

éan

Ireland's emigrant advice network

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

From our Chairman

Fr Alan Hilliard

of the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants

I have been privileged to serve as chair of ÉAN for the last four years. During this time we have seen a rapid rise in interest in emigrant issues. ÉAN's role is critical as we focus on the needs of Irish emigrants in the midst of global changes in migratory patterns. Despite the long history of emigration, we have reflected little on the subject. At the level of international exchange and global conversations, we should be main player as other countries face the new phenomenon of 'brain drain' and other such issues. I believe that ÉAN is well placed to continue to make its mark and act on behalf of many organisations in to the future. I wish to thank Noreen for her contribution. With little over a year at the helm she has read herself into her brief with an expansive knowledge of the issues at play and a genuine desire to provide assistance to members, organisations and those committed to the needs of Irish emigrants. Many organisations that work on behalf of Irish citizens often neglect to mention the cohort of our population that have emigrated. ÉAN's role in bringing attention to the involvement of

emigrants in our nation is for the most part appreciated by those same organisations.

The growth of inward migration to Ireland has refocused the issues of migration in our country. There may be less attention to the needs of Irish people living abroad. This should not lessen our efforts but should encourage us to work with all bodies who represent migration patterns. This involvement will only serve to focus our identity and mission. There is no doubt that the value of documenting the emigrant experience is deeply appreciated as we share with those that represent the concerns of inward migration.

As I am now stepping down from my post with IECE I am also stepping down from my role as chair of ÉAN. I want to wish all the Board members of ÉAN my heartfelt thanks for their support over the last number of years. It has indeed been a privilege and an honour serving with you.



Introduction

The nature of Irish migration has changed enormously, as has the economy and the cultural context surrounding issues of migration. But there are still people emigrating, and there remain nearly one million Irish-born people living outside Ireland today.

Although there have been great strides made in addressing emigrant needs in recent years, particularly with an increase in government funding for emigrant services, challenges remain. People working with emigrants and those intending to emigrate or return need to be kept informed. All emigrants need to be prepared for their departure – or return. Some emigrants are leaving in circumstances that place them at risk, while some are still experiencing isolation or deprivation; those who are undocumented in the US face particular difficulties.

There are also opportunities. Ireland can now redefine its role with the Irish abroad. What role can emigrants play in Irish society? How can Ireland best reach out to its emigrants? How can we better serve their needs and, at the same time, ensure that emigrants can make a contribution to their native country if they desire to? How can our experience as an emigrant nation inform our current status as an immigrant nation?

Éan is the voluntary sole network working across Irish emigrant welfare groups in Ireland and in emigrant destination countries. I look forward to Éan playing a strong role in dealing with these challenges and opportunities. These are exciting times for those of us working in this area: one of the most positive outcomes of our increased prosperity has been the change in our attitudes towards migrants. As we've had a dramatic reduction in the numbers of people who feel they have no choice but to emigrate, there has been an increase in our sense of communion with – and responsibility toward – those who have left this island.

I want to thank our members and our dedicated board for their support and commitment to the organization. Our gratitude also goes to the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs for their support. And finally, I know that I am speaking on behalf of everyone associated with Éan when I thank Fr Alan for his tireless devotion to Éan and to the emigrant cause.

Noreen Bowden, Director



Our objectives

Éan was established in 1996, following a FÁS-financed conference on migration that recommended that collaboration between agencies working with emigrants be improved.

Our work for 2007 focused around the strategic objectives that had been defined by Éan following a period of transition in 2006:

- Develop Éan as a locus of unity and communication between members in Ireland
- Avoid duplication
- Offer a common voice (a front with power) in advocacy work
- Develop Éan's capabilities for using the media in service of our mission
- Retain Éan's emphasis on personal connectedness and human networking
- Proactively support the work of those in the field: helping to make things happen, tapping local community potential
- Undertake special projects (such as emigrant assisted holidays)
- Avoiding duplication, seek to have input into planning joint events with umbrella bodies CIIC in US and FIS in UK
- Assist newly developing entities, such as in Australia
- Reach out to parts of the world where there are no umbrella bodies, such as mainland Europe and Africa

Our progress

Éan's 2007 work was supported by a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Curriculum project

Éan had identified the development of a curriculum project as a special project for 2007. We are creating a set of teaching tools for a transition-year history curriculum, aimed at introducing the concepts of emigration and the Irish Diaspora to students. We believe that this will not only allow students to develop an understanding of and sympathy for the emigrant experience, but will also help students to understand today's changing Ireland.

We introduced our programme to teachers at the History Teachers Association of Ireland Annual Conference 2007 in Tullamore in October, and again at the Dublin regional meeting in November, to an enthusiastic response. This first stage of the project, which has been completed, included a course outline, suggested exercises, and an extensive list of resources. The next step is to pilot the project, and to work with teachers to create detailed lesson plans; several teachers have volunteered to pilot the project in their schools in early 2008, and the work for this is underway.

Assisted Holiday Project

The assisted holiday project was a second special project identified by Éan as a goal for 2007. Éan is running several pilot project with the aim of helping local communities within Ireland to bring elderly Irish emigrants for a holiday in Ireland. We are producing guidelines giving step-by-step instructions to assist them in this. The first pilot project, in association with the Clones Community Forum, took place in October, 2007. Three additional programmes, in Kerry, Clare and Laois, are due to be completed by this summer.



The guidelines will enable local communities to take on the task of running assisted holidays, complete with instructions on fundraising, locating appropriate groups in Britain, gaining community support, and organising logistical details.

The assisted holiday pilot project was supported by a grant from SIA, the Supporting the Irish Abroad campaign of the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants.

Website

Éan launched its revamped website in 2007. The www.ean.ie website provides efficient access to quality information for our members, academics, policy-makers and others interested in emigrant-related issues. Along with information on Éan projects, the website is updated regularly with events taking place in Ireland and around the world. It also features a news monitor highlighting media coverage of emigrant-related issues.

Developing the network

Éan is committed to developing the network as a tool to allow for enhanced communication between groups working with the Irish abroad. The redeveloped website provides a valuable resource for this. Additionally, in 2007 we launched our email newsletter that covers news from the network as well as information of use to those interested in emigrant issues; we will be shortly expanding our coverage to news from Australia and New Zealand. We have also been having regular networking meeting with key emigrant agencies in Dublin to share information and explore issues of common concern. Éan's director also attended the annual conference of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers in Seattle.

For the future, we plan to extend our outreach efforts to groups in areas of the world such as Continental Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia, where there are no existing umbrella bodies.

Responding to emerging needs and keeping emigrants on the national agenda

Éan's vision is to be seen as an authoritative voice for the Irish abroad, and we aim to take a public role in ensuring that the Irish abroad are seen as an integral component of the Irish nation. Éan is committed to being responsive to emigrant needs, and to producing results that will be of benefit to the Irish abroad and those who work with them.

Some of the issues we have worked on include:

- *Radio broadcasting:* we successfully lobbied to ensure that the broadcasting legislation passed in 2007 would include a requirement that radio be included; the original legislation had included a requirement that RTE provide only television broadcasting to Irish communities abroad. Éan also made a presentation at the Marconi conference that took place in Clifden in 2007, highlighting the importance of radio broadcasting to emigrants, and the potential we see in DRM technology as a way of reaching emigrants throughout Britain and across continental Europe.
- *Political participation by emigrants:* Éan has produced a factsheet aimed at informing members and policy-makers of the international situation regarding political participation by emigrants; the factsheet highlights that around 100 countries offer their emigrants some sort of political participation from abroad, while Ireland offers no such voice. The Irish Times published a letter from Éan on the issue in October 2007. Éan will continue to look for opportunities to highlight this issue.
- *Active Citizenship:* Éan made a submission to the Task Force on Active Citizenship, which launched its report in 2007; Éan called for a recognition of the nearly one million citizens who live abroad.
- *Car rentals:* Éan examined car rental agencies' discrimination against older renters. The practice of charging prohibitive rates presents a significant barrier to some older emigrants who would like to holiday at home. We alerted our members to a potential alternative.



- *Habitual Residence Condition:* Éan has been working with Emigrant Advice and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers in the US to learn more about how the HRC may be affecting returning emigrants.
- *Undocumented Irish in the US:* Éan has been working to keep our members informed of the debate around US immigration reform, and

working with our colleagues in the Irish Apostolate and the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres in the US. Éan has done some work with the media to highlight the situation of the Irish abroad to people at home.

Please visit www.ean.ie for more information on all of our work.

Executive Members 2007

- Chairperson: Fr Alan Hilliard
Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants
- Secretary: Yvonne Fleming
- Treasurer: Richard Stanton
- Officers: Mary Doyle
John Hickey
Mairin Higgins (until October 2007)
Seamus Scally
Richard Stanton

Staffing

- Director: Noreen Bowden

Membership

Éan's work is based on the voluntary commitment and contributions of its members. It is expected that members participate in and support the work of Éan in promoting a positive Irish emigration experience. Éan has members in Ireland and around the world.

We particularly encourage membership from:

- Organisations who deal with Irish migrants in any way, whether in Ireland or abroad.
- Researchers focusing on any aspect of migration.
- Emigrants, returned emigrants and other individuals interested in migration and emigrant issues.

Membership rates

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Statutory Body: | €25 |
| Voluntary Body: | €20 |
| Individual: | €15 |



MEMBERS

Further contact details on all listed members can be accessed on our website and direct links made

Age Action Ireland

30/31 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2

Aisling Irish Center

990 McClean Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704, USA

Aisling Return to Ireland

50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB, UK

ALONE

1 Willie Bermingham Place, Kilmainham Lane, Dublin 8

Athone Youth Information Centre

Gleeson Street, Garden Vale, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Australian Irish Welfare Bureau

440a High Street, Northcote, Melbourne 3070, Australia

Ballinasloe Youth Information Centre

Cube Youth Café, Marina Point, New Row, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Ballybough Youth Centre

46 Poplar Row, Ballybough, Dublin 3

Blanchardstown Youth Service and Information Centre

Main Street, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Brent Irish Advisory Service

The Old Library, Willesden Green Library Centre, 95 High Road, London NW10 2SF, UK

Camden Elderly Irish Network

London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB, UK

Castlebar Parish Centre

Castlebar, Co Mayo

Castlebar Youth Information Centre

Newtown, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

721 North La Salle Street, Suite 380, Chicago, IL 60610, USA

Citizens Information Call Centre

Heritage Business Park, Bessborough Road, Blackrock, Cork

City Centre Citizens Information Service

13a Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

Clare Youth Service

Carmody Street, Ennis, Co. Clare

Clondalkin Youth Service

Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Co. Wicklow Citizens Information Centre

6 The Bouvelard, Quinsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI)

Bloomfield Avenue, Morehampton Road, Dublin 4

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

50 52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB, UK

County Clare Citizens Information Service

44 Abbey Street, Ennis, Co. Clare

County Offaly Citizens Information Service

The Bridge Centre, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Crumlin Citizens Information Centre

146 Sundrive Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12

Fr. Paddy Curran

Parochial House, Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Department of Social & Family Affairs

Information Section, Oisín House, Pearse Street, Dublin 2

Department of Sociology

University of Limerick, Castletroy, Limerick

Diamond Hill Housing Association

Connemara West Centre, Letterfrack, Co. Galway

Donegal Youth Service

26 Celtic Apartments, Pearse Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Dun Laoghaire Citizens Information Centre

85/86 Patrick Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Dun Laoghaire Youth Information Centre

The Bell Tower, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire

Emerald Isle Immigration Center

59-26 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, NY 11377, USA

Emigrant Advice

1a Cathedral Street, Dublin 1

Euroguidance/NCGE

42/43 Prussia Street, Dublin 7

European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1

Europeans throughout the World Network

Keepers Cottage, Willington, Tarporley, Cheshire CW 6 OH, UK



Federation of Irish Societies

London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square,
London NW1 9XB, UK

Fold Housing Association

Redburn Square, Holywood, Co. Down BT 18 9H2

Galway Youth Information Centre

Ozanam House, St. Augustine Street, Galway

Haringey Irish Cultural & Community Centre

Pretoria Road, Tottenham, London N17 8DX, UK

Immigration Counselling & Psychotherapy

791/2 Tollington Park, London N4 3AG, UK

Irish Australian Welfare Bureau & Resource Centre NSW Inc.

2 Wellington Street, Bondi NSW 2026, Australia

Irish Chaplaincy in Britain

50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB, UK

Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Irish Community Care Merseyside

60 Duke Street, Liverpool L1 5AA, UK

Irish Emigrant Publications

Cathedral Building, Middle Street, Galway

Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants

Columba Centre, Maynooth, County Kildare

Irish Immigration Centre

18 Tremont Street, Suite 1, Boston, MA 02118, USA

Irish Immigration Pastoral Centre

5340 Geary Blvd., Suite 205, San Francisco, CA
94121, USA

Irish Immigration & Pastoral Centre

7 South Cedar Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082, USA

Irish Outreach San Diego

PO Box 370842, San Diego, CA 92137-0842, USA

Irish Pastoral Centre

953 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02170, USA

Irish Refugee Council

88 Capel Street, Dublin 1

Irish Welfare and Information Centre

14-20 High Street, Deitrend, Birmingham B12OLN,
UK

KARE Social Service & Dublin (North Bay) Citizens Information Service

2 Sybil Hill Road, Raheny, Dublin 5

Kerry Emigrant Support Housing Association (KESHA) Ltd.

Dunsarris, Lisselton, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Kildare Youth Service Information Office

Canal Stores, Basin Street, Naas, Co. Kildare

Kilkenny Citizens Information Centre

4 The Parade, Kilkenny

Knights of St. Columbanus

Council 90, c/o 15 Merval Drive, Clareview, Ennis
Road, Limerick

KYDS

Listowel Youth Centre, Upper church Street,
Listowel, Co. Kerry

Lancashire Federation of Irish Democratic League Clubs

c/o 3 Rufford Drive, Great Lever, Bolton BL3 3HW,
UK

Larkin Centre for the Unemployed

57-58 North Strand Road, Dublin 3

Leeds Irish Health and Homes

Unit 5, Gemini park, Sheepscar Way, Leeds LS7
3JB, UK

Limerick Citizens Information Centre

54 Catherine Street, Limerick

Limerick Youth Information Bureau

35 O'Connell Street, Limerick

London Irish Centre

52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB, UK

London Irish Elders Forum

Haringey Irish Centre, Pretoria Road, London
N17 80X, UK

London Irish Survivors Outreach Services (LISOS)

50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB, UK

London Irish Women's Centre

59 Stoke Newington Church Street, London
N16 OAR, UK

Luton Irish Forum

30-38 Old Bedford Road, Luton LU2 7NZ, UK

Manchester Irish Community Care

289 Cheetham Hill Road, Cheetham, Manchester
M8 OSN, UK

Mayo Citizens Information Service

Cavendish House, Link Road, Castlebar, Co.
Mayo

Mayo Emigrant Liaison Committee

Parish Centre, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Mayo ICTU Centre for the Unemployed

Burleigh House, Ellison Street, Castlebar, Co.
Mayo



Migrane Association of Ireland
Senior House, All Hallows College, Drumcondra,
Dublin 9

**National Council on Ageing and Older
People**

22 Clanwilliam Square, Dublin 2

Rev. Eugene Nee

14 Shakespeare Street, Coventry CV2 4JZ, UK

Fr. Tom O'Halloran

Parish House, Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary

Ossory Youth

Desart Hall, New Street, Kilkenny

The Passage

St. Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London
SW1P 1NL, UK

Roscommon Youth Service

Castle Street, Roscommon Town, Roscommon

Safe Home Programme

St. Brendan's Village, Mulranny, Co. Mayo

Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group

PO Box 75123, Seattle WA, USA

Sligo Youth Information Centre

5a Market Street, Sligo

St. Killian's Parish English Mission

Landsberger Strasse, 80399 Munich, Germany

St. Mungos Housing Association

4-6 Southhampton Row, London WC1B4AA, UK

Tallaght Youth Service

Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Tipperary Regional Youth Service

17 Bank Place, Tipperary Town

Tralee Refugee Services

7 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Fr. Paul Byrne

Tony McDonald

Deirdre Conlon

Catriona Ni Laoire

Ultan Cowley

Joan O'Flynn

Dr. Michael Curran

Enda O'Kane

Irene Gaffney

Seamus Scally

Sr. Briege Hernan

Richard Stanton

Rosaleen Maguire

Edmundo Murray

Jennifer Redmond

