

March 2017



**Mothers' Union at UNCSW 2017
Women's Economic Empowerment
In the Changing World of Work**

A delegation of MU representatives from across the world, is travelling to the UN's global forum on gender equality in New York to lobby on women's economic empowerment, calling for governments to prohibit any form of discrimination against women, including the right to employment, equal pay and freedom from discrimination which prevents the appointment of women to senior positions.



Mothers' Union, All-Ireland is delighted that June Butler, DP of Down & Dromore Diocese is one of 5 worldwide MU delegates attending. Please pray for June and the group as they undertake this task.

It involves weeks of preparation, intensive lobbying, much discussion & revaluation until a set of agreed conclusions are formed. Member states then sign up to this set of agreed conclusions, which they will then implement with their own Governments.

www.mothersunion.org/supporting-family-life/campaigning/worldwide/mu-uncsw



Make a Mothers Day 2017

A range of truly inspiring & empowering *Make a Mother's Day* gifts are available, each one helping mothers move from life on the margins right to the heart of their families and communities.

Whether that be through enabling a mother to learn to read, become a better parent or find the strength in God to change things for the better.

Gifts range from just £6 - £100.

www.makeamothersday.org

Download our latest article here



Mothering Sunday Resources 2017

A fabulous array of resources is available to support Mothering Sunday in 2017. Please share with your parish.

Mothering Sunday Prayers

Bible Reading, Hymns/Songs

Mothering Sunday Talks

Mothering Sunday Children's Songs,

Prayers & Memory Verses

Mothering Sunday Children's Activities

Mothers' Union Stories

Sample Service Outlines

www.mothersunion.org/resources#overlay-context=our-focus/mothering-sunday

Top Parental Concerns

#1

Cyberbullying

20.5%



#2

Spending too much time online

20.4%



#3

Grooming/Sexual Exploitation

19.7%



#4

Accessing Pornography

19.4%



#5

Sharing inappropriate content

5.9%



Citizens Information  Public Service Information
Provided by the Citizens Information Board

Know Your Entitlements

www.citizensinformation.ie

This site provides information on public services and entitlements eg. social welfare, housing, education, training, health, employment justice, family & relationships, taxes etc.

You can also get Citizens Information by phoning the Citizens Information Phone Service on **0761 07 4000**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, or by visiting your local [Citizens Information Centre](#).



Government Report Card 2017

The Children's Rights Alliance have awarded The Irish Government an overall 'D+' grade in Report Card 2017, reflecting a barely acceptable performance to date with little or no positive impact on children. The highest grade in Report Card 2017 is a 'B' for Subsidised & School-Age Childcare. The lowest 'E' grades have been awarded for Child and Family Homelessness and Traveller and Roma Children.

www.childrensrights.ie/content/report-card-2017



The European Semester Country Report for Ireland has been published. The 'Country Specific Recommendations' are important because it encourages the Irish Government to take action in specific areas, and they can influence our annual Budget.

The three main areas addressed are:

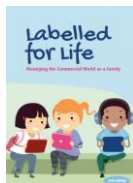
1. Tackling child poverty
2. Incentivising employment
3. Improving the provision of quality, affordable full-time childcare.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2017-european-semester-country-reports_en



NWCI is heading up a new EU-funded project which aims to prevent and combat **Sexual Harassment & Violence affecting women in Third Level Education**. The 'ESHTE' Project will launch on the 5th April which will also see the launch of the 'It Stops Now' Campaign and Website.

Details to follow shortly on www.nwci.ie
Project Coordinator: Jennifer McCarthy-Flynn, jennifermf@nwci.ie



The updated version of *Labelled for Life: Managing the Commercial World as a Family* is now available from your Diocesan Enterprise Rep or www.mothersunion.org
Copies cost £2 each or £1.50 when ordering more than 10.



March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
Start Making Noise to raise awareness of the symptoms

Bloated tummy
Need to wee more
Tummy pain
Always feeling full

targetovariancancer.org.uk/march



Ovarian Cancer Awareness

Research shows an alarmingly low awareness of the symptoms among woman over 50 - who are most at risk. Just one in five can name one of the key symptoms of ovarian cancer, bloating. Help save lives by raising awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer. Early diagnosis is the best chance of survival.

www.targetovariancancer.org.uk
www.cancer.ie



Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month. The exact cause of bowel cancer is unknown, but there are risk factors that can increase your chance of developing the disease. Learn about changes you can make to your lifestyle to reduce your risk of bowel cancer. - See more at:

<https://www.cancer.ie/cancer-information/bowel-colon-rectum-cancer#sthash.H9nYk1FA.dpuf>



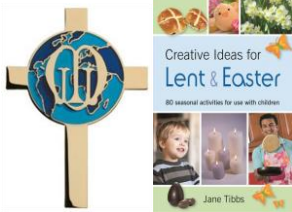
There were 7148 people homeless nationwide during Christmas week 2016 in Ireland. **The number of families becoming homeless has increased by over 40% since 2015 and one in three of those in emergency accommodation is now a child.**

Focus Ireland services across the country provided support to over 12,500 people - many of these were people seeking support to avoid becoming homeless.

<https://www.focusireland.ie/resource-hub/about-homelessness/>

Useful Contact Details:

Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator: Jacqui Armstrong Tel: 028 71516436 :
Mobile: 07928747354 email: jacquelin.armstrong.donegal@outlook.com
Southern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Vacant - Contact Jacqui Armstrong
Northern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Jean Thompson Tel: 02882245369
Mobile: 07731635627 email: jeanius65@aol.com



Faith Resources for Lent

Mothers' Union Lent resources can be adapted for use in personal, family and group reflection.

Creative Ideas for Lent and Easter is a lovely book of ideas for use with children and families - available from MUE Reps and the MUE website

www.mothersunion.org/content/faith-resources-lent
www.mueshop.org



The Church of Ireland Children's Ministry inspires, encourages and supports invaluable work with children.

The website has resources and resource recommendations, and the Network team host workshops to train, equip and resource our Christian Leaders as they work with our children throughout Parish Life.

www.cm.ireland.anglican.org
www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry



WOMEN'S AID
Making Women and Children Safe

Women's Aid is the national organisation providing support and information to women experiencing domestic violence through its Direct Services. It runs the only free, national, domestic violence helpline (1800 341 900, 24 hours, 7 days) with specialised trained staff & volunteers, and with a Telephone Interpretation Service covering 170 languages for callers needing interpreting services as well as a Text Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing women.

www.womensaid.ie

Useful Dates for your Diary



Week of Solidarity with Peoples struggling against Racism & Racial Discrimination, March 21st- 27th

World Water Day, March 22nd

International Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Slavery, March 25th

Mothering Sunday, March 26th

World Autism Awareness Day, April 2nd

World Health Day, April 7th

Good Friday, April 14th

Easter Sunday, April 16th

World Fairtrade Day, May 13th

International Day of Families, May 15th