



# Ruhama

Supporting women affected by prostitution

## Winter Newsletter 2020/2021



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In this issue of the Ruhama newsletter, you will find updates on our service provision and adaptation in COVID 19, updates on our advocacy efforts and a sneak peak of our Christmas period and upcoming training.

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# Frontline Service

Service provision continues at Ruhama throughout the pandemic. Our practice team, with the support of our dedicated volunteer team provides our education and development programme, casework, counselling and a wide range of other supports.

While COVID-19 has presented challenges for our staff, we remain dedicated to meeting these challenges with determination and a focus at all times on the needs of our Service Users. We have undertaken a number of pandemic - specific services over the course of 2020 and will continue to provide these in 2021.

Over the course of the lockdown, Ruhama staff and volunteers have provided:

- A befriending phone call and visiting service to meet the challenge of isolation associated with lockdowns for service users
- The delivery of emergency care packs to service users
- The establishment of a self care group to provide wellness coping skills
- The establishment of a parenting peer support group to assist parents in lockdown
- The provision of technical supports and assistance to service users who are engaging with our education and development programme from home



We are also delighted to welcome the following members of staff to the team:

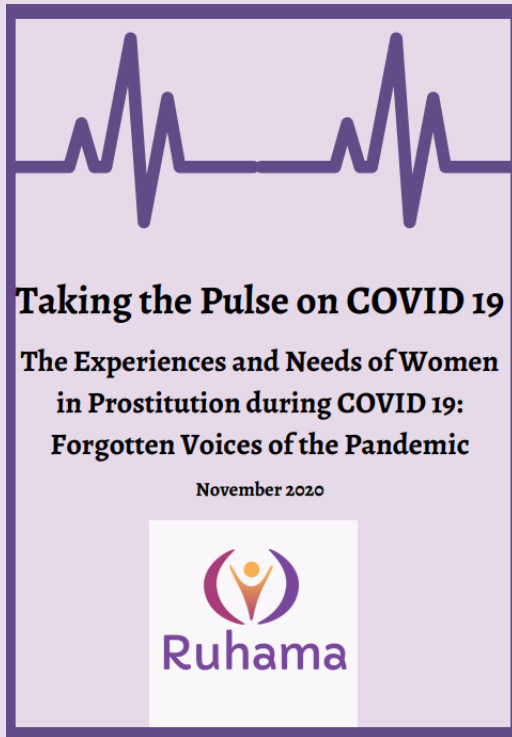
Clare Feely, Midlands Caseworker

Kim Haugh, Bridge to Work Co-ordinator

Aimée Millar, Policy & Communications Officer

Linda Phillips, Assertive Outreach Casework

# Advocacy and Awareness Raising



In November, we produced a report on the impacts of COVID-19 on the sex trade. The purpose of the report was to bring attention to the forgotten voices and needs of women in prostitution throughout the pandemic.

Access to state supports, financial instability and uncertainty around access to housing and health services were among some of the main concerns among Ruhama service users during the pandemic. The report can be accessed on our website.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, The We Don't Buy It campaign hosted a webinar on the topic of "Prostitution Under COVID 19".

Moderated by journalist Sorcha Pollak, and featuring a presentation from Ruth Breslin of SERP it focused on the impacts of COVID 19 on the sex trade. As campaign partners, we gave frontline insights into the experiences of our Service Users. A recording of the webinar can be found on our website also.

**PROSTITUTION**  
**WE DON'T**  
**BUY IT**

**Prostitution Under COVID 19**  
Research presentation and panel discussion webinar  
December 3rd, 11am - 12pm

During the webinar, attendees will hear expertise from:

**SERP** **Ruhama**  
Supporting women affected by prostitution

For any queries about the webinar, contact [policy@ruhama.ie](mailto:policy@ruhama.ie)

The We Don't Buy It Campaign is funded by the Department of Justice

# Christmas at Ruhama



The well being of the entire community around Ruhama was of paramount importance to us. After a challenging year our wellness committee made it their mission to bring some festive cheer to staff and service users alike!

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Kerri Millen, who facilitated a fun-filled dance class for our service users. We also wish to express our sincere thanks to the members of the Ruhama wellness committee for arranging a quiz and cookery night for the staff to celebrate the festive season.

Over the Christmas period, Ruhama were delighted to receive a significant donation from a donor in The Community Foundation of Ireland for Christmas hampers for Service Users.

# Fundraising and Donations



In September, we didn't let the pandemic keep us from getting our walking and running shoes on for the VHI Virtual Women's Mini Marathon and between our staff, volunteers and supporters (some pictured above), we raised €4,000! Our sincere thanks to all involved.

In October, we were delighted to receive a donation from the Dublin Soroptimists towards the education and development programme at Ruhama. Pictured is Club President Linda Peters (centre) and Programme Action Officer Birgit Schmidt with Ruhama CEO, Barbara Condon.



# Upcoming Training

## SEX TRAFFICKING TRAINING

Training for Frontline Workers and Sex Trafficking Responders

Module One: 25th February 2021

Module Two: March 4th 2021

9.30am - 1.00pm

Training will take place via Zoom  
To register, please email [training@ruhama.ie](mailto:training@ruhama.ie)



## Keep in Touch

Throughout the lockdown, Ruhama are still here for our service users and want to hear from you in relation to any matter.

Email: [admin@ruhama.ie](mailto:admin@ruhama.ie)

Telephone: (01) 836 0292

Address: 30-31 Camden St Lower, D2, D02 EC96

Should you wish to donate to Ruhama, there are a number of ways to do so and details can be found on our website at:

[www.ruhama.ie/donate/](http://www.ruhama.ie/donate/)



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