

IFPA ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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access choice & advocacy

ifpa

SEXUALITY, INFORMATION
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

Introduction

IFPA Annual Report for 2006

For the past 37 years, the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) has been to the fore in setting the agenda for sexual and reproductive rights in Ireland. In 2006, as set out in our annual report, we have continued to provide a variety of reproductive health services and advocate for better services.

Our medical and pregnancy counselling services were busier than ever as we provided contraceptive, sexual health and crisis pregnancy services to over 30,000 clients.

However, not everyone has access to IFPA services, and so with the support of our funders and civil society partners, we work towards access to high quality sexual and reproductive health services and education for all.

During the year, great strides were made to raise awareness of the need for increased access to emergency contraception (EC) and for the regulation of rogue pregnancy counselling agencies. We also focused on the education needs of young people and the provision of services to meet their needs. Other new initiatives we were involved in included Dance4life, WISE Up and Y-Safe.

In 2006 we welcomed new staff and board members and said goodbye to friends and colleagues.

We would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of all current and former staff. We would also like to thank Catherine Forde and Robert Durie who, as Chair and Treasurer respectively stepped down from the Board in 2006.

Finally, a big thank you to all our dedicated staff, our funders, supporters and clients. We look forward to working with you in 2007.

Niall Behan
IFPA Chief Executive

Maeve O'Sullivan
IFPA Chairperson

The IFPA – The Vision

IFPA envisages an Irish society where all people can enjoy a fulfilling sex life and can make informed choices in their sexual and reproductive lives; where there is full access to high quality information, education and health services regarding sex, sexuality, conception, contraception, safe abortion and sexually transmitted infections.

Mission Statement

THE IFPA, ITS MEMBERS, AFFILIATES AND SUPPORTERS:

- » Promote and protect individual basic human rights in reproductive and sexual health, relationships and sexuality.
- » Promote and defend the right of all persons, including young people, to decide freely the number and spacing of their children (if any), so that every child is a wanted child.
- » Campaign for the removal, and resist the introduction of, any laws restricting access to, or the local availability of, sexual and reproductive health services, including safe abortion.
- » Are committed to obtaining equal rights for women and young people, and to their empowerment in obtaining full participation in, and benefit from, social, political and economic development.
- » Are committed to working in alliance with all those who share our aims, and in co-operation with interested government and non-governmental bodies.

Board of Directors

	Appointed July 2006	Resigned June 2006
Michael Murphy	Louise Tierney	Seamus MacClochaire
Proinias De Paor	Maeve O'Sullivan	Robert Durie
Michelle Thomas	Helen Cornelissen	Catherine Forde
Anthea McTiernan	Ruth Ennis	Richard Keane

Staff

In 2006 the IFPA had a staff complement of 75 people. Key people in each of the main departments were:

Niall Behan	Chief Executive
Rosie Toner	Director of Counselling
Ben Howe	Financial Controller
Dr Aliya Rahim	Medical Director
Karen Griffin	Advocacy and Communications Officer
Annette Smith	Clinic Manager, Tallaght
Deirdre Jones	Clinic Administrator, Cathal Brugha Street
Donal Moore	Clinic and Educational Development

Medical Services

In 2006 the IFPA provided over 28,800 sexual and reproductive health consultations from our clinics based in The Square, Tallaght and on Cathal Brugha Street. These services were provided to men and women, ages ranging from 16 upwards.

The IFPA offers a full range of contraceptive methods. Our clinics also provide a variety of health services including cervical smear testing; an infertility service, menopause and period advice; psychosexual therapy and a private and comprehensive STI service.

A few main points to highlight in 2006 are as follows

- » We had on average 29 women attending both our drop in Emergency Contraceptive Sunday clinics, with women driving long distances to avail of this service.
- » In response to requests from clients from ethnic minorities or diverse backgrounds we found an increase in demand for information resources to be offered in a variety of languages.
- » We had a 40% increase in the number of people requiring STI testing compared to 2005.

Medical Training

The IFPA trained two hundred doctors and nurses during our bi-annual post-graduate education programme for doctors and nurses in Family Planning in February and September 2006.

This education programme is certified by the Joint Committee of Family Planning and has An Bord Altranais Category 1 approval. It includes two days of theoretical training and three days practical training. To qualify doctors must also have achieved clinical training in gynaecological examinations. The objective of the education programme is to enable doctors and nurses to acquire the knowledge and skills which are necessary to provide a family planning service of a high medical standard.

We also held a one-day symposium in Co. Louth for nurses and midwives, covering all aspects of contraception as well as crisis pregnancy.

In addition IFPA staff have facilitated training sessions throughout the year for nurses, midwives, teachers, students, healthcare workers and community groups in contraception and sexual health.

Counselling Services

The IFPA provides a crisis pregnancy counselling service in 10 centres throughout Ireland. These are located in; Dundalk, Dublin Central, Dublin South, Bray, Sligo, Galway, Waterford, Limerick, Cork and Donegal.

The IFPA accept that unplanned pregnancies happen and that a desired and wanted pregnancy may develop into a crisis over time due to a change in circumstance. The crisis pregnancy counselling service is non-directive, it respects women's autonomy and the right of every woman to choose for herself how to deal with the situation. The service combines counselling and support and provides unbiased and accurate information on parenting, adoption and abortion. Post abortion support and medical consultation are also provided. The counselling service is free and is funded by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency.

The IFPA is committed to responding to the changing needs of women experiencing a crisis pregnancy and in the past two years has done so by

- » Establishing easier access for women and couples to counseling and information.
- » Providing easier access to ultrasound and medical diagnosis.
- » Providing information and counselling for women and couples having to make difficult decisions about continuing or ending their pregnancy due to a serious and often fatal pre-natal diagnosis.
- » Proactively promoting post abortion care services including easier access to post abortion medical consultation in Family planning Clinics and GP services; post abortion counselling and support.
- » Monitoring travel and access to legal abortion services in the Netherlands and Spain.

In 2006 we received almost 6,000 calls to our crisis pregnancy help line (1850 49 50 51) and made available 8,000 pregnancy counselling hours to clients.

Media work

During the year the IFPA received on average 10 press calls a week.

The majority of our press work in 2006 centered on access to sexual health services for young people, access to emergency contraception services and the issue of rogue crisis pregnancy agency services.

As part of an ongoing campaign to increase access to contraception, the IFPA used media opportunities to increase public and political support for the current 21% VAT rate on condoms to be reduced. This call continues to gather momentum with groups as diverse as the Irish Pharmaceutical Union, Union



Staff of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, meet Deputy Pat Rabbitt, on a Global Partners exchange visit.

of Students of Ireland and the Ray Darcy Show adding their support.

The IFPA contributed to over 300 general feature articles and radio interviews on teenage sex, sexuality education and general contraception in 2006.

International Advocacy

The Irish Family Planning Association is the Irish member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and has 'Collaborating NGO' status with United Nations Population Fund.

The IFPA is also a member of EuroNGOs, the coalition of the European Non-Governmental, Organisations involved in sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development.

In 2006 the IFPA's Advocacy Officer served on the Steering Committee of EuroNGOs.

On a national level the IFPA is a member of Dóchas and is active on its HIV and AIDS working group. Dóchas is the association of Irish non-governmental organisations working for global justice by supporting the development of the peoples of the South and through development education in Ireland.

During the year the IFPA co-ordinated the Irish Coalition against Female Genital Mutilation and the Global Campaign for Microbicides in Ireland. We also acted as secretariat for the Irish All Party Interest Group on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Health, Population and Development.

Educational Department

In 2006 the IFPA updated its corporate identity and communications materials. Following this process and guided by our education and training plan we produced a number of new sexual health education resources.

New resources included a booklet focusing on Chlamydia, which was developed in conjunction with the GUIDE Clinic in St. James Hospital. We also worked with St. James staff on a series of comic leaflets aimed at young people namely; Roll with it, But that's Double Dutch and Play Safe on Holiday.

These leaflets and others are included in the IFPA's new Contraceptive Display Kit. With support from the HSE – South East Region and donations from a range of pharmaceutical companies we produced this comprehensive resource for sex education trainers and medical professionals. The kit includes a condom demonstrator, home pregnancy test and a full range of contraceptive methods.

All resources can be ordered through the IFPA's education service – 01 8069444.

Submissions to Government

The IFPA responded to calls for submission to the following bodies in 2006:

Joint Committee On Child Protection

The IFPA in partnership with the Dublin Well Woman Centre and Sexual Health Centre put forward a submission which recognised that provision needs to be made of cases of child sexual abuse but that provision also needs to be made for those who are involved in consensual activity below the age of 17 and for those who provide services for them.

Health Services Executive - Consultation For The National Inter-cultural Strategy

The IFPA put forward this submission as experience informs us that there are cultural, linguistic, religious and geographical barriers to ethnic minorities accessing sexual and reproductive health services, which need to be dismantled. We highlighted three key areas namely the need for specific education programmes aimed at community leaders to improve access to services, capacity building for service providers in relation to cultural issues and improved access to interpreter services.

UN Committee Of The Rights Of The Child

IFPA put forward a submission to the Committee examining Ireland's progress in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We highlighted a series of breaches of young people's rights to sexuality education that is uniform in quality and the right to access appropriate sexual health services.

Key Projects

Dance4Life



Students from St MacDara's School at Dance4Life Ireland Launch.

Dance4Life is an interactive and energetic international collaborative project aimed at providing an opportunity and platform for young people to become more actively involved in the struggle against HIV and AIDS. In 2006 the IFPA successfully piloted the project in Ireland and engaged with 500 young people in 8 schools in Cork and Dublin. We worked closely with the Sexual Health Centre.

The project consisted of numerous activities and events, culminating in two multimedia events on the Saturday preceding World AIDS Day.



Ben Howe and Niall Behan with staff of the Reproductive Health Alliance of Krygyzstan, on an IPPF-EN exchange visit.

WiSE Up (Women in Sexuality Education)

The WiSE UP programme was devised in response to a need identified by staff working within the IFPA and by the needs evident in the rates of crisis pregnancy and spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) in Ireland. Peer education was chosen as the best way to address the need for sexuality education as it reaches the groups most at risk in a way that is acceptable to them and at times and locations that are most convenient to them.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE:

- » Educating a group of women in matters of relevance to them in relation to sexuality, sexual health and contraception
- » Laying a foundation for women for further training in sexual health, sexuality and contraception
- » Empowering women to build capacity in their local area for lobbying for health services

The Department of Justice has made funding available for the WiSE UP programme through the Equality for Women measure.

In 2006 the programme was delivered in Clondalkin, Bray, Corduff and with members of Pavee Point.

Y-Safe

This project is aimed at reducing rates of STIs and unwanted pregnancies amongst young people under 18, especially from vulnerable groups in Dublin. It does this through integrating contraceptive services and services to treat sexually transmitted infections. We are providing these services in partnership with the GUIDE Clinic in St. James Hospital.

The project also includes an advocacy strategy focused on the improvement of services for young people.

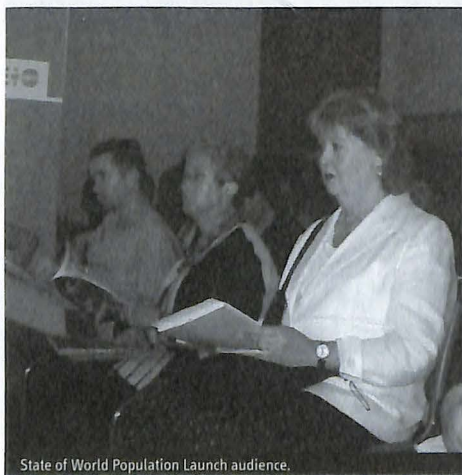
Reaching Vulnerable Youth

This is an IPPF Western Hemisphere Region project aimed at providing sexual and reproductive health services to street youth in Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru. The project aims to contribute to improving the overall health and well-being of street youth aged 10-24, with a focus on empowering them to exercise their rights and to access sexual and reproductive health information, sexuality education, and high-quality services through a peer-based approach. IFPA is a minor stakeholder in this project but it is exciting for us to be involved in a practical project in developing countries.

Events

State of World Population Report Launch 2006

'A Passage to Hope – Women and International Migration'



State of World Population Launch audience.

The Dublin Launch of United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA) annual report was one of the most successful to date, gaining significant coverage on national TV, print and radio outlets.

Minister of State Conor Lenihan TD joined Mr Sean Hand of UNFPA and IFPA Chair Ms. Maeve O'Sullivan in welcoming the Report to a packed room at the RHA in Ely Place.

The Minister's speech clearly articulated the Government's support for the UNFPA and noted that the State of World Report Launch was now firmly established as a regular item on the yearly calendar for Irish Aid.

Improving Sexual Health Services in Disadvantaged Areas: A rights based approach

This seminar sought to analyse the sexual reproductive health services in disadvantaged areas in the context of various international Human Rights Treaties.

The Seminar was attended by one hundred delegates from a wide range of backgrounds but all sharing an interest in furthering the knowledge and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The seminar had a further purpose of equipping participants to advocate for a rights based approach in their local area and to improve access to necessary services.

The Seminar was formally opened by Minister of State Sean Power TD and the key note speakers were Professor Ivana Bacik, Tanya Ward of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and Maeve O'Sullivan RAPID Co-ordinator in Clondalkin.

SRHR Seminars with the World Health Organisation

In October the IFPA hosted a visit by Dr Gunta Lazdane, Regional Advisor on Reproductive Health and Research at the World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Europe.

Dr Lazdane was guest speaker at a series of workshops and seminars which addressed ethnic minority SRH health concerns, integration of sexual health and family planning services and abortion. The lively and informative meetings were attended by staff from state agencies, civil society members and activists.

Youth Adult Partnership Workshop



Youth Adult Partnership visit.

IFPA together with IPPF European Network, YouAct and EuroNGOs organised a 4-day training in Dublin for young people and adults active in developing sexual and reproductive health services for young people.

The aim of the workshops was to promote youth participation and give practical guidelines for implementing youth-adult partnerships within their organisations. This training had the purpose of building competence and paving the way for a long-term process of strengthening youth involvement.

The Convention on the Elimination Against Discrimination against Women and the Irish Abortion Debate

In association with the Women's Human Rights Alliance the IFPA organized a roundtable meeting featuring internationally renowned women's human rights activist Ms Shanti Dairiam.

Ms Dairiam was a member of the Committee that reviewed Ireland's progress on implementing CEDAW in July 2005, Ms Dairiam shared her thoughts on how pro choice Irish NGOs can better use the Convention to advocate for safe and legal abortion services in Ireland.

Financial Report

Irish Family Planning Association Limited

Profit and Loss Account

For year ended 31st December 2004

	2006	2005
Income	2,769,177	2,545,876
Administrative Expenses	(2,727,145)	(2,512,895)
Operating Surplus for the year	42,032	32,981
Interest payable and other charges	(26,907)	(22,539)
Surplus for the financial year	15,121	10,442
Accumulated Fund at beginning of the year	130,859	120,417
Accumulated Fund at end of year	145,984	130,859

No statement of recognised gains and losses has been prepared as there were no gains or losses other than those shown above.

On behalf of the board

Maeve O'Sullivan Chairperson

Michelle Thomas Director

Financial Report

Irish Family Planning Association Limited

Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2006

	2006	2005
FIXED ASSETS	587,654	639,467
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	15,622	18,840
Debtors	88,821	41,055
Cash at bank in hand	123,242	125,301
	227,685	185,196
CREDITORS (falling due within one year)	(401,189)	(396,684)
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES	(173,504)	(211,668)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	414,150	427,799
CREDITORS (falling due after one year)	(200,792)	(223,381)
CAPITAL GRANTS	(67,374)	(73,559)
	145,984	130,859
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Accumulated Fund	145,984	130,859

On behalf of the board

Maeve O'Sullivan Chairperson

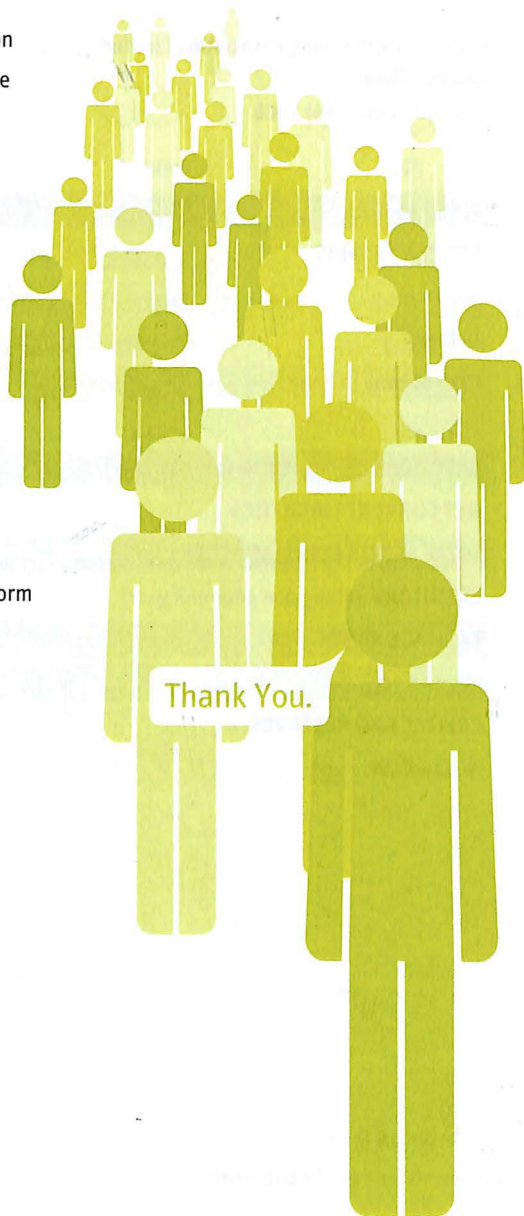
Michelle Thomas Director

Key Partners

- » United Nations Population Fund
- » International Planned Parenthood Federation
- » Family Planning Advocates of New York State
- » Legal Momentum (New York)
- » Catholics for Free Choice
- » Kyrgyzstan Reproductive Health Alliance
- » EuroNGOs
- » The Dublin Well Woman Centre
- » St. James GUIDE Clinic
- » Sexual Health Centre
- » European Parliamentary Forum

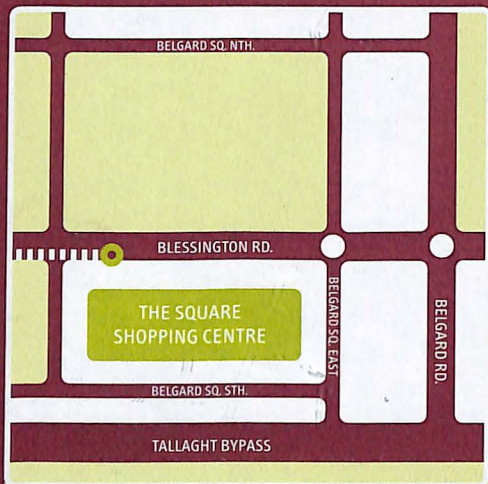
Key Funders

- » Health Services Executive
- » Crisis Pregnancy Agency
- » Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- » Combat Poverty Agency



how do i find an ifpa clinic?

WHEN MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT ASK RECEPTIONISTS FOR NEARBY CAR PARKS,
BUS AND LUAS STOPS



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