

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS AND DECADES OF COMMITMENT AND VOLUNTARY EFFORT. NO GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD TO WALK AWAY FROM THEM.



Sarah Kenny, Caroline Kelly, Clara and Doreen Cahill and Chloé O'Flaherty at a public meeting in Castlebar held to discuss the threats to the future of the Castlebar based Roscommon Women's Network. *Ph: Liam Reynolds*

# GP asks 'why fix something that is not broken'

A CASTLEBAR based GP has described the RWN as a safe go to place for women who present with a range of mental health and domestic violence issues.

At a public meeting in Castlebar last week Dr Maddalena Ni Dhaligh said that a woman might come to her or her colleague who was being "financially controlled or raped or physically abused in her own home and not be recognised as a problem by the GP."

Dr Ni Dhaligh said that no other centre was providing the range of services which RWN was currently in a position to provide. She said that many women were socially isolated and "were fearful of going to the GP because they knew it could become less accessible and because it was not a county office."

"Why fix something that is not broken," said Dr Ni Dhaligh. She noted that many women "tumbled into the care and emergency confidence individuals".

RWN has given a voice to women who are struggling with mental health issues and domestic violence. The network has been set up to provide a safe space for women to share their experiences and to support each other. Dr Ni Dhaligh said that the network has been successful in providing a range of services to women who are in need of support.



Deputy Denis Naughton and Sergeant Frank Egan at a public meeting in Castlebar held to discuss the future of the Roscommon Women's Network. *Ph: Liam Reynolds*

# Are women of county and their families not worth €13 each?

PORT JESSAMINE O'Connor, who attends a weekly writers' group at Roscommon Women's Network, is angry that the Government does not think that the women of County Roscommon and their families are worth €13 each.

She said that the Government has spent €13 million on a project to support women and their families in the past year and all this is run on a budget of just €86,520 that's not even €13 each - "It just makes me so angry", said Ms O'Connor.

She said that she had been involved in the project for seven years ago. She said that she had accessed domestic violence services through RWN and she explained that a creative writing group had been established in RWN and that was now a weekly writers' group.

Ms O'Connor noted that RWN had helped her to gain confidence and to become a writer. She said that she had recently published a book of poetry. "It will be a disgrace if this service goes, we have to fight back", said Ms O'Connor.

# MEP slams decision as 'illogical'

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MEP Frank Egan has described the decision to close the Roscommon Women's Network as "illogical". He said that the network has been successful in providing a range of services to women who are in need of support.

Jessamine O'Connor addressing a public meeting in Castlebar held to discuss the threat to the future of the Roscommon Women's Network. *Ph: Liam Reynolds*



MEP Frank Egan. *Ph: Liam Reynolds*