



## **Silent, hidden and horrific – Getting the full picture of Human Trafficking in Ireland.**

Ruhama, frontline organisation working with women in prostitution and survivors of sex trafficking, today launch their 'Get the full picture' campaign with special guest speaker Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alison Gilliland @1.00pm. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Museum of Literature, St. Stephen's Green.

"The campaign highlights how much human trafficking for sexual exploitation is going on, right now, across Ireland," said Barbara Condon, CEO of Ruhama. "Human Trafficking and sexual violence are silent, hidden and horrific."

Billboards, a banner on Liberty Hall, regional and national radio advertising, together with information and training workshops at strategic locations outside of Dublin, will be central to the campaign, alongside an exhibition and film.

"50 different nationalities, including Irish women, engaged with our service in 2020," said Condon. "People need to understand that sexual exploitation is happening in their communities. They also need to know how to spot it and how to report it."

The object of the exhibition and film is to give the service users and survivors a meaningful role in how their stories is being communicated.

"As socially engaged artists our intention is for it to be authentic to the experiences of the people who participated with us and who have experienced human trafficking and sexual exploitation in all its horrors," said the artists involved, Sinéad Dowling and Colm Mullen. "Our aim is to give voice to their experiences."

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alison Gilliland paid tribute to the workers, volunteers and supporters of Ruhama.

"They're dealing, each and every day, with the most horrific, violent and degrading aspects of the human condition across this country," she said. "They offer free, confidential, supportive, expertise as well as clear care pathways to education, work and health. Now, through this campaign, they are helping communities understand that this silent, hidden horror of human trafficking and sexual violence happens in Ireland and it has to stop."

The campaign runs until mid-December with workshops being delivered in the New Year.

For further information please contact Aimee Millar [policy@ruhama.ie](mailto:policy@ruhama.ie) 0862591247

**\*Note: Entrance is via a private entrance on No. 85 St. Stephens Green, registration and presentation of covid certificates on ground level and proceed one floor upstairs (by lift or stairs) to two rooms in which there will be a photo exhibition 'The Saloon room' and the speaking event will take place in the 'Old Physics Theatre'.**