



“And then there is the sense that in spite of Everything, the universe is in some way All Right”

- Aldous Huxley

“I grew up here, this is my home, the minute I was old enough I left school to be out on the boats. I love being out at sea.. Yeah it frustrating being laid up all summer but I spend my time on boat or chasing a few tuna , its what I know, what I do..' Me and the lads have great craic , we are like brothers”

- Young Fisherman, 26yrs



“Aye its 'stinking thinking', they are always telling us we have too many fishers and there not enough fish, there is plenty of fish just too much fancy boats with technology to suck the ocean dry...and we can't do anything about it as government sold us out and our waters belong to everyone else now...we have no say...”

1 in 5 Irish women who have ever been in a relationship experience physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse.

- Margaret Martin, Director Women's Aid, 2010.



Gender-based Violence is understood to be any act or threat of harm inflicted on a person because of their gender and is any act that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Gender-based Violence encompasses sexual violence, domestic violence, sex-trafficking, harmful practices, forced / early marriage, forced prostitution, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation, to name but a few.

- Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence. 2012.

Gender-based Violence especially in the context of domestic violence is largely undocumented and hidden in fishing communities throughout the world.

“The sea has taken the lives of both my brothers and my father, I can never leave here , I could never leave them, I go every day to the well (St Catherine Of Alexandria's) and pray for them and for all the souls we have lost to the sea.. They (Government) have no understanding of the terrible price we have to pay or care, I live with loss every day of my life and fear for my husband when storms come in winter”

- Young married woman in Fishing Community.



“We have fun at the fish plant , work only for the winter though and the money is very poor, I’ve got no choice but to work as I have to pay for our house, don’t know what I would do without family help to mind kids, it’s tough getting all the work done (laughs), he's no help at all...He gets fed up and yeah sometimes he is angry with me and the kids, truth be told I 'm glad when he goes out to the pub at night...”

- Fisher wife in her 30's.

“I got justice in the court but not in society. The community haven't accepted his guilt.”

Gender-based Violence is a global health , human rights and development problem and has profound. immediate, and long term consequences involving physical, psychological and social effects...

- Task Force Report on Violence Against Women, Ireland
1997.



Domestic Violence covers a broad range of behaviours and goes beyond actual physical violence (e.g. punching, kicking, hitting, slapping, shoving and other forms of physical and sexual assault including rape and prostitution).

Domestic Violence can also involve emotional abuse, the destruction of property, isolation from friends, family and other potential sources of support, threats to others including children, stalking and control over access to money, personal items, transport, food and telephone...

- COSC National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender -
based Violence. 2010-2014

Strategy Vision:

- Clearer societal acknowledgment of the unacceptability of gender-based violence.
- Greater recognition and a broader understanding of domestic violence.
- Greater confidence in high quality and consistent service.
- Increased safety for victim.
- Increased accountability of the perpetrator.
- Structured and improved planning and monitoring to ensure continued effectiveness.