

IRELAND move Men Overcoming Violence

MOVE Ireland and Men's Development Network's Annual National Training Conference

On the 7th & 8th of June, MOVE Ireland along with the Men's Development Network hosted their joint annual National Training Conference in the Anner Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. As both MOVE and MEND facilitate the National Domestic Violence Prevention Programme 'Choices,' each year both organisations organise and co-host a training conference to upskill, network and plan for the year ahead. In previous years, only members of MOVE and MEND would have attended the conference. This year however, a decision was made to change the format of the conference.

In addition to focusing on training in our work, this year's conference strove to highlight the importance of collaboration when addressing Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DSGBV). The conference was named, 'From Harm to Hope: Building Collaborative Relationships for a Safer Ireland.' Invitations were extended to several DSGBV related organisations and services to join us on the Friday morning. Our intention was to create a space for networking and look toward the future of collaboration when addressing domestic abuse.



The response to invitations was overwhelmingly positive and we were delighted to be joined on the Friday morning by a variety of members from other DSGBV related organisations and services. Some organisations in attendance also hosted informational stands on the day.



The conference was opened virtually by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee. CEO of CUAN, Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe was also present to open the conference, and highlighted the importance of 'a collaborative spirit' and 'joined up vision' when combatting DSGBV.

There was also a number of guest speakers on the day who shared insights into their organisation's work, and the successes and challenges they have faced while addressing DSGBV. These speakers included Mary McDermott (CEO of Safe Ireland), Carmel Donnelly (Probation Services), Áine Costello (TLC Kidz Barnardos), DCS Colm Noonan (Garda National Protective Services Bureau), Deirdre Kenny (CEO of 1 in 4), Katrina Bentley (CEO of Men's Aid), Kathleen Nallen (DKIT River Project), Siobhán O Higgins (Active Consent), Sianna Williams (Consent Ed Project) & Sarah Hume (Irish Prison Services).



MOVE would like to extend a huge thank you to all who attended on the day and helped make the conference the success it was. We hope that this conference fulfilled it's goal of highlighting the importance of collaboration when addressing DSGBV, and helped foster the building of collaborative relationships that will contribute toward creating a safer Ireland.

