccompanied minors go missing within the first 48 hours from their arrival at the facility and most are never found.

No proper investigation is conducted and when a child goes missing, a certain amount of time has to pass before the disappearance can be notified to the police, even if the child has a history of being trafficked or sexually abused.

The lack of available information on a refugee child makes it even more difficult for the authorities to track him or her down.

The European law enforcement agency EUROPOL has identified groups who smuggle for profit and then force the victims into sexual exploitation and drug dealing.

EUROPOL also highlighted the rise in children beginning their journey with their family but then getting lost or separated along the way.

The Smile of the Child, a Greek non-profit voluntary organisation, has helped families leaving children with smugglers or friends to move faster to their final destination.

When the families later look for the child, they have disappeared, having been either abandoned by their minder or trafficked.

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Bible App brings Week of Prayer texts to smart phones

Material for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which takes place next week, will be available for the first time on smart phones, computers and tablets following a collaboration between the World Council of Churches and the developer of the YouVersion Bible app.

The eight-day Week of Prayer has been promoted by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the WCC since 1968.

The Week of Prayer material available through the app will include biblical reflections in an easily-shareable, free, digital format in English, French, Spanish, German and Portuguese.

The former secretary general of the World Evangelical Alliance, the Revd Dr Geoff Tunnicliffe, is chairman of the Board of Advisors of Christian Media Corporation International and an ambassador for YouVersion international. He said: "More and more people are accessing Bible verses through their smart phones and downloading them on their computers or tablets. It seems an ideal time to partner with the WCC,



and the app will actually personalize the Week of Prayer experience for you.”

The Bible app is already installed on more than 204 million unique devices all over the world, and offers more than 1,200 Bible versions in over 800 languages.

Each year, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians come together to pray, exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The theme for 2016 is “Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord” based on 1 Peter 2:9.

This year's material was prepared by members of different churches in Latvia as they explored the relationship between baptism and proclamation, and “the calling shared by all the baptized to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord and manifest the oneness of the Church,” the WCC said.

“As we search for Christian unity together, the Bible App offers one more way for people to access biblical texts and adapt them in their own local and cultural contexts,” the WCC's director of Faith and Order, the Revd Dr Odair Pedroso Mateus, said. “As churches and Christian communities observe the week of prayer, it is gratifying that technology, instead of separating us, can instead bring us together with common texts in a format that lends itself to ecumenical settings. We will hear of God’s saving acts in history as God opened new life to all of us,” he said, “and, through prayerful reading, may we recognize the mighty acts of God in our own lives and serve the unity of the church and the unity of humanity.”

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Emigrants won't return to Ireland if they feel they don't belong

Fr [Alan Hilliard](#) writes in The Irish Times that there are too many obstacles in the way of people who would wish to return to Ireland.

He states - “Politicians, public servants and plain old marketing people are [dreaming up ways to entice our young and energetic population back](#). The nods and winks have started: “Things are on the up”, “There’s skill shortage in the tech sector”, “ah sure the bad old days are over”, “things must be good, the traffic on the M50 is awful”, and “the austerity of austerity is long gone”, they say.

But to create policy for returning emigrants based on economic attractions alone is to completely miss the point. A quick scan through [the most read articles in 2015 on the Generation Emigration website](#) shows that the existential issue of belonging or feelings of not belonging are to the fore in many of the stories, whether the person is living in Ireland or overseas.

“There are many who can return seamlessly to Ireland because their companies facilitate their return with bonuses and incentives, but for many others, [returning home can be loaded with very](#)

difficult and unforeseen challenges. Strangely enough, many returnees can feel more estranged from their Irishness and Ireland when they are back here than they ever felt when they lived overseas.”

Fr Alan Hilliard is coordinator of the Chaplaincy Service in Dublin Institute of Technology, and a board member of the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/generation-emigration/destinations/returning-to-ireland/emigrants-won-t-return-to-ireland-if-they-feel-they-don-t-belong-1.2493949>

Cardy family prayed for killer Black - dignity in utmost loss

The parents of nine-year-old Jennifer Cardy, who was abducted and murdered by Robert Black thirty years ago, have spoken of how they prayed for the serial killer during and since his trial. Her brother of has said he carries no hate for the serial killer. Phillip Cardy, whose sister Jennifer was murdered by the paedophile, said he hopes people will take time to remember his victims.



Jennifer Cardy was one of Robert Black's victims

Nine-year-old Jennifer Cardy was abducted by Black as she cycled to a friend's house on a rural road at Ballinderry, Co Antrim, in August 1981.

Black was convicted of her murder after a six-week trial at Armagh Crown Court in 2011.

Reacting to his death in prison, Mr Cardy said: "I have no hate for him, I couldn't muster the hate for him."

Black was also convicted of murdering 11-year-old Susan Maxwell, from the Scottish Borders,

five-year-old Caroline Hogg, from Edinburgh, and Sarah Harper, 10, from Morley, near Leeds.

"It's a real shame that victims and their families are not remembered as much as the murderer," said Mr Cardy.

"Everybody knows Robert Black but not everybody knows Susan Maxwell and Sarah Harper and Caroline Hogg and Jennifer. People forget very quickly."

He added: "It should be about the victims. All those wee girls never got a chance to live a life - it's sad." Black has long been suspected of involvement in a number of other child killings. Mr Cardy said they and their families should be remembered as well

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/jennifer-cardys-brother-couldnt-muster-the-hate-for-robert-black-34359055.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16086642>

Exciting Developments at St Mary's Home, Dublin

The Trustees of St Mary's Home in Dublin have announced exciting new developments for the



Sr Verity Ann and Archdeacon Gordon Linney in St Mary's Home.

long established home. At meetings with residents and their families as well as with staff members the Trustees launched an exciting new plan for the future of St Mary's.

The much loved building on Pembroke Park in Ballsbridge in Dublin was constructed in 1891 by

Canon Richard Travers Smith, Vicar of St Bartholomew's Church. Ever increasing standards set by HIQA and expected by

residents and their families are more and more difficult to meet in such an old building originally built as a school.

The Trustees have therefore decided to combine with St Johns Home to build a new state of the art nursing home on the St Johns site on Merrion Road. The new home will accommodate 56 residents drawn from St Mary's and St John's Homes. One floor will be dedicated to St Mary's.

It is hoped that all the current residents and nursing staff will move together to the new home.

The new home will include state of the art bed sitting rooms with en suite bathrooms. The existing building at St John's will be retained as communal space with sitting rooms, dining rooms and quiet rooms including the chapel.

For over a century St Mary's was run by Anglican nuns from the order of St John the Evangelist.

First as a school and then as a home for retired ladies from the Church of Ireland or those in communion with the Anglican Church.

More recently the sisters retired and handed over the running of the home to Trustees on their behalf. Two sisters still live in the home and take

an active part in the life of the home. Until recently Sister Verity Ann assisted the Vicar of St Bartholomew's in the celebration of Holy Communion in the chapel each week.

Construction work on the new building will commence in the shortly and it is planned that St Mary's will move to the new site in two years time.

The Trustees are pleased that the tradition of loving and caring service developed by the sisters will continue in new premises that will meet the needs of future generation.

Methodist Church President applauds new First Minister's goal

The Rev. Brian Anderson, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland has issued the following Statement:

"With many others I want to offer my congratulations to Mrs. Arlene Foster on her appointment as First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

I appreciate and applaud her determination to ensure that the Assembly will no longer be a by-

word for all that is wrong is politics and to work with the Deputy First Minister to ensure a better future for all the citizens of Northern Ireland."

Dublin cathedral Interdenominational Service in the Irish language

An Interdenominational Service in the Irish language will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Friday, 22 January 2016 at 8pm, organised by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise and Pobal an Aifrinn. This year the theme is Salt of the Earth.

This service, now in its 45th year, will be celebrated during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with hymns, prayers and readings. Hymns will be sung by the choir of Gaelscoil na Cille, Ashbourne, Co. Meath. A consort of Christ Church Cathedral choir will sing canticles and an anthem.

Fr. Clement Mac Mánuis C.Ss.P will preach this year. Refreshments will be available in the medieval cathedral crypt after the service. Everyone is welcome.



Beidh Seirbhís Idirchreidmheach trí Ghaeilge á reáchtáil in Ardteampall Chríost, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Dé hAoine 22 Eanáir 2015 ag 8pm ag Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise i bpáirtíocht le Pobal an Aifrinn. Is é an téama i mbliana ná Salann na Talún.

Ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na hAontachta Críostaí a bheidh i gceist leis an tSeirbhís seo, atá ar siúl le cúig is daichead bliain anois. Beidh iomann, paidreacha agus léachtaí ann. Beidh iomann á gcanadh ag cór Ghaelscoil na Cille, Cill Dhealglain, Co na Mí agus cloisfear cainticí agus aintiúin eaglasta ó choimhdeach chór Ardteampall Chríost.

Beidh an tAthair Clement Mac Mánuis C.Ss.P mar sheanmóirí i mbliana. Cuirfear sólaistí ar fáil i

lusca (crypt) meánaoiseach an Ardteampaill i ndiaidh na Seirbhíse. Fáilte roimh chách.

Armagh appointment

The Reverend Grace Clunie has been appointed Priest in Charge of the parishes of Lisnadill and Kildartan in succession to the Revd Canon Micahel Kennedy. She begins this new stage in her ministry on on Sunday 31 January.

Death of Director of Music

Mr Theo Saunders died this week. Theo was until fairly recently Director of Music in Armagh Cathedral. One who knew him well said, “Given his failing health death will have come with a healing touch. May he rest in peace and rise in glory enriched by the choirs of heaven.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Lottery Funding for St Malachy’s College, Belfast, library

News Letter

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £592,500 to St Malachy's College in Belfast to redevelop its historic O'Lavery Library.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/lottery-s-600-000-to-help-conserve-school-s-historic-library-collection-1-7155157>

Concern over public cost of Pastor James McConnell's trial

News Letter

An official figure can now be revealed for at least part of the public cost of Pastor James McConnell's trial.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/full-mcconnell-trial-cost-figures-emerge-but-total-unclear-1-7155382>

Fire struck Dunmurry church could be closed for a year

News Letter

It could be up to a year before a historic church is fit for use again, after a blaze left much of its interior ruined.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/minister-treated-in-hospital-after-blaze-wrecks-belfast-church-1-7153614>

Church will 'rise from the ashes'

Ulster Star

<http://www.lisburntoday.co.uk/news/lisburn-news/church-will-rise-from-the-ashes-1-7154382>

Priest and serial abuser Tony Walsh sentenced to one year for sexual assault of child in the 1970s

The Journal.ie

Tony Walsh, who became known as the “singing priest” in the 1980s, forced himself on a young girl at a north Dublin parish hall on an unknown date in the mid-1970s.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/singing-priest-tony-walsh-2544541-Jan2016/>

Easter Rising commemorations: 50 events for 2016

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/easter-rising-commemorations-50-events-for-2016-1.2492549>

GAA bosses stall controversial proposal to expel British Army team

The Journal.ie

Paraic Duffy has written to the London county board concerning the future of the Irish Guards team.

<http://www.the42.ie/irish-guards-gaa-london-vote-2542503-Jan2016/>

Human rights body recommends revision of abortion laws

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/human-rights-body-recommends-revision-of-abortion-laws-1.2494443>

Tel/Guard

Further reports on the meeting and gathering of 39 Anglican Communion Primates in Canterbury. The Guardian report ends by suggesting that "that a looser relationship of churches linked to Canterbury but not to

each other is the only way to overcome institutional dysfunctionality."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12094586/Anglican-summit-Traditionalists-anger-over-Justin-Welbys-federal-plan.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/12/anglican-church-england-global-schism-homosexuality-gay-rights>

Tel

Article by the CEO of *Stonewall*, Ruth Hunt talks about how a split in the Anglican Communion could be dangerous.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/stonewall-ceo-a-split-in-the-anglican-church-could-be-dangerous/>

Mail/Mirror/Sun/CT/Times/Guard/Tel

Reports on the latest set of attendance figures released by the Church of England showing that under a million people attend a service every week. (See CNI report January 13). The figures, for 2014 attendance, show that around 2.4m people went to a service over the Christmas period. The Bishop of Norwich is quoted as saying the figures are not a surprise.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3396816/Is-established-church-way-Number-attending-C-E-services-week-slides-million.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/church-englands-crisis-faith-attendance-7167363>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/6856400/Green-and-Godless-land-Congregations-shrink-to-record-low.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4663370.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/12/church-of-england-attendance-falls-below-million-first-time>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12095251/Church-of-England-attendance-plunges-to-record-low.html>

Guard/Christianity Today

Article on a report by the *Open Doors* charity that says religious persecution is on the rise in Africa and the Middle East with the targeting of Christians getting worse over the last year. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/13/christians-flee-growing-persecution-africa-middle-east>
<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/open.doors.syria.and.iraq.are.the.tip.of.the.iceberg.there.has.never.been.a.worse.time.to.be.a.christian/76374.htm>

Tel/Star

A church organist 's rendition of a David Bowie song has been viewed more than 2.5m times on the internet. Nicholas Freestone's version of 'Life on Mars' has been described as 'breathtaking'. Mr Freestone, organ scholar at St Albans cathedral said the reaction was 'humbling'.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/music/12094300/Church-organists-rendition-of-David-Bowies-Life-on-Mars-moves-internet-to-tears.html>
<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/487105/David-Bowie-tribute-St-Albans-Cathedral-Facebook-video>