

# NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our April newsletter.

First of all, our thanks and admiration to community groups across Clare who have been going above and beyond to help and welcome those displaced by war in Ukraine. More than 2,000 people have already arrived in the county, and Clare PPN with Clare Volunteer Centre have been liaising with community groups to help determine what supports are needed. You can read more about this below.

Also in our newsletter, we have lots of news of events – and you'll notice a gradual move from online to in-person events.

If you'd like to see something included in a future newsletter, please email newsletter@clareppn.ie.

All the best,

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

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## WELCOMING THOSE DISPLACED FROM UKRAINE IN CLARE

Many of our member groups are heavily involved in supporting those arriving in Clare from Ukraine. As with the Covid crisis, communities across Clare have responded without hesitancy and in solidarity to support those fleeing conflict. To date more than 2,000 people, mostly women and children, have arrived in Clare to be accommodated in hotels, halls and other such facilities. Groups are being accommodated in Lisdoonvarna, Ennis, Shannon, Ballyvaughan, Kikae, Flagmount, Killaloe and Crafoe.

Clare based organisations and community groups including Lisdoonvarna Faile, LINKs, Clare Local Development Company, Ballyvaughan Community Development Association, Clare Immigrant Support Centre, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Love Shannon, Shannon Family Resource Centre, West Clare Family Resource Centre, North-West Clare Family Resource Centre and Mid-West Simon have all been working hard to respond to the immediate needs of those who have come here from Ukraine. Clare PPN is liaising with these organisations and community groups in regular co-ordination meetings to help determine what supports are needed and how they need to be delivered.

Clare PPN with Clare Volunteer Centre have supported volunteers with a streamlined volunteer registration and vetting process, securing insurance to cover volunteer efforts and organising information sessions on trauma, PTSD and self-care for volunteers. So far, these sessions have taken place in Lisdoonvarna, Kikae and Ballyvaughan with more to follow. As you would expect, many groups and organisations have rallied around this effort, however we have joined the calls for proper resources to be put in place so that these efforts can continue and that our organisations and groups can continue to deliver on their own work and objectives too. Clare is a welcoming place and our community groups are going above and beyond to help and welcome those displaced by war. Clare PPN sends you all our thanks and admiration.



## ANTI-POVERTY RESEARCH: KILRUSH FOCUS GROUP

Have you, or anyone you know, experienced poverty while living in Co. Clare? What is your experience of accessing services and supports? What additional services and supports are needed in the county? We want to hear from you to help us in our research towards creating a Five-year Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare. We are holding a focus group at Kilrush Community Centre from 2pm to 4pm next Monday, 25th April. If you would like to take part, please email admin@clareppn.ie or call 087 161 7375.

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



## HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY GRANTS

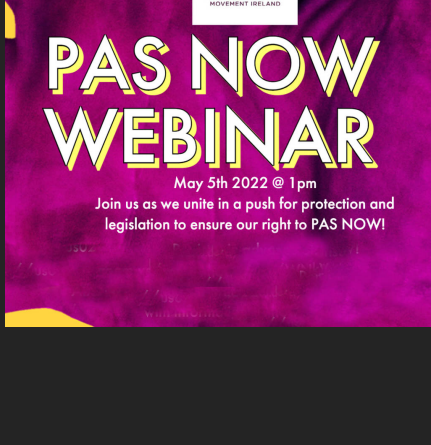
**Deadline 18th May:** The Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme 2022-23 is open for application, with a new strand this year aimed at local groups. Activities eligible for grant support include: Training and capacity building; Research, legal and policy analysis; Education and training resources; Conferences, seminars, and workshops; Creative and participatory engagement initiatives. The closing date is Wednesday, 18th May. Information sessions will take place via Zoom from 10-11:30am on these dates: Friday, 22 April, Tuesday, 26 April and Wednesday, 27 April. Register by emailing events@ihrec.ie with the date of the session you would like to attend in the subject line. More info and application form: <https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/human-rights-and-equality-grants-scheme/>



## COMMUNITY CENTRE FUND

**Deadline 14th July:** Grants of between €10,000 and €300,000 will be available for upgrade and refurbishment works to community centres, under a new €15 million capital fund announced last week by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. Registration will open on 3rd May and applicants need to register as 'users' on the portal in advance of the application process opening on 7th June. The closing date for applications is 14th July. The Department will host online information events in May and June and details will be released in due course. Guidelines and a sample application form are now available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/6ec91-community-centres-investment-fund/>

# NEWS / EVENTS



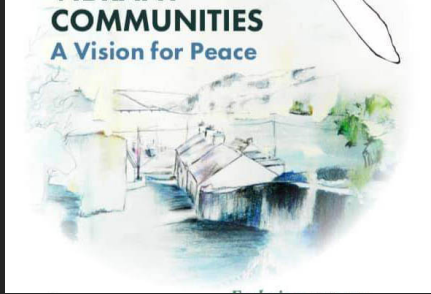
## PAS NOW CAMPAIGN WEBINAR

**5th May:** To mark European Independent Living Day, this webinar is being hosted by the Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI). The PAS NOW Campaign is a call by disabled activists for recognition of the right to access to Personal Assistance Services in Ireland. Join ILMI in solidarity from 1-2pm on Thursday 5th May as they unite in a push for both protection and legislation to ensure right to access. Registration is essential and you can book your space at: <https://bit.ly/36RMVhY>



## IRISH RURAL LINK CONFERENCE

**6th May:** 2021 marked 30 years of Irish Rural Link during which time its activities have had a hugely positive impact on the quality of rural life in innumerable ways. This occasion will be celebrated with a half-day conference on Friday, 6th May from 9.30am-2pm in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone. The theme is 'A Changing Rural Ireland, 1991-2051'. Panel discussions will cover the economic, social and cultural changes in rural Ireland in the past 30 years, and future challenges and opportunities in the next 30 years. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/irish-rural-link-30th-anniversary-conference-tickets-311057751107>



## BUILDING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES - A VISION FOR PEACE

**24th April:** All lasting change starts at the grassroots and nothing is more powerful than people with a united vision working together for change. This event in Glór this Sunday, 24th April, from 11am to 5pm, will explore ways to co-create vibrant communities for peace and well-being. In this creative space, where differences are seen as advantages, where all voices are heard and every suggestion is received with respect, we'll have an opportunity to search for how we can each contribute to the well-being of our communities. And, of course, also look at how all of us might benefit. <https://www.facebook.com/events/644525586648590/>



## DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is running a countrywide survey for Dragonflies and Damselflies, which are important indicators of climate change and water quality. Find out more about this Citizen Science project here: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/dragonfly-ireland/>

They are also running training workshops in Dragonfly and Damselfly identification and survey techniques: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/workshops/>



## BEALTAINE FESTIVAL

Bealtaine, Ireland's national festival celebrating the arts and creativity as we age, runs for the month of May. The festival is run by Age & Opportunity, the leading national development organisation working to enable the best possible quality of life for us all as we age. You can contact arts@ageandopportunity.ie and you can now register your event to be part of the national programme of events for Bealtaine 2022 here: <https://bealtaine.ie/registration/>



## MASCULINITY & FARMERS' HEALTH

**26th April:** Understanding masculinities is key to supporting farmers' health. Join this webinar next Tuesday 26th April to learn about how masculinities and men's health work together in relation to the Farmers Have Hearts Cardiovascular Health Programme. This is the first in a four-part series of 'Masculinities and Men's Health' webinars planned for 2022, hosted by HSE Health and Wellbeing. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3wWX4v8>



## DIARY DATE: NATIONAL PPN CONFERENCE

**21st & 22nd October:** This year's National PPN Conference, hosted by Laois PPN and Laois County Council, will be held on 21st and 22nd October in the Midlands Park Hotel in Portlaoise. This will be the fourth National PPN Conference hosted by a PPN in partnership with their Local Authority. This year's conference will again provide an invaluable networking opportunity for Resource Workers, PPN Secretariats, Local Authority staff, elected representatives, and an opportunity for the PPN National Advisory Group and the Department to meet with stakeholders. Further details will follow.



## PODCAST: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

This new podcast episode features Ken Foxe on the subject of Freedom of Information (FOI), which is a key tool allowing individuals and organisations to request records from public bodies. Unfortunately, a lot of people don't know about the power it gives them. Ken Foxe is director of Right to Know, an Irish transparency organisation that campaigns for greater information access: <https://www.righttoknow.ie>. The podcast is from Social Justice Ireland and you can listen here: <https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-pj2sh-11ca3a6>



## COMMUNITY ARCHIVES CONFERENCE

**15th-16th July:** 'Meitheal' is the theme of this year's Community Archives Conference, which will happen over the weekend of 15th-16th July in Galway. It's a theme that community groups can relate to as they work collaboratively in so many ways. The conference is organised by Irish Community Archive Network, the Special Collections Librarian @NUIG and the CAHG Committee in the UK. There is a Call for Papers – why not consider proposing a presentation? <https://www.communityarchives.org.uk/content/conference/2022-conference/community-archives-conference-2022-call-for-papers>



## LESBIAN LINES RECONNECTED

The Lesbian Lines Reconnected Project is an oral archive and research project to record lesbian and queer history in Ireland. Its aim is to raise awareness of the legacy of the Lesbian Lines, a lifeline for lesbian and LGBTI+ identified women for over 40 years. They want to invite any current/past volunteers and callers to take part in focus groups to remember and celebrate this powerful work of resilience and courage and also show how younger members of the LGBTI+ community can benefit from this knowledge and experience. Four in-person focus groups will be held around Ireland between 7th and 15th May. More details: <https://linktr.ee/lesbianlinereconnect>

# CONSULTATIONS



## SHANNON GREENWAY

**Deadline 3rd June:** Waterways Ireland, together with Clare and Limerick County Councils are working to develop a Limerick to Scariff Greenway, via Clonlara, Obriensbridge, Killaloe, Ogonelloe and Tuamgranley. Route Options have been developed and community feedback is now sought. A Public Consultation will take place from 25th April to 3rd June. Information will be provided online and there are a series of open information events scheduled. Feedback can be given at the meetings, and in writing by post or online. The sessions will run from 5-8pm on the following dates:

- 26th April: Waterways Ireland Office, Scariff;
- 27th April: Killaloe Spa Hotel V94W025;
- 28th April: Ogonelloe Community Centre;
- 4th May: Clonlara Community Centre;
- 5th May: Kilmarry Lodge Hotel.

For more information, visit: <https://www.waterwaysireland.org/Pages/Shannon-Greenway.aspx>



## CHANGING PLACES

**Deadline 12th May:** Changing Places Ireland are asking you to help bring about a change in the Building Regulations so that there are more changing places toilets for people with disabilities. You can do this by having your say in a public consultation that is open until May 12th. See a sample letter you can send to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage here [www.changingplaces.ie](http://www.changingplaces.ie) and there is a video about the consultation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enY0hny49eQ>



## LOOP HEAD VISITOR CENTRE

**Deadline 27th May:** Loop Head Lighthouse is steeped in history and is rich in maritime heritage with its origins dating back to the 1670s. Clare County Council intends to seek the approval of An Bord Pleanála to upgrade and provide for enhanced visitor experience facilities at the lighthouse. Details of the proposed development are available on the Council's website and also at the Council's offices in Ennis and Kiltrush. More info here: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/loop-head-application>