



RUHAMA

Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution

Annual Report 2014

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Introduction

Valerie Judge
Chairperson of Ruhama



On behalf of the Board of Ruhama, I am very pleased to present this report of the work of the organisation during 2014, which marked twenty five years of Ruhama's delivery of frontline services to women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking.

Having begun as a small outreach service to women on the streets of Dublin in 1989, Ruhama has expanded its work and services to adapt to the growing and changing needs of women in prostitution. Today the organisation offers a comprehensive, holistic range of supports to assist those accessing our service. These include: emergency response, emotional support, advocacy, counselling, education and development opportunities and assistance with housing and welfare. The service offered depends entirely on the priority needs of women themselves, and is completely non-judgmental.

Ruhama's focus is the hundreds of women who engage with us each year; but also recognises that there is a critical need for systemic change to ensure that the exploitation of the commercial sex trade is minimised. Ruhama believes that a society which recognises prostitution as a product of inequality and exploitation and which responds accordingly will create the

most effective approach to minimise the harm of the sex trade. The organisation engages in work to advocate for legislation and policies which will better support those who are prostituted and trafficked using a human rights based approach. At the same time Ruhama recognises the need to implement sanctions targeting those who criminally organise the sex trade and those who fuel it: the sex buyers.

This report will outline the broad range of activities Ruhama has undertaken in 2014. We are grateful to all funders and donors for their support, without whom the organisation cannot operate.

I wish, finally, to convey my sincere appreciation of the work of each member of the Ruhama team, led by CEO Sarah Benson, including, in particular, the growing number of volunteers who are carrying out exceptional work. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors for their support and significant contribution and commitment during the year.

Valerie Judge
Chairperson
Board of Directors

Foreword

Sarah Benson
Chief Executive Officer



As ever, it is a pleasure to welcome readers to our Annual Report for the year 2014. It has been another very busy twelve months for us on the frontline – providing support to 304 women affected by prostitution and trafficking through our wide range of specialist services, which are delivered on a national basis right across the country.

209 women benefitted from our intensive casework support this year, including 88 victims of trafficking (up from 83 in 2013). We worked with women of 37 different nationalities, which, as usual, highlights the global dimension to the sexual exploitation inherent within the Irish commercial sex trade.

There was also a notable increase in 2014 in the volume of direct face-to-face support provided to women, which we believe reflects the increasing complexity of women's needs and the levels of trauma many have experienced whilst in prostitution.

For some women their situation was further exacerbated by Ireland's ongoing housing crisis. Of particular concern is the complete dearth of safe, appropriate, affordable accommodation accessible to women exiting prostitution or fleeing a trafficking situation who are desperate to move on with their lives.

An additional barrier for migrant women from the European Economic Area is the Habitual Residency Condition. This can make it extremely challenging for these women to find a safe home in Ireland as they cannot access any social welfare supports, even if they have been trafficked and sexually exploited here.

2014 also saw an increase in the number of women availing of the support of our street outreach programme – 76 women, up from 70 in the previous year. This is a particularly vulnerable cohort that typically represents about 25% of Ruhama's service users.

Yet despite their obvious vulnerabilities, including poor physical and mental health, addiction, debt and homelessness, in the eyes of the law these women continue to be criminalised for their involvement in on-street prostitution.

It was with this in mind that Ruhama gave a qualified welcome to the Heads of Ireland's new Sexual Offences Bill, published towards the end of 2014. We warmly applaud the provisions it contains to tackle the demand for prostitution by criminalising the purchase of sex – and indeed this represents a significant victory for the advocacy work of Ruhama and all of our partners in the Turn Off the Red Light Campaign.

At the same time, we are concerned that women on-street remain subject to criminal sanctions, which represents a barrier to reporting crimes perpetrated against them, and in some cases contributes to difficulties in moving on with their lives in the future.

Fortunately, we understand that there is a commitment to give further consideration to this particular issue as the Bill passes through Committee, and we look forward to working collaboratively in 2015 to ensure justice for all women exploited in Ireland's sex trade.

Ruhama's wider advocacy work has always been shaped by the experiences and needs of the women we support, and in 2014 we continued this work on a national and international level, working collaboratively with allies at home and abroad to raise awareness of the harms of the commercial sex trade and enhance legislative, policy and practice responses to those affected by it.

But none of our work would be possible were it not for support of a host of individuals and agencies who truly believe in what we do. Thanks must go firstly to our funders and generous donors who keep our doors open to women whenever they may need us.

Thanks too to those who help to realise the invaluable work of Ruhama through 'people power' – our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, ably supported and guided by our Board of Directors.

Finally, we pay tribute to the women who use our services, both past and present, for inspiring us, through their own stories of courage and survival, to continue the fight against the sexual exploitation of women and girls. This is beautifully illustrated on page 12 by one service user who portrays just how our service has been able to provide her with our namesake – 'Ruhama' meaning 'renewed life'.

Sarah Benson
Chief Executive Officer

Ruhama's services to women include:

- > Needs assessment
- > Individual casework support and advocacy
- > Care planning and case management
- > Out-of-hours emergency response
- > Crisis accommodation in emergency situations
- > One-to-one and group training and development opportunities
- > Support into mainstream training and education
- > Support with job-seeking
- > Housing and social welfare support
- > Mobile street outreach to Dublin's 'red light' areas
- > Outreach service to Dóchas Centre (Women's prison)
- > Outreach service to HSE Women's Health Service (sexual health clinic)
- > Emotional and psychological supports including access to counselling
- > Practical support (material needs) in certain circumstances
- > Interpretive support
- > Referral to other key agencies that can offer additional support

Vision and Mission

Ruhama's vision is of a more just society, in which prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation do not exist.

Ruhama's mission is to:

- Reach out to and provide support services to women affected by prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation
- Based on individual need, to offer assistance and opportunities to explore alternatives to prostitution
- Work to change public attitudes, practices and policies which allow the exploitation of women through trafficking and prostitution.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles which inform Ruhama's work are:

- Providing a non-judgmental service
- Placing a high value on equality, inclusivity, cultural diversity, dignity and respect
- Affirming every woman's right to society's protection and respect
- Commitment to learning and to continual service improvement
- Accountability to funders and to the women we work with.

Ruhama Functions

Ruhama is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and a registered charity founded in 1989, which works on a nationwide basis with women affected by prostitution. Ruhama offers support and assistance to women:

- who are currently active in prostitution
- who have a history of prostitution
- victims of sex trafficking.

Ruhama regards prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation as forms of violence against women and violations of women's human rights. We see prostitution and the social and cultural attitudes which sustain it as being deeply rooted in gender inequality and social marginalisation.

Grounded in a perspective which emphasises the value and dignity of every human being, Ruhama works from a position of respect and uncritical acceptance of women, and seeks to actualise belief in their inner capacity to effect positive change in their own lives.

Board of Directors 2014

Chairperson: Valerie Judge

Company Secretary: Colm O' Dwyer

**Bernadette McNally
Sheila Murphy
Ethna McDermott
Frances Robinson
Mary Scully**

**Catherine Joyce
Breda Flood
Colm Dempsey
Zuilmah Wallis**

Headline Statistics 2014

| 304 Women were supported in total | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Number | Type of Support |
| 76 | Women received street outreach support |
| 1,190 | Staff and volunteer hours of street outreach were delivered over 143 nights |
| 209 | Women received casework support, of whom: - 121 women received general casework support - 88 women received casework support as victims of trafficking |
| 1,160 | Face-to-face contacts were made |
| 10,592 | Telephone contacts were made* |
| 5,717 | SMS contacts were made* |
| 66 | Women received Education and Development support |
| 48 | Women received Housing and Welfare support |

*phone contacts to and on behalf of women

For more details about our service provision in 2014 please see 'Statistics' on page 25

What Ruhama Does: Direct Services for Women

The provision of direct support services to women affected by prostitution, including victims of sex trafficking, is Ruhama's primary focus. **Our services are tailored to meet the needs of each woman and they are all free of charge.** A continuum of support is offered, ranging from outreach and crisis intervention to person-centred casework, education and development programmes and housing and welfare assistance. Every woman who engages with our service is supported through her individual journey at her own pace.

The woman herself dictates the type of engagement and service she requires.

In 2014, Ruhama supported a total of **304** women; **76** were supported in street outreach and **209** women were supported in casework, including **88** victims of trafficking (eight women were supported in both casework and outreach). A further **27** women received support from Ruhama but didn't engage in casework support.

| Street Outreach | Casework | Less number in both | Received Support - Did not go into Casework | Total Number of women in 2014 |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 76 | 209 | 8 | 27 | 304 |

Street Outreach

While the majority of women who avail of Ruhama's services are involved in off-street prostitution, we continue to have contact with a consistent cohort of women in street-based prostitution.

In 2014:

- We undertook **143** outreach shifts (totalling **1,190** staff and volunteer hours on street) to Dublin's 'red light' districts, carried out by **30** volunteer and staff outreach workers
- We supported **76** women involved in street prostitution through our street outreach programme, **8** of whom also engaged in Ruhama's casework service.

The street outreach programme uses a specially adapted vehicle to provide a safe space for women to engage with outreach workers for emotional support and referral to Ruhama and other services. We can also provide information, health supplies, warm clothes in winter (hats and gloves), or simply have a hot beverage, some food and temporary respite from the street.

A significant number of the women who access this service engage on a regular basis, while other women are not seen as regularly because they transition in and out of prostitution over a number of years, often returning because of financial burdens.

The issues women in on-street prostitution present with vary, but some reoccurring issues experienced by many



Tara and Karen, preparing to take the van on outreach

- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Debt
- Homelessness/risk of homelessness
- Financially supporting a partner or children through prostitution
- Poor mental and physical health.

For all women prostitution is dangerous, and despite women's best efforts to minimise the risks they face, the threat of violence is constantly present. During this year women recounted multiple instances of:

- Rape
- Verbal assault and threats of violence
- Physical assault
- Robbery.

Street Outreach

Women often relate examples of the realities and difficulties of prostitution to outreach workers, including:

- Disrespectful and abusive buyers - some tell women they are 'too old', refuse to pay, try to negotiate price reductions, or offer women drugs instead of cash payment
- Fear that partners, children or other family members/friends will find out about their involvement in prostitution
- Feeling trapped in prostitution and wanting to get out.

Yet despite the undoubted vulnerabilities of those on the street, these women continue to be criminalised for their involvement in prostitution.

This in turn can act as a barrier to women reporting crimes perpetrated against them for fear of being sanctioned themselves, and in some cases contributes to difficulties with moving on with their lives in the future.

Another key issue arising for women on the street in 2014 was that of housing. On numerous occasions women reported being made homeless or struggling to maintain their home for a variety of reasons: loss of a partner, their inability to afford private rented accommodation on social welfare allowances, accumulating debt in homeless accommodation, issues with landlords and barriers to getting on a council housing list.



Outreach volunteers, Toni, Catherine and Mikela at a monthly team meeting

“ Another woman stole my money but I was told by the guards that if they take a statement they would have to charge me too ”
- Lena

“ I've been out here the past 13 years and I feel like I can't do it anymore ”
- Lorna

“ I am off the street five years but I'm back because I am in rent arrears and am having health problems ”
- Patricia

Casework and Care Planning

“ I came in and spoke to a [caseworker]. I can't praise that woman enough, she was and is so brilliant. She sat me down and really respected me, she met me at my level. She met me that day, I told her that I didn't know what I needed. I had tried to end my life so many times, nothing had worked. [My caseworker] related to me and worked at my level. It was huge. She was really understanding and real. ” - Carina

Ruhama offers women a casework service which is personalised and designed around each woman's own needs. Although Ruhama's offices are based in Dublin, we provide services on a national level and offer casework support to women right across the country. The woman and her caseworker develop her person-centred care plan together and they review it throughout the time she is accessing

In 2014:

- **209** women availed of the casework service, including **88** victims of trafficking
- Of these **209** women, **89** were new cases to our service, **27** of whom availed of our specialised casework for victims of trafficking
- Caseworkers continued to support a further **120** women who remained engaged with Ruhama having accessed our service prior to January 2014, and who received ongoing support with highly complex needs.

Of our **89** new cases:

- **66** women were referred to Ruhama by another agency or referral source

- **23** women self-referred.

In a number of instances our first contact with a woman is in response to a request for assistance made to our out-of-hours service, whilst many are referred by another agency with whom we have a close partnership.

In 2014, excluding self-referrals, our top three sources of referral were:

- Health Service Executive (HSE) Women's Health Service
- An Garda Síochána
- Ruhama's outreach van.

All women who engage with Ruhama are offered an initial assessment. Ruhama recognises that women can be very anxious or nervous about their first meeting with our service. At all times the provision of our services is non-judgmental and respects the dignity of each person.

Casework and Care Planning

Women from all over the world receive casework support from Ruhama. In 2014 we supported **209** women of **37** different nationalities in casework, from virtually every continent on the globe. The main countries of origin represented in this work are:

- Nigeria - **53** women
- Ireland - **52** women
- Brazil - **29** women
- Romania - **12** women
- Cameroon - **7** women.

The majority of the **121** women who benefitted from general casework support for women in prostitution were from Ireland (**52**), Brazil (**23**) and Nigeria (**9**).

Our specialist casework support to victims of trafficking was provided to **88** women who originated from **23** different countries, including:

- Nigeria - **44** women
- Brazil - **6** women
- Romania - **6** women
- Cameroon - **5** women
- Malawi - **3** women
- Zimbabwe - **3** women.

The main focus of Ruhama's care planning process is the empowerment of each woman and the promotion of positive self-belief. It is an evolving process which facilitates change and adaptation. Care planning assists women in taking control of their lives by setting realistic goals that can then be worked towards and achieved.

It includes supporting women to identify new skills to assist them in making informed decisions about their future.

An important element of positive case management is supporting a woman to a point where her case can be closed.

This is a vital step in the process that allows each woman to review all the work she has done whilst accessing services at Ruhama, and identify that her time with us should be coming to an end.

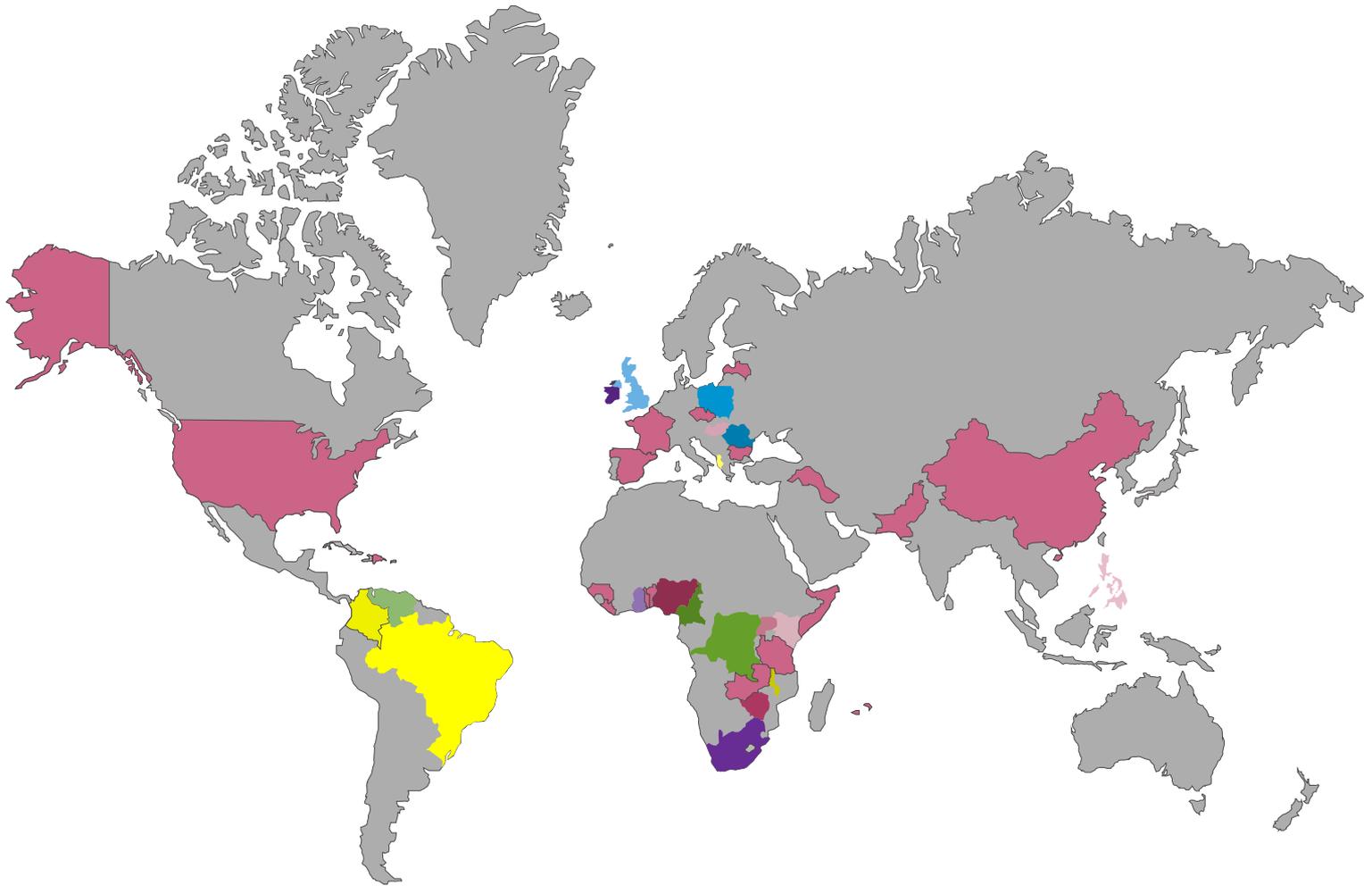
Due to the complex nature of many of the cases that Ruhama supports, the average length of completion of a full care plan is two years.

By the end of 2014, **55** women had completed their care plans.



One woman creatively portrays in art the holistic service she received from Ruhama

Nationalities of all women accessing Ruhama's Casework service



| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Nigeria 53 | Cameroon 7 | Hungary 3 | Uganda 2 | Venezuela 2 |
| Ireland 52 | Malawi 6 | Poland 3 | Ghana 2 | Albania 2 |
| Brazil 29 | Zimbabwe 4 | Congo DRC 3 | Philippines 2 | Kenya 2 |
| Romania 12 | South Africa 3 | Colombia 2 | UK 2 | Representing 18 (1 woman each of: Benin, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, France, Guinea, Kurdistan, Latvia, Liberia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Somalia, Spain, Tanzania, Togo, USA & Zambia) |

Housing and Welfare Programme

“ They [Ruhama] got me into temporary accommodation and beyond and now I have my flat in permanent accommodation. They sorted out all of my social welfare, they helped me fill in all the forms, they tell you where you have to go, they teach you . . . and then they slowly pull themselves away from you and you are . . . doing things on your own ” - Afa

In addition to casework, where many women are provided with social welfare support by their caseworker, Ruhama also has a dedicated service for women who require more intensive assistance with housing and welfare.

This is particularly the case for women at risk of homelessness, who are homeless, or women leaving Direct Provision, sometimes after years in a system which does not allow women to work, cook for themselves or in any way manage their own households.

In 2014 Ruhama provided support with housing to **48** women, which included:

- Assistance with paperwork/form completion
- Accommodation searches and property viewings
- Support with landlord/housing association referral and negotiation
- Support for women in opening bank/ Credit Union or Post Office accounts

- Advocacy on behalf of women to their local social welfare office
- Support to develop budgeting skills for managing their households
- Provision of small grants to assist with rental deposit/homewares.



Education and Development Programme

In 2014 Ruhama delivered a wide range of in-house education and development courses to **66** women in both group and one-to-one settings. Some of these courses are designed to provide women with very practical skills in areas such as:

- Information Technology – our Basic Computer Skills course is run twice annually, helping to improve women’s proficiency in using computers in everyday life
- Preparation for work – our Shaping Your Future course, also run twice annually, provides participants with tools and skills necessary to support job-seeking
- English language and English literacy skills
- Maths skills
- Study skills and study support
- Individual career guidance
- CV design and development
- Sewing skills.

In addition, given women’s range of experiences in the sex trade and their often complex needs, a number of Ruhama’s courses have been designed more specifically to build women’s self-confidence and self-efficacy and give them the tools for making effective

changes in their lives. Two of these courses are run twice each year:

- The Sarah Bird Programme – this trauma healing course helps participants who are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to reduce the levels of stress and anxiety they are experiencing and improve their coping skills and overall mental health
- STEPS (Steps to Excellence for Personal Success) – this course develops and enhances participants’ confidence to work towards building the lives they want to lead.



Patchwork Quilt – Group Project Ruhama Sewing Course, Spring/Summer 2014



Monitoring and evaluation of the Education and Development Programme

In 2014 Ruhama contracted an independent evaluator to implement a framework which is being put in place to monitor and evaluate the efficacy, efficiency, effectiveness and value for money of Ruhama's Education and Development Programme.

The evaluator developed evaluation tools using the 'Logic Model' for Ruhama which capture inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes, all of which can be measured within the timeframe of course delivery and two to three months subsequently.

This new framework is greatly assisting Ruhama in ensuring that our Education and Development Programme can deliver the best possible results using the limited resources we have available.

Introduction of a new course in 2014: Pre-Third Level Preparation

During the summer of 2014 Ruhama offered a new Pre-third level preparation course to women who had been successful in securing a place at third level and were due to start their studies in September 2014.

Ten women took part and developed skills around learning styles, time management, smart study and conducting research. The course also included a trip to a college library, which was hosted by a librarian.

This proved to be a very successful course; women who went on to third level said that although they felt nervous to begin with, the preparatory course really helped to reassure them and boost their confidence for the challenges ahead.



Pre-third Level Preparation Course, August 2014

“While aspects of [women’s] lives may be in disarray, for the 50 to 60 minute treatment they are able to let go of the latter and to be nourished. As one woman said to me at the end of her treatment, "This was the first time this week when my body, mind and spirit came together". Another familiar refrain is, "That was amazing, I feel together again.” - Chris, Holistic Therapist

Counselling

As part of our woman-centred care planning system, Ruhama offers counselling sessions free of charge to our service users. In 2014 our counselling team consisted of five fully accredited and experienced psychotherapists, including an art therapist.

We were able to provide **138** hours of counselling to **18** women during this period supporting them with a wide range of issues including life changes, trauma, isolation, anxiety, depression and relationship problems.

Our counsellors participate in monthly peer supervision meetings as well as attending regular external supervision.



Tara Brown, Volunteer Manager and Sarah Benson, CEO thanking Rita on her retirement after ten years of volunteering as a counsellor with Ruhama

Holistic Therapies

Ruhama also offers a variety of holistic therapies that help to reduce women’s feelings of stress and boost their overall wellbeing.

Reflexology, Shiatsu, neck, shoulder and head massage are provided by two volunteer trained holistic therapists. The therapists create a warm and relaxing environment in our dedicated therapy room.

Women have the opportunity to de-stress and focus on their own needs. In 2014 **107** treatments were provided to **15** women.



Ruhama’s counselling room

Advocacy, Communications and Training

Ruhama is actively working to reduce the exploitation and harm of prostitution and sex trafficking by advocating, campaigning and collaborating for legislative and policy changes at a national and international level.

Our work in advocacy, communications and training:

- Informs the public and key stakeholders at national and international level of the harms of prostitution
- Gives a voice to women affected by prostitution and sex trafficking
- Highlights demand from sex buyers as a key factor fuelling the sex trade and calls for strengthened legislation to tackle the changing nature of criminal operations organising prostitution.

In addition to delivering specialist training on prostitution and trafficking, Ruhama was invited to speak at a wide range of conferences, lectures and seminars across Ireland in 2014 to professionals such as Gardaí, health service providers and other NGOs. Staff also gave presentations on our work to a variety of students at both second and third level.

2014 was also a busy year for Ruhama in our efforts to raise public awareness of the reality and harms of prostitution and its connection with human trafficking. Awareness raising has been undertaken through the delivery of effective

campaigns, press releases and engaging in public debate. Ruhama was very active in print media, radio and TV discussion and debate throughout the year, alongside our dynamic, ongoing presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In 2014, we had the opportunity to mark **25** years of working at the frontline, delivering a broad range of services to women affected by prostitution. It was also a year in which we contributed significantly to developments in prostitution legislation and Government policy.

Ruhama's 25th Anniversary

This special anniversary was celebrated at the launch of last year's annual report. The report featured some of the key milestones in our work and explored the evolution of the Irish sex trade since 1989.

Ruhama provided assistance to over **2,500** women affected by prostitution from over **60** different countries during that time.



Valerie Judge, Chairperson of Ruhama, welcoming everyone to the 25th Anniversary event

Prostitution Legislation on the island of Ireland

For many years Ruhama has been actively advocating for changes in the laws relating to organised prostitution and the demand that fuels the sex trade.

Northern Ireland:

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill completed all stages at the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2014. The clause in the Bill designed to tackle demand achieved a landslide victory, with MLAs voting **81-10** in favour of a law that criminalises the purchase of sex. This is a huge achievement for all who advocate and work to end the exploitation and harm of prostitution and sex trafficking.

The legislation is broad-ranging as it not only addresses the demand in the sex trade, but also ensures that no person in prostitution should be guilty of an offence for being prostituted. This included the removal of the existing offence for those selling sex in on-street settings. This legislation also enshrines in law the provision of support services to those wishing to exit.



Gerardine Rowley, Policy and Communications Manager and Sarah Benson, CEO, at Stormont giving evidence to the Northern Ireland Assembly during Committee Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill

Republic of Ireland:

After an extensive consultation process carried out by the Government, and a report published by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice which unanimously recommended legislation to criminalise the buying of sex, the Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald took the first steps in making this legislation a reality by publishing the heads of the *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill* in November 2014.

While welcoming the publication of the scheme of the Bill, our advocacy work is far from over and we are seeking an amendment to repeal the soliciting offence for those who are involved in street-based prostitution.

We are core members of the Turn Off the Red Light Campaign and with our partners we will continue to advocate for the enactment of this much-needed legislation.



Sarah Benson, Valerie Judge, and Gerardine Rowley outside Leinster House after a meeting with Minister Frances Fitzgerald

Government Policy – Prostitution recognised as a form of Violence Against

During the Government's consultation on domestic and sexual violence, Ruhama gave evidence to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice advocating for prostitution to be recognised as a form of violence against women.

When the Justice Committee published its report on domestic and sexual violence, it included prostitution in the context of violence against women and recommended legislation to criminalise the purchase of sex whilst decriminalising those who sell it.

A further submission was made by Ruhama to Cosc (the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence), recommending that prostitution is included as a form of violence against women when they are developing their new National Strategy on Violence Against Women.



Heilean Rosenstock, ICI, Sarah Benson, Ruhama, Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and Patricia Stapleton, Doras Luimní at the EU Civil Society Platform in Brussels

Contributing to National and International policy fora

During 2014 Ruhama continued its participation in a range of key national and international fora to further our advocacy goals, including:

- The European Union Civil Society Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings
- The National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women
- The International Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International) – Ruhama has been actively involved in establishing this international coalition of frontline service providers working with those affected by prostitution; including attendance at the CAP International General Assembly and Paris conference
- Anti Human Trafficking Unit (Department of Justice and Equality) Roundtable on Trafficking; Sexual Exploitation and Awareness Raising working groups
- The European Women's Lobby Observatory on Violence Against Women.

58th Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York

Ruhama was delighted that its CEO Sarah Benson was afforded the opportunity to attend and participate in the NGO group at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations in New York in March 2014. The theme of the 58th session of the CSW was “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”.

The 58th CSW was a very intensive event to participate in with a constant buzz of side events, caucuses, meetings and advocating on key issues with delegates from across the globe. Attendance involved a full schedule, with some excellent presentations from politicians, activists and survivors of prostitution.

Wearing a second hat during this trip, as chairperson of the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International), Sarah was part of a highly successful side event entitled “Reaching Out to the Last Girl”. This event was held in conjunction with the European Women’s Lobby, The European Network of Migrant Women and Apne Aap from India. Powerful testimonies and inputs highlighted the disproportionate representation in prostitution of the most marginalised and vulnerable women and girls across the world: First Nations/indigenous women and girls; those of the lowest castes; ethnic minorities; and poor and vulnerable migrants from the Global South trafficked to the Global North.

A meeting was also held with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations to discuss the priority issues noted above, and in particular the issue of prostitution as a form of violence against women and girls.



Philippe Scelles, Fondation Scelles, Diane Matte, La CLES, Canada, Sarah Benson, Ruhama, Claire Quidet, Mouvement du Nid, France and Ruchira Gupta, Apne Aap, India, at the UN Headquarters in New York

Reaching out to ‘the last girl’

The Millennium Development Goals, prostitution and the most vulnerable women and girls



In the framework of the 58th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The REACH Project

In 2014 Ruhama partnered with the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit at the Department of Justice and Equality, the HSE, the Child and Family Agency and the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland to develop the REACH Project.

REACH, co-funded by the European Commission, is an 'all-island of Ireland' project that aims to raise awareness of trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls, and improve responses on both sides of the border.

As part of the Project, Ruhama is leading on the delivery of the initiative to reach out to vulnerable women and girls who have been trafficked, or are at risk of being trafficked into prostitution. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that all women and girls who find themselves in a difficult situation in the sex trade are aware of the support that is available to them and where they can seek help.

Building on the recommendations arising from REACH's Opening Conference in March 2014, Ruhama began developing an awareness raising initiative in consultation with women with direct experience of the sex trade. Women discussed what prompted them to seek help, and what advice they would give to other women who find themselves in a difficult situation similar to their own. Women's insights have helped to inspire the key messages that will be delivered and the routes that can be used to reach our target audience as this initiative is rolled out in 2015.

Garda Training

Ruhama has been providing input to the Garda Anti-Human Trafficking training course at the Garda College since 2006, and in recent years we have developed our own one-day training programme, in partnership with An Garda Síochána, on the issue of policing prostitution. This in-service training takes place twice a year and is delivered to members of An Garda Síochána and the PSNI.

In 2014 we were invited to deliver this training to senior members of the Gardaí in the Dublin North Central Metropolitan policing district and to the trainers in the Garda College in Templemore.

It is extremely encouraging to see the level of interest taken by Gardaí in how best to tackle organised prostitution, and to do so in a way that does not further victimise or exploit those for sale in the sex trade.

Isolated?
In debt?
Or just want to
change your life?
We can help.

Text REACH to:
50100

**For free, safe
and confidential
support for women
in prostitution visit:
reachproject.eu or
Text: REACH
to 50100**

SHARE this message with any woman who may need support

EUROPEAN COMMISSION **REACH** Support for women in prostitution

Unchosen

During 2014 the UK anti-trafficking charity, Unchosen, launched a film competition to highlight the issue of human trafficking.

They invited filmmakers to make a short film based on one of eight real life case studies.

Ruhama provided the story based on a case study for the sexual exploitation category.

The winning films were taken on tour in the UK and Ireland.

On coming to Ireland, Ruhama partnered with Unchosen and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to host a screening of the winning films at Liberty Hall Theatre in Dublin.



Volunteering for Ruhama

Ruhama's volunteer team continues to be one of our most valuable assets in the provision of a quality frontline service to women affected by prostitution.

In 2014 a committed team of **48** volunteers were involved in providing a broad range of frontline and support services including:

- Outreach to women in street prostitution
- One-to-one English/Study support
- Befriending
- Counselling
- Preparation for third level courses
- Personal development courses
- Sewing
- Holistic therapies
- IT classes
- Career guidance counselling
- Awareness raising.

Volunteers' contribution to the work of Ruhama amounted to over **2,247** hours in 2014, much of which involved direct work with women. It cannot be overstated enough that many of the services we provide as a holistic woman-centred organisation would simply not exist or would be greatly reduced if

if it were not for the generosity of time and skills that our volunteer team contributed.

We would like to sincerely thank all of our volunteers for generously supporting the work of Ruhama with such, dedication, enthusiasm and passion.



Tara Brown, Volunteer Manager and Nerissa, Ruhama volunteer, attending Dublin City University's open day on volunteering



Training new volunteers 2014

Statistical Information 2014

Chart 1: Type of prostitution in which women supported in Casework or Outreach were involved

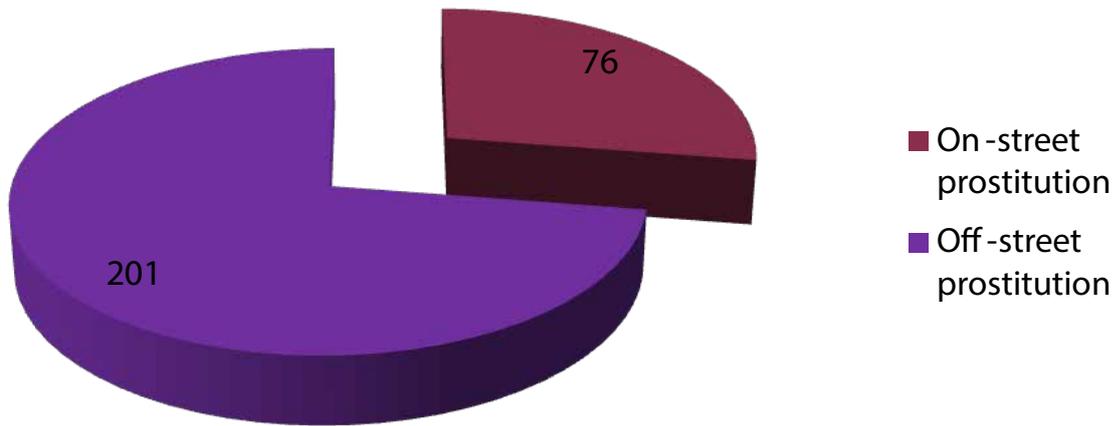


Chart 2: Number of women in Casework

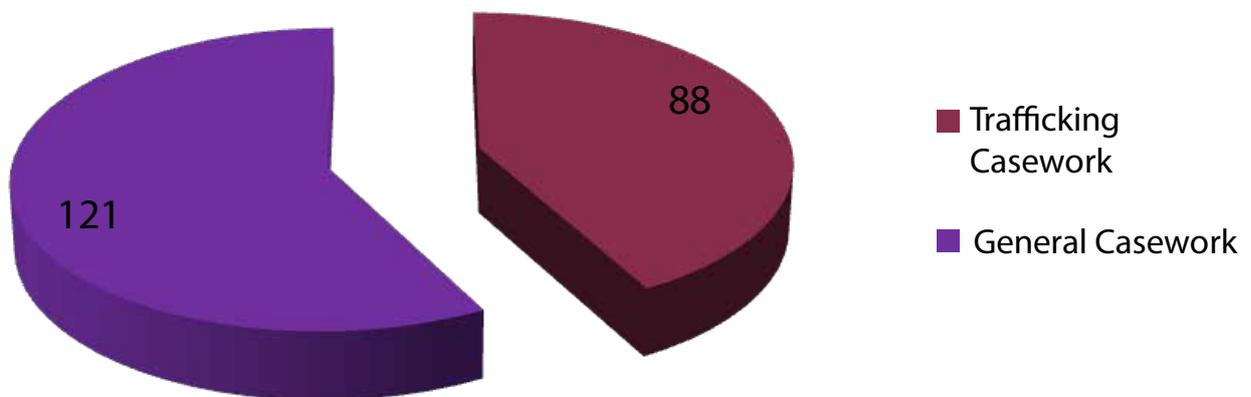


Chart 3: New referrals to Casework

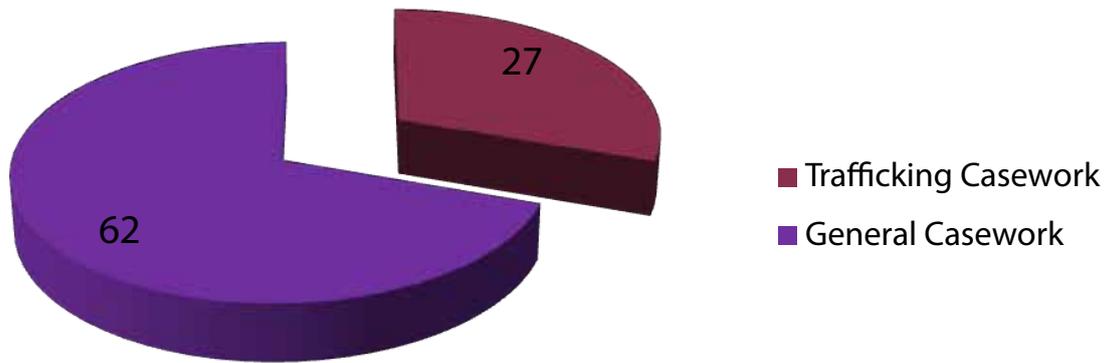


Chart 4: Referral sources for women in prostitution (new in 2014)

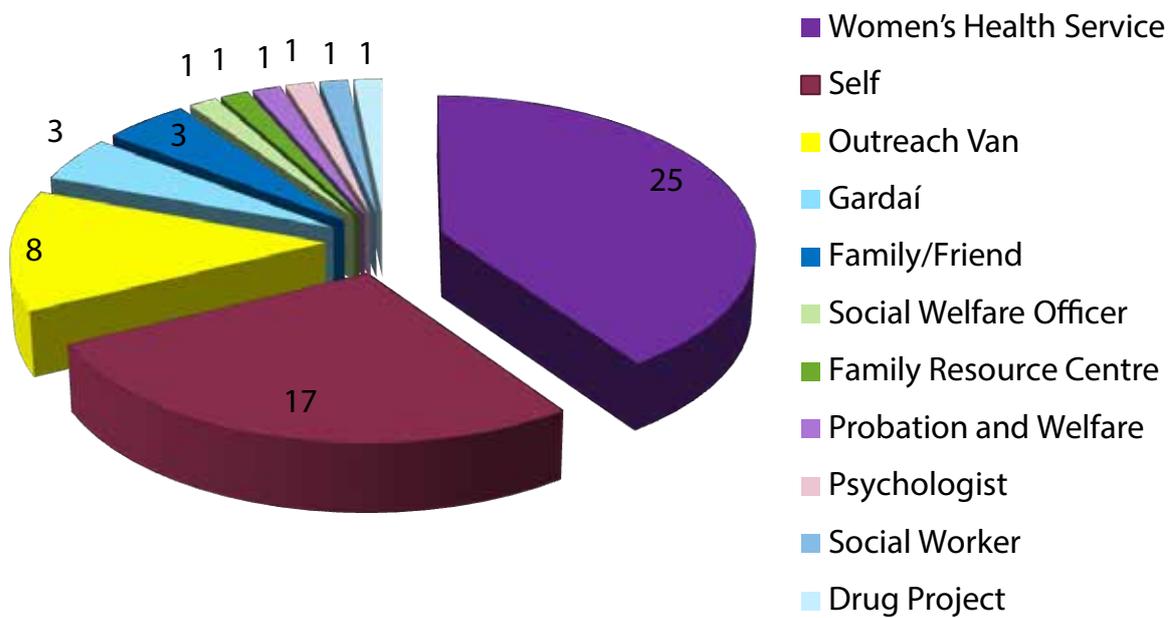


Chart 5: Referral sources for victims of trafficking (new in 2014)

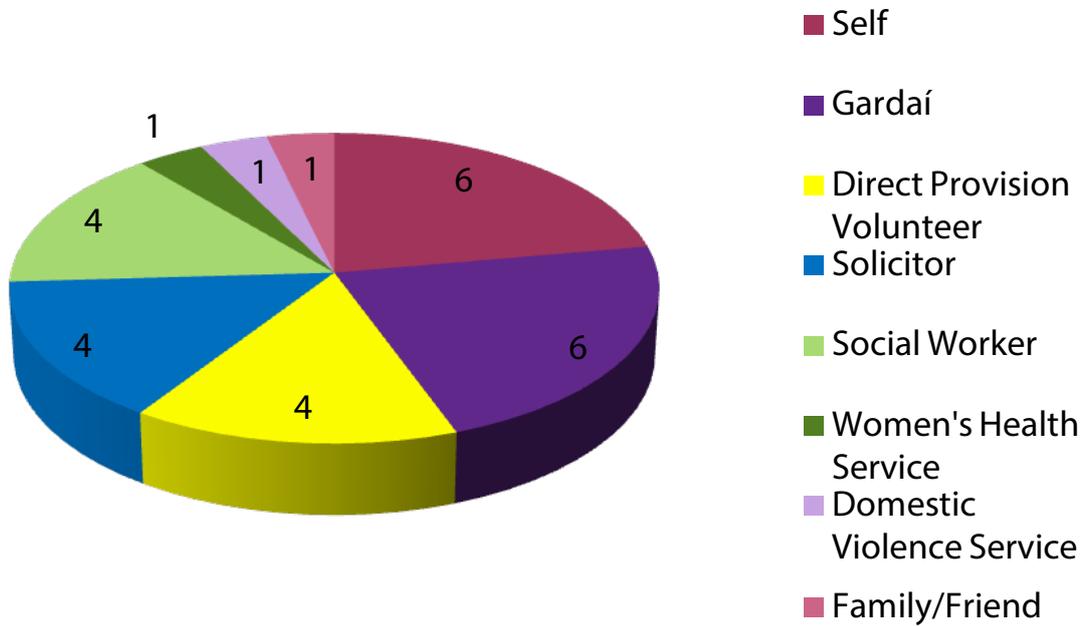


Chart 6: New and ongoing cases

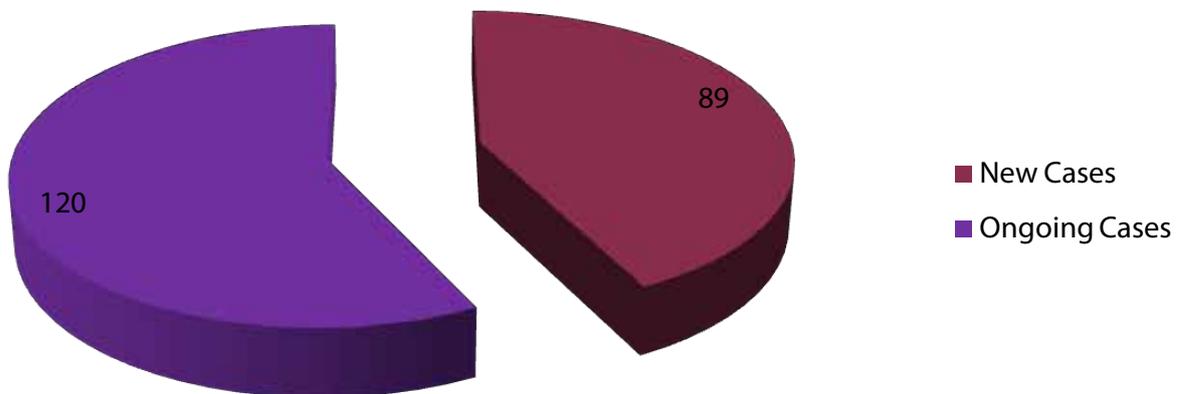


Chart 7: Cases closed in 2014

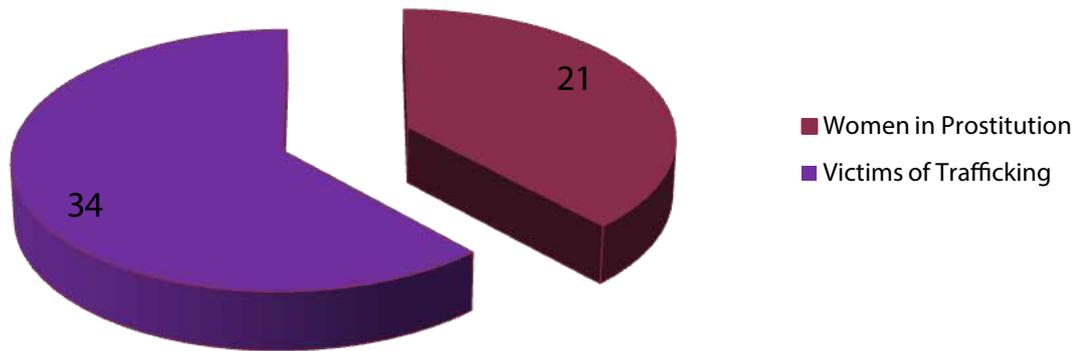
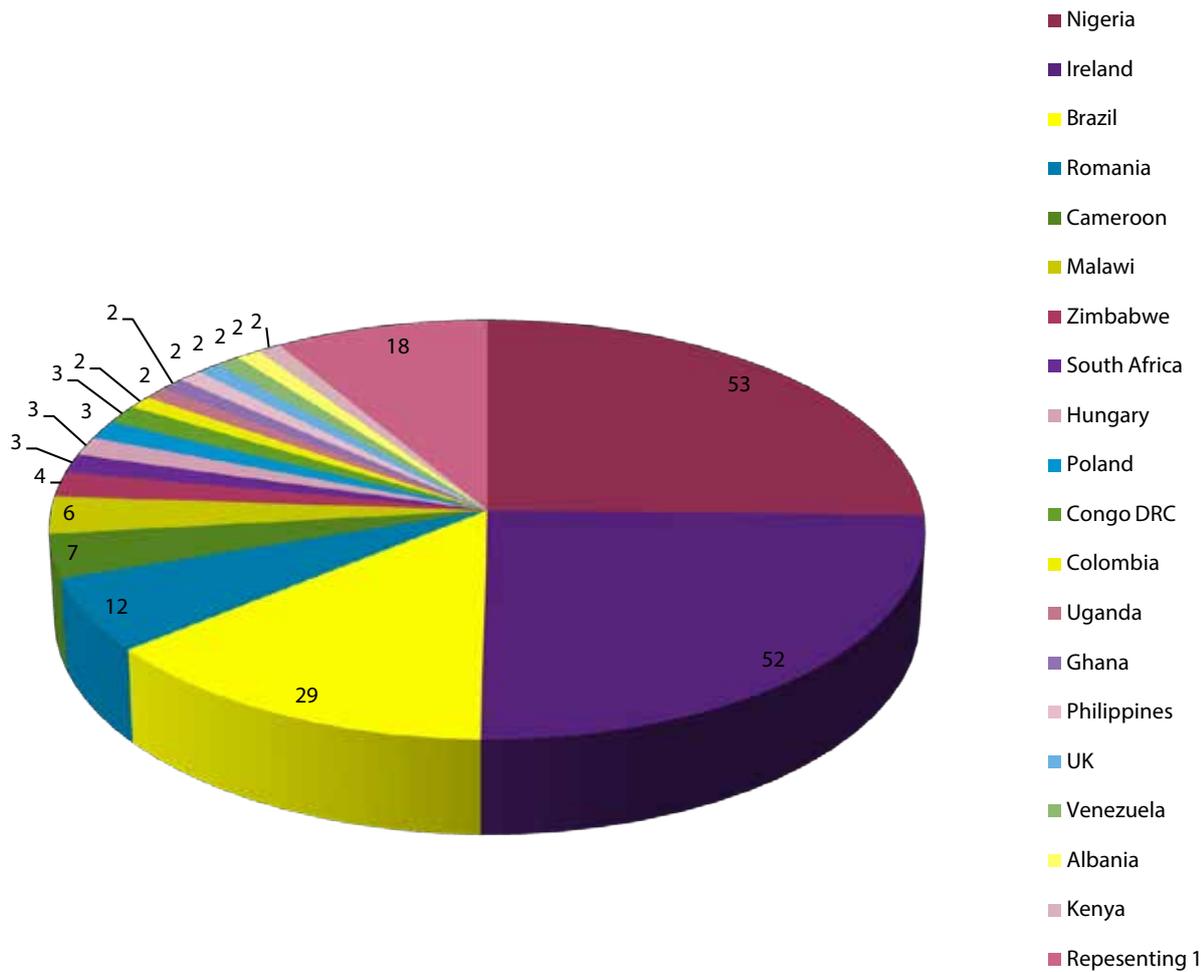


Chart 8: Nationalities of all women accessing Ruhama's Casework service



1 woman from each of: Benin, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, France, Guinea, Kurdistan, Latvia, Liberia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Somalia, Spain, Tanzania, Togo, USA & Zambia

Chart 11: Nationalities of all new referrals of women in prostitution accessing Ruhama's Casework service

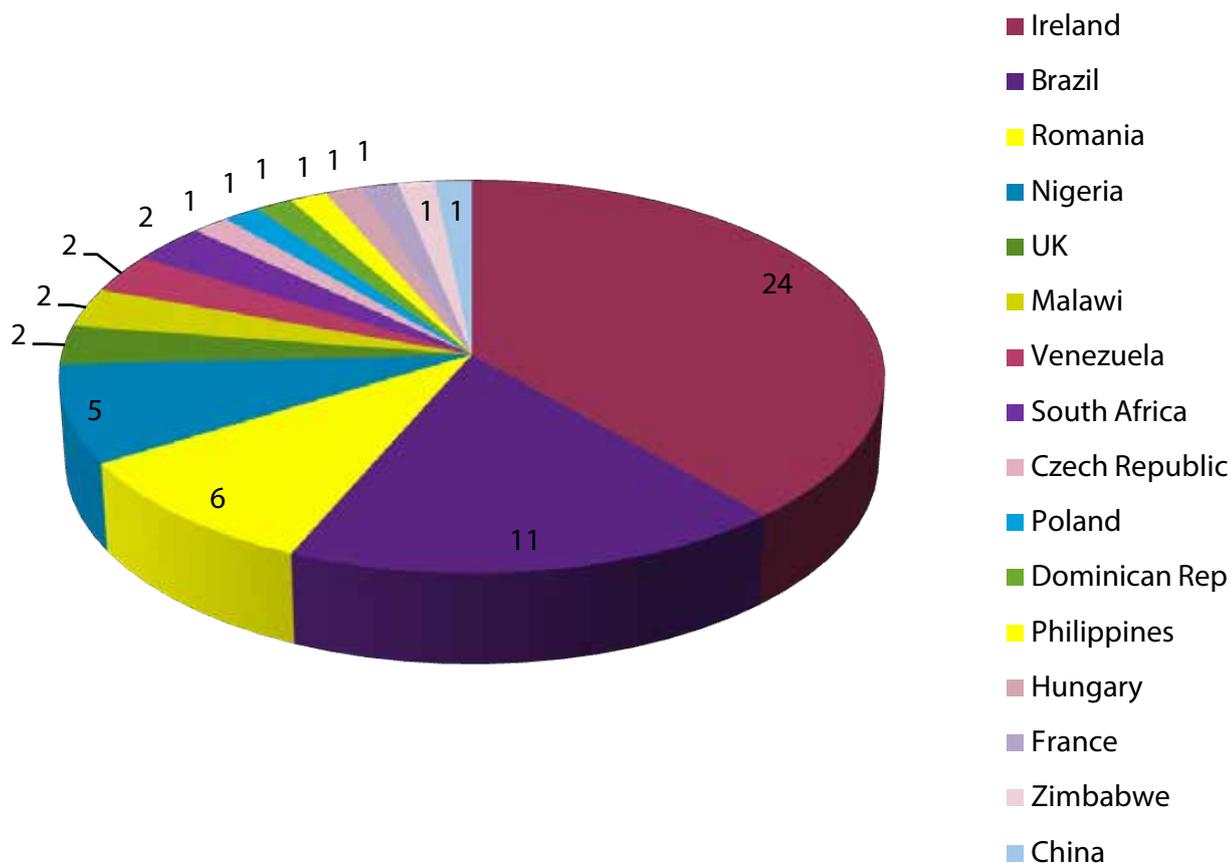
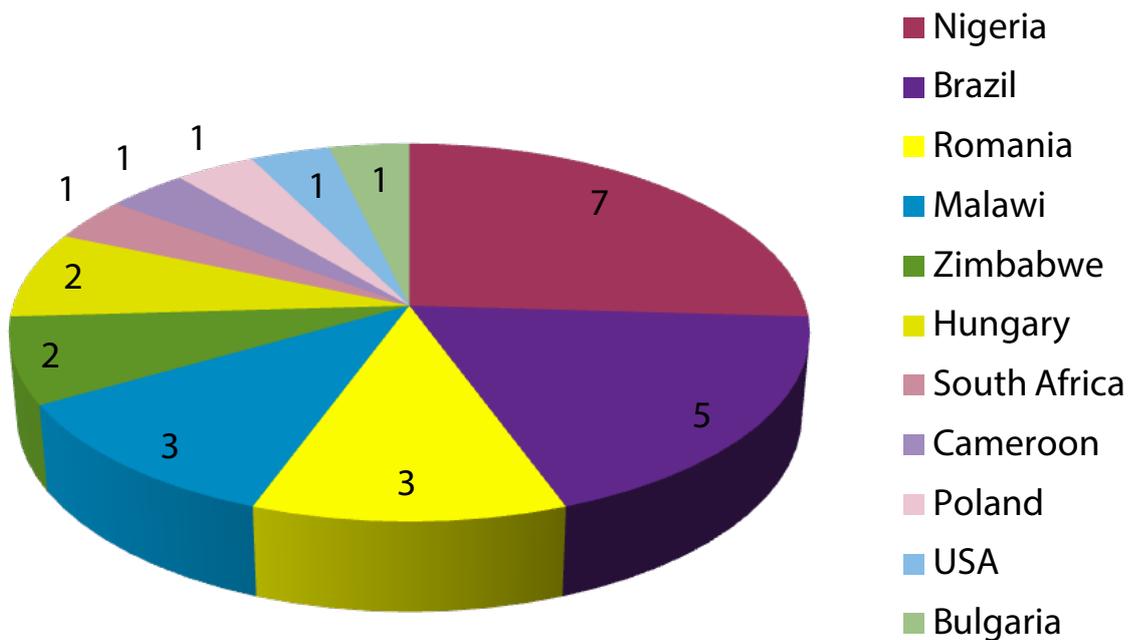


Chart 12: Nationalities of all new referrals of victims of trafficking accessing Ruhama's Casework service



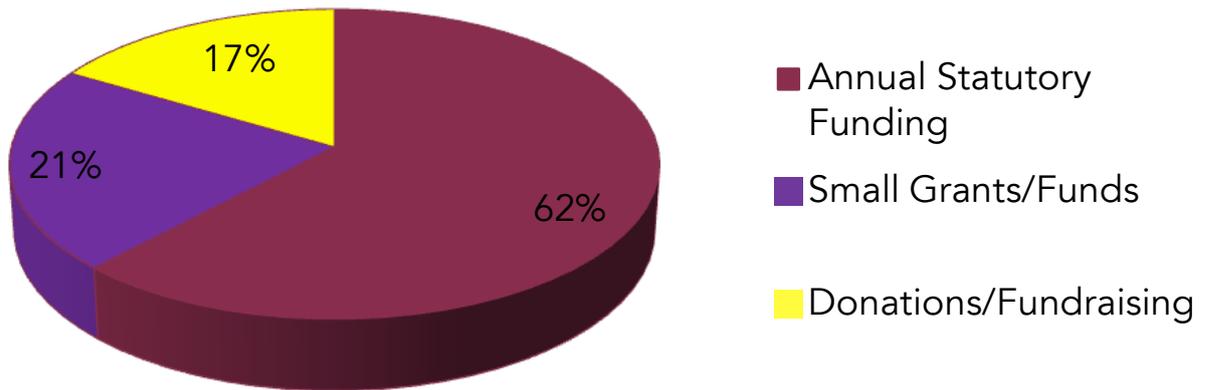
Financial Summary 2014

Ruhama is a company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital

| Income and Expenditure 2014 | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Annual Statutory Funding | 2014 | 2013 |
| Anti Human Trafficking Unit Department of Justice and Equality | € 172,256.00 | € 172,000.00 |
| HSE | € 118,824.00 | € 118,825.00 |
| South Inner City Local Drugs Task Force | € 100,824.00 | € 100,824.00 |
| Other Grant Income | € 136,301.00 | € 55,856.00 |
| Donations/Fundraising | € 105,540.00 | € 135,434.00 |
| Total Income: | € 633,745.00 | € 582,939.00 |
| Total Expenditure | € 649,118.00 | € 578,324.00 |
| Operating surplus/(Deficit) | -€ 15,373.00 | € 4,615.00 |
| Other income and expenses | | |
| Interest receivable | € 75.00 | € 53.00 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | -€ 15,298.00 | € 4,668.00 |

| Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2014 | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Fixed Assets | 2014 | 2013 |
| Tangible assets | € 30,314.00 | € 2,394.00 |
| Debtors | € 16,096.00 | € 16,096.00 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | € 257,528.00 | € 278,852.00 |
| Debtors plus Cash at Bank and in hand | € 273,624.00 | € 295,558.00 |
| Creditors amounts falling due within one year | -€ 120,399.00 | -€ 126,553.00 |
| Net Current Assets | € 153,225.00 | € 169,005.00 |
| Total Assets Less Current Liabilities | € 183,539.00 | € 171,399.00 |
| Capital and Reserves | € 27,438.00 | |
| Income and Expenditure Accounts | € 156,101.00 | € 171,399.00 |
| Funds | € 183,539.00 | € 171,399.00 |

Chart 13 Breakdown of income sources



The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 12th May 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Valerie Judge
Director

Dr Mary Scully
Director

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Ruhama

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2014 and its deficit for the year then ended: and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2013.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the information given in the Directors report is consistent with the financial statements.

Signed by:

Liam McQuaid
Duignan Carthy O'Neill

Chartered Accountants

12th May 2015

Financial supporters

Ruhama has a lengthy, positive and productive history with its statutory funders and values the continuing relationship with them.

The organisation has, in response to reductions in statutory funding in recent years effected rigorous cost saving initiatives to try to maximise frontline service provision while making savings on outgoings.

Ruhama operates in a highly streamlined fashion and as our shortfall between our statutory funding and our outgoings will remain for the foreseeable future we must continue to actively protect our service through applications for small grants and of course fundraising.

We would like to pay tribute to all our generous donors and fundraising supporters.

There are individuals and organisations that have been stalwart in their contribution to Ruhama's success, in some cases over many years.

Our donors and supporters range from corporate bodies to international funders, community foundations, women's groups, religious congregations, and individuals who have held events and raised sponsorship.

Every euro raised, granted or donated is hugely appreciated and we hope that

this warm support will continue into the future when it will be more important than ever.

To explore the many ways in which you can support Ruhama, including making a donation, please visit our website www.ruhama.ie and click the "SUPPORT RUHAMA" button on the home page, (if reading this in soft copy you can click [here](#) to access the "SUPPORT RUHAMA" page directly.

Ruhama is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.