

Mná Feasa

You don't need a bruise... to be abused.

Annual Report 2020

This report details the support services, programmes and initiatives delivered by Mná Feasa from the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020. Once again, it has been both a busy and productive year for the project although Covid had a big impact from March onwards.

The Mná Feasa project provides the following supports for women experiencing difficulties:

- Help-Line,
- Two Support Groups,
- One-to-One Support,
- An accompaniment service for women attending courts, Garda stations, doctors, hospitals, mediators, solicitors, social welfare offices,
- Outreach awareness raising,
- Schools Programme.

Staff worked from home for 2 weeks at the start of Covid, 16th March 2020 but worked continued from the Gate Lodge from April onwards until the end of December. For their own health and safety, our Volunteers did not attend from 13th March to 10th August and 6th October to 31st December but still provided 298 hours of support. The Helpline and email/chat service were the main services available since March with limited one to ones during the latter part of the year.

On behalf of the Management, Funders, Staff, Volunteers and especially the women who come to Mná Feasa for support I would like to thank:

Helen Ruddle, Joan Murphy (Domestic Violence Social Worker), The Legal Aid Board, Cuan Lee Refuge, One Stop Shop, Court Staff and The Gardaí who always respond respectfully to our numerous requests for information and support for the women. I would also like to thank our funders TUSLA and Victims of Crime without whose financial and other support we could not operate.

Thanks to our Voluntary Management who met on ? occasions during the year and our volunteers whose on-going commitment, contributions, experiences and qualities enrich the Project and to acknowledge that without their continued dedication the Mná Feasa Project would be unable to provide the range of services we currently offer.

On behalf of Mná Feasa,

Ann O'Mahony,

Project Co-Ordinator.

OUTREACH WORK: We regularly have stands in shopping centres and distribute information, bookmark and pens to the public, particularly women, to raise awareness to promote Mná Feasa and the work it does.

2020 STATISTICS

Type of Contact	Number
Helpline Calls received	678
Administration	98
On Behalf of Others	87
Missed Calls	209
Total Calls via Helpline	1072
One to One Meetings	92
Online Communications	92
Court Accompaniments	13
No shows	6
Support Group attendees	97
	1372

Perpetrator information was collected from 217 women.

90 reported the perpetrator is their husband, 70 were ex-partners/ex-husbands, 25 were partners, 17 were sons or daughters, 6 were siblings, 4 were their parents, 1 were their in-laws, 1 was a neighbour, 1 a family member, 1 a girlfriend and 1 was a wife.

Of 184 recorded types of specific abuse, 26 were financial, 28 were physical, 42 were psychological, 8 were sexual, 4 were technological and 76 women experienced multiple types of abuse.

FUNDING: We appreciate and would like to acknowledge the ongoing funding which we receive from:

- Tusla – Child and Family Agency.
- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform under the Commission for the Victims of Crime Programme.

The finance received from these sources has enabled Mná Feasa to form a more solid base from which to work, to plan ahead and to focus our energies on the primary objectives of the Project. We are also supported by loyal regular donors including:

- Johnson and Johnson.
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals.
- Heineken Ireland

NETWORKING: Engaging with other groups within the community sector and with statutory agencies is an important mechanism for sharing information, giving mutual support and creating a wider community of shared interests. We attend meetings with:

- Victims of Crime Forum Meetings.
- St Marys Campus Governance
- Child to Parent Violence Group
- SAFE Irl – 15 Meetings Held
- Funding and information meetings with Tusla
- Domestic Violence Interagency Network – 26 meetings were held.

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME:

Due to Covid our Schools Programme only operated during January and February 2020.

Mná Feasa went to 7 different schools on 9 occasions to raise awareness of relationships, domestic violence and to help break the cycle of continued abuse. It is delivered to both male and female students. We are fortunate to be able to avail of the facilitation and group work skills of a member of Cork Men's Action Group who co-facilitate the sessions.

The numbers of students reached by the school intervention programme this year was in excess of 700.