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2023 CONFERENCE ON ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS UN'S 16 DAY'S OF ACTIVISM



The Conference attracted a diverse range of women and men, different age groups, cultural backgrounds, community organisations and educational groups. Highlighted by the difficult topics being discussed, was a desire to take action and come together as a community to tackle what is required to support, eliminate and prevent violence in our society.

In attendance were members from AkiDWA Charity in Dublin, the local Ukrainian community group, students from Kerry College, members from the Local Authority, members of the public who attend the centre. Speakers from SAFE Ireland, Adapt Kerry Women's Refuge, Garda Victim Unit Support, Kerry Women's Centre, Women's Rights Group and Dr Rosaleen McDonagh calling in from Dublin.





MARY MC DERMOT – SAFE IRELAND

Mary spoke about the reality a woman faces in the process of dealing with violence and domestic abuse.

She spoke passionately about what is necessary now and a call to action for people within the community to begin working on what is necessary to put Safe Towns in place. "There is no freedom where there is no safety."

CATHERINE CASEY – ADAPT

Catherine highlighted the need to prioritise housing to tackle the ongoing poverty faced by women who are victims of domestic violence.

ADAPT Kerry Women's Centre believe there needs to be a more effective prevention system put in place.



BEC FAHY & DR. ROSALEEN MCDONAGH

Bec presented the art project on Women in History by the Kerry Women's Centre Women's Rights Group. Beautiful paintings of women who inspired the group were on display for example Vicky Phelan and Sinead O'Connor (see below). Bec then introduced Dr Rosaleen McDonagh who has campaigned on equality issues, leading the way for traveller women, women's rights and people with disabilities.

The Conference was supported by music from local drummers and a harpist, Catherine Young's dancing group, (Catherine Young Kerry County Councils Dancer in residence), Kerry Women's Centre Art Group and Ukranian craft group, Ballybunion.



The attendees were asked to draw, write and express their views on coming together in support of women and what it means to them to eliminate violence.



Members of the Art Group presented their work on the women who have inspired them in their lives.

