



# Foyle Womens Information Network

Arranged by

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Prepared for

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FWIN Co-ordinator

# FWIN Annual Report 2022 - 2023

"Increasing the capacity, visibility and voice  
of women throughout the North West"



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# At a Glance

## Background of the Report

FWIN was established in 1994 by Derry City Council who recognized that women were working away in their local communities however there was no cross over or engagement between or across the divide and thus the network was established to bring women together to build relationships and begin the road to reconciliation.

The focus of the charity's work is to provide a supportive place for women and women's groups to meet from all the different neighborhoods' and venues over Derry/Londonderry.

Such gatherings have provided opportunities for women to discuss health issues, educational matters and politics. Women are also given the platform to try new ideas, make new contacts and friends and to offer and exchange information.



# Co-ordinator's Report

## Achievements and Performance

### 2022-2023

Courses that have been delivered during this period:

- Multi - Craft Classes
- Crochet Classes
- Book Club
- Classes
- Pebble Art Classes
- Floral Art Classes
- Door Wreath Making Classes
- Genealogy Classes
- IT Classes
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Quiz Evenings
- Bingo and Games

Human Library x2 events were held, where instead of reading a book, you take a human person who has a story to tell and you engage in hearing and understanding their stories.

FWIN also delivered a program aimed at reducing the strain for older women who were finding it hard to heat or to eat as the cost-of-living crisis started to have an impact and costs were increasing. FWIN formed a G&T group who met twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Different types of activities were planned and tea, coffee and fresh buns were in constant supply. This helped address the issues faced by the rise in the cost of living.

FWIN held an Easter Networking event, a September Networking event and a Christmas Networking event where over 80 women at each event come together and undertake taster sessions, they hear about services which are available to women from a variety of groups and organisations based throughout the council area. FWIN held two inspirational women's events in this year and undertook 4 study trips with over 400 women taking part in trips to North Antrim Coast, Antrim Castle Gardens, Belfast City Hall and Belfast Christmas Markets.

# Co-ordinator's Report

## Achievements and Performance 2022-2023

### **RISP - Consortium delivering regional support for women in areas of disadvantage and rural areas:**

FWIN are one of the 7 partners involved in the consortium which engages with a range of key decision makers and funders on behalf of the women's sector, provides support to groups and distributes information and provide bespoke training, carry out research and have better evidence of issues which impact women.

**Information, Communication and Engagement** is a big part of FWIN's networking. FWIN send out weekly information bulletins every Friday to over 900 women online. FWIN post out monthly news sheets to 150 women in hardcopy and 900 online via Mailchimp equalling 1050 women per month. Our reach is wide and we also have a Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram account and up-to-date webpage.

### **Christmas Appeal:**

FWIN supported over 250 children this year in our campaign and we would like to thank those involved for their support and generosity during these most difficult times. We partnered with our members, local businesses, and Downtown Radio Cash for Kids Christmas Mission.

### **Other Activities:**

FWIN engage with the following organisations by either sitting on their boards or by inviting them to come along and speak to our members:

- Peace Plus Partnership Board
- APEX Board
- Glencree - Women and Peacebuilding
- Libraries NI
- Anti-Poverty Network
- John and Pat Hume Foundation - Peace Summit

# Co-ordinator's Report

## Achievements and Performance

### 2022-2023

Part One

- PSNI Human Trafficking
- Scam Awareness
- Charity Commission
- Community Dialogue
- Engagement with NIO, MLA's and Local Counsellors.

FWIN engage with local media and also worked with local groups to appear on national TV focusing on the issues of the cost-of-living crisis.

FWIN as part of the WICT Project traveled with participants to the United Nations in New York to attend and deliver workshops addressing UN1325.

FWIN have a management board, they work together to make decisions in the best interests of FWIN and its members. They have diverse opinions, skills, experience, interests and are often volunteers. Giving Direction to the Organisation, managing staff, being accountable, adhering to the Constitution and financial management.

The committee have developed a new strategy document for the organisation and have undertaken a lot of good governance training.

Finally, FWIN would like to thank our funders who have worked with us during this time without your support we would not have been able to deliver these programs.

Thank you.



# Chairperson's Report

I'm delighted to present FWIN's 30th AGM Report. As you are all aware, FWIN celebrated their 30th birthday in March with an amazing conference attended by over 200 women in the Guildhall.

FWIN is growing from strength to strength in numbers, we have over 1000 online members as well as 150 postal members.

One of the most challenging aspects is funding and FWIN are finding it extremely difficult to attract funding for those Connect programmes, for example, the Summer Splash Programme and this is one that women miss the most. We will endeavour to try and secure funding to continue this in the future.

FWIN also has some new and exciting programmes scheduled to begin in September, which will be advertised in the forthcoming months.

FWIN would like to thank all our members for their support throughout the year but I'm sure you will agree with my appreciation with the hard work that the staff and board continue to carry out in order to support and deliver programmes and projects for local women in the north west area.

# RISP Report

FWIN has engaged with local women through many different forms of communication. In our social media, our network continues to grow support from women in the community.

Our Facebook page had 4.4k Followers with 3,434 page likes. This is our biggest social media page out of all. Our Instagram Page has 313 followers and our Twitter Page 380 followers.

We engage with our network through our weekly Bulletins that go out on MailChimp to 782 members and our bi-monthly newsletter help us to keep our 144 postal members informed.

We have also worked with different organisations to facilitate events for women. These groups include the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice, British Heart Foundation, Epilogues Course and the Ulster University for the Legacy Act.

We will continue to do focus groups for consultations as and when they arise, such as:

## Legacy Act Information Event

- 40 Women attended this event to speak about their attitudes towards the Legacy Act
- This was in collaboration with Ulster University who taught the women about the legal specifications of the Legacy Act

## British Heart Foundation Information Event

- 6 Women attended this event to discuss with the British Heart Foundation personal experiences they have had with the Health Service.
- The BHF taught the women how to keep an eye out for signs of heart disease and how to do CPR

# FWIN Management Committee & Staff 2022-2023

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Staff:

**Catherine Cooke, Co-ordinator**

**Mary Harkin, Finance and Administration Manager**

**Hannah Thompson, Communication, Policy &**

**Engagement Officer**

Committee:

**Marie Coyle (Chair)**

**Emma Downey**

**Bernie Mahon**

**Patricia Lewsley**

**Siobhan Brinkley**

**Megan McKeever**

**Jean Gormley**

**Helena Downey**

**Emma Burns**

**Ann Donnelly**

# Foyle Women's Information Network Financial Statements 31st March 2023

Crossan & Co Chartered Accountants  
8 Columba Terrace  
Derry BT47 6JT

## FOYLE WOMENS INFORMATION NETWORK

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
	2023	2022	2023	2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Incoming resources from generating funds:				
Voluntary income	4,891	129,895	134,786	161,281
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>129,895</b>	<b>134,786</b>	<b>161,281</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Charitable activities	1,082	123,810	124,892	(152,731)
Governance costs	-	2,425	2,425	(2,311)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>126,235</b>	<b>127,317</b>	<b>(155,042)</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOIN G) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>7,469</b>	<b>6,239</b>
<b>FUNDS RECONCILIATION OF</b>				
Total funds brought forward	55,883	24,605	80,488	74,249
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>59,692</b>	<b>28,265</b>	<b>87,957</b>	<b>80,488</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses have been presented. There is no difference between the net incoming resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.