

**MAKING WOMEN CENTRAL TO
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PRESENTATION TO SOUTH CENTRAL
AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
20TH JUNE 2016**

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National Women's
Council of Ireland
Comhairle Náisiúnta
na mBan in Éirinn

National Women's Council of Ireland

- ❖ Ireland's leading national women's membership organisation (1973)
- ❖ **180** Group members and a growing number of individual members

We seek full equality between men and women.

Strategic plan 2016 - 2020 – four priorities

1. Women realise their right to health and bodily integrity, including reproductive rights.
2. Women have economic independence.
3. Women's care roles are recognised and valued.
4. **Women lead and are represented on and can meaningfully participate in all decision-making spaces that affect their lives.**

Sex and Gender

SEX IS WHAT YOU'RE BORN WITH,
GENDER IS WHAT YOU'RE GIVEN



Equality for women: are we there yet?



National context

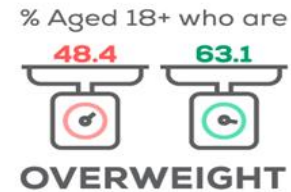


An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

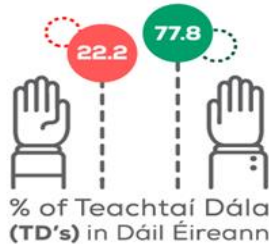
Women & Men in Ireland 2016



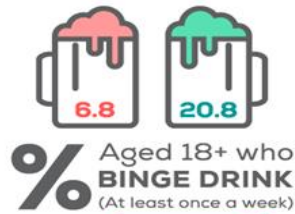
Numbers looking after Home/Family
445,500 **9,200**



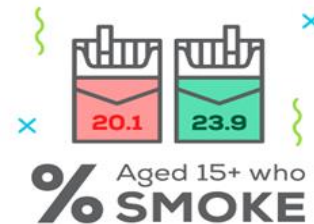
NUMBERS OF PEOPLE COMMITTED TO PRISON



% of Teachtaí Dála (TD's) in Dáil Éireann



% Aged 18+ who **BINGE DRINK** (At least once a week)



% Aged 15+ who **SMOKE**

What are the experiences of women in Dublin South Central?

- ❖ Rising rate of suicide among women (50% in 2017)
- ❖ Homelessness on the rise for women and families
- ❖ Fuel poverty (2/3 are women) and debt (Dublin 10 & 20 MABS)

Representation of women at local level

- ❖ 2014 local elections, 22 per cent women candidates, 21 per cent female politicians elected (EU average is 32%)
- ❖ Dublin City Council Councillors – 34% Female(urban/rural divide – 28 areas have no women) Only three have a critical mass of over 30%
- ❖ Dublin City Council LCDC – 43% Female

Year of election	Total no. Candidates	Women Candidates no. and % of total		Number of Seats	Women elected no. and % of total elected	
1999	3,085	557	18%	1,627	266	16%
2004	3,228	647	20%	1,627	308	19%
2009	3,111	598	19%	1,627	309	19%
2014	2,037	441	22%	949	197	21%

Role that Local Authorities can play

1. As employers
2. Delivering public services
3. Representative and participative democracy

National and International Commitments

- National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017 - 2020
- Public Sector Duty - www.ihrec.ie
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- UN CDEAW

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

OUR MISSION: To end all forms of discrimination against women and girls to advance gender as a driver of economic growth and sustainable development.

KEY ISSUES

Women have **lower rates** of employment than men, and are **paid less** for the **same job**.



Stereotypical gender roles and traditions such as **early marriage** continue to harm girls.



Women-headed households are more vulnerable to **poverty**.



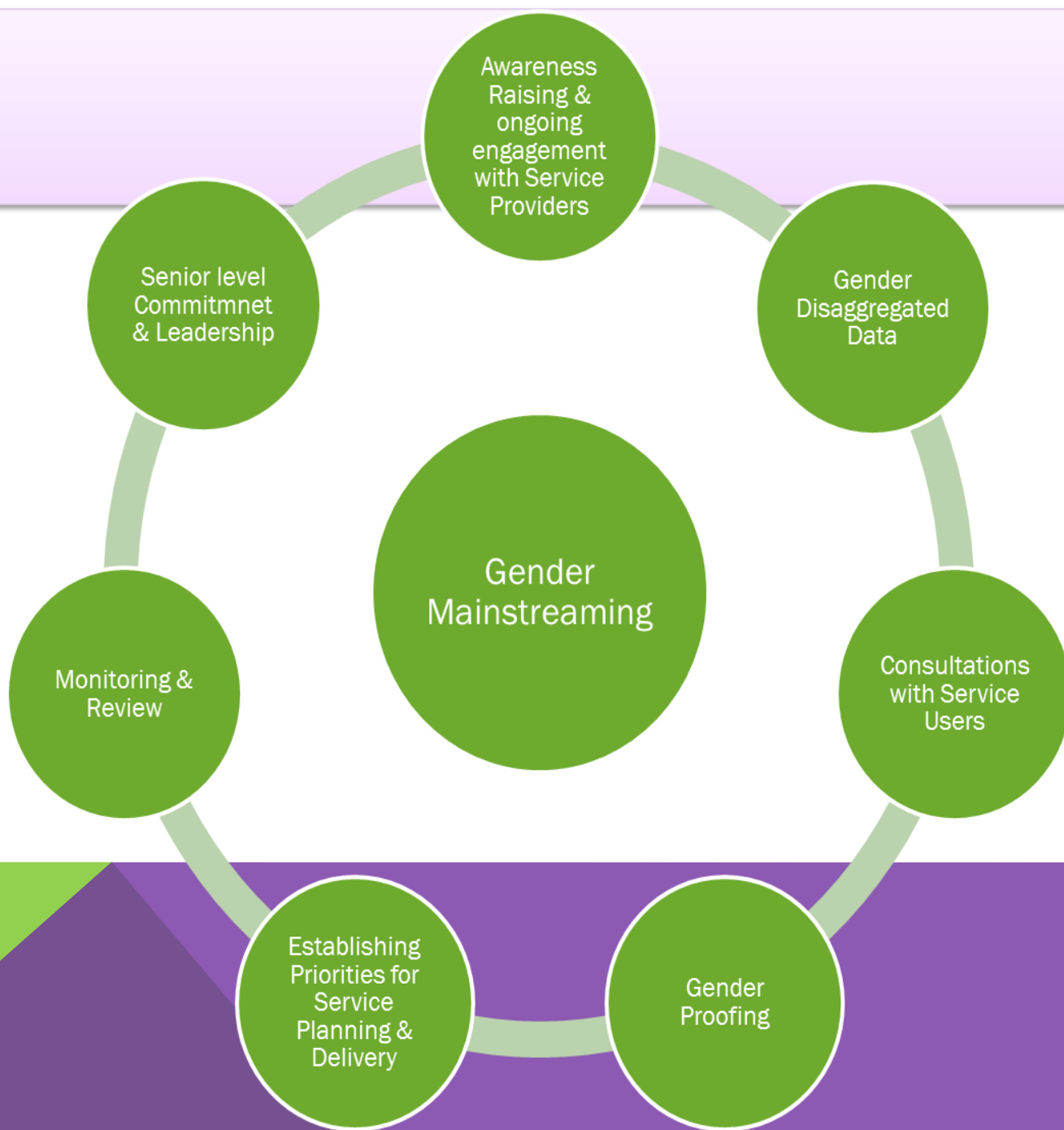
Women have **less access** to **decision-making positions** than men.



National Strategy for Women and Girls
2017-2020: creating a better society for all
Department of Justice and Equality
April 2017



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



STEP	ACTION
1. Senior level commitment & leadership	Direction and resources from Department, Governing bodies, named explicitly in strategies and plans
2. Training and Awareness raising	Roll out unconscious bias training and gender equality training to stakeholders Dispel the myths about non-traditional roles
3. Collate and analyse gender disaggregated data	Need to know the current situation for men and women
4. Consultations and engagement	Invite ,support and reach out to girls and women Factor in cost of participation – travel, care responsibilities

5. Gender proofing strategies, policies, services

Carry out a simple gender impact assessment What are the intended and unintended impact on men and women?

6. Gender equality action plan

Clear equality policies and procedures - specific actions, targeted initiatives and through changes in the organisation of work.

7. Demonstration / pilot projects

Share good practice and showcase role models

8. Monitoring, reviewing and reporting

Set targets and report on outcomes and impacts for girls and women

How to achieve it?

- ❖ Sign up to the EU charter for equality between women and men in local life - <http://www.charter-equality.eu/>
33 countries across Europe with 1630 signatories. No local authorities in Ireland have signed up.
- ❖ Work with the National Womens Council
- ❖ Womens Manifesto Project, Next Chapter - www.thenextchapter.eu
- ❖ Engage other stakeholders – LGMA, CCMA, AILG

Thank
you for listening.
Questions?



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