



**Annual Report 2019**





# Social Justice Ireland Annual Report

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Note from the Chairperson	4
Work Programme	6
Public Policy & Research	6
Empowerment & Spirituality	11
Communications	13
Evaluation, Impacts & Outcomes	15
Proposals for the Future	15
Members of the Board	16
Mission & Values	17
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2018	18

## Note from the Chairperson

Welcome to the Annual Report of *Social Justice Ireland*. This report covers the period from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019

Those 12 months were dominated, from a political perspective, by two issues: Climate and Brexit.

One of these is very welcome. *Social Justice Ireland* has long been at the forefront of campaigns that promote environmental sustainability and climate justice. Many of our publications, including our annual *Sustainable Progress Index*, have repeatedly criticised Ireland's performance in relation to our environmental goals. 2019 seems to have been the year when much of society – and as a consequence, Government – has caught up with just how important it is that Ireland improves its performance and becomes a leader, not a laggard, in relation to our climate-related targets.

Brexit's continued dominance of the political agenda is far less welcome, and as a confused stalemate persisted in Westminster for much of the last year, the Irish Government sought to use Brexit as this year's excuse for not doing what is needed to protect vulnerable people and move Ireland in the direction of becoming a more fair, more just society. In the name of "fiscal prudence" and "caution", Budget 2020 contained few policy measures that will have a notable effect on the main crises faced by Ireland, including those in the areas of poverty, housing and homelessness, healthcare, balanced development, transport, and precarious and low paid work.

*Social Justice Ireland* continues to use evidence-based policy solutions and top-class research to counter the prevailing narratives about what is possible and what is desirable in this country. At this time of fake-news and rising political populism, facts, analysis, and evidence-based research are needed more than ever before. They will remain imperative as we look to shape a society based on fairness, equality, solidarity, compassion and sustainability.

The stance taken and work programme of *Social Justice Ireland* were developed by the Board in line with our Strategic Plan (2016-2020). The theme chosen for the year was sustainability. The Board is currently working on our new Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. It is important that all our members have an opportunity to participate in this important phase in the life of our organisation. In spring we will harvest the insights, views and suggestions of members through a consultation process. Having worked through this material it is planned that the Board will launch the New Strategic Plan at the AGM 2020.

During the past year the organisation benefitted from the work and support of:

- The Academic Advisory Council, the members of which help ensure that standards are maintained in the areas of research, publications and policy stance.
- The Budget Analysis Team, whose assistance in helping us provide the first full and comprehensive analysis of the Government's annual budget within 24 hours of its release is invaluable.

- The Board Audit and Organisation sub-committee, who work on issues related to funding, staffing and membership, compliance and other governance issues.
- The Communications Sub-Committee which develops, supports and helps to evaluate our communications strategy.

An outline of our mission and activities are given in the following pages. Evaluation is part of our ongoing processes where attention is given to outcomes. *Social Justice Ireland* continues to maintain a strong international involvement, contributing to Caritas Europa's annual study on the Europe 2020 Strategy, and also publishing a study of the socio-economic situation in the 28 EU member states. We have invested significant resources into research, publications and advocacy on the Sustainable Development Goals, including the production of a *Sustainable Progress Index*.

Local and regional issues remain an important part of our work, and our association with the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) remains strong. Having been central to their formation, we continue to provide support and training to the PPNs on a regular basis. We work on the Government National Advisory group and the review of the PPN Handbook.

Appropriate Board time was given to issues of governance. We are happy to confirm that *Social Justice Ireland* is compliant with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland. We have also committed to compliance with the *Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public* as developed by the Charities Regulatory Authority. All the supporting compliance documentation is available on our website [www.socialjustice.ie/about](http://www.socialjustice.ie/about) us/join. We update the Lobbying Register as required and are GDPR compliant.

Deep gratitude is due to Board members and the members of the groups listed above who give generously of their time and expertise to enhance the work of *Social Justice Ireland*. They have been a great support to our staff who have put quality time into the work of the organisation. The following pages attest to the large volume of work done by *Social Justice Ireland*. Much of this work is done on a pro bono basis by the Staff, Board, Committee members and volunteers.

Thank you, members of *Social Justice Ireland*. Your support, both financial and moral is very encouraging and energising.

**Justin Kilcullen,**  
**Chairperson**

## Work Programme

The Strategic Plan of *Social Justice Ireland* covers the period 2016-2020. A work programme is developed each year on the basis of this plan. The following pages outline the work done during the past year. The work is summarised under each of the three Core Programmes, Public Policy & Research; Empowerment & Spirituality and Communications.

## Public Policy and Research

### Public Policy and Research

#### Research

- Prepared and published four editions of our *National Social Monitor*; two editions were focused on National issues, one on Local issues and one on European issues.
- Researched and published a briefing document on Taxation
- With the help of Prof Charles Clark & Dr Catherine Kavanagh published two leaflets expanding the work done on the Strategic Development Goals.
- Continued the research on a Universal Pension.
- Worked with the Living Wage Technical Group on updating the living wage rate.
- Researched and published *Budget 2019, Analysis and Critique*.
- Researched and presented a paper to our Annual Social Policy Conference, theme *From Here to Where?*
- Researched and published the 2019 edition of the Socio-Economic Review; *Social Justice Matters*.
- Researched and published *Recovery in Europe? – Still not experienced by many – a review of the social situation in Europe and considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future* (part of our European Research Series).
- Organised and collated the PPN Annual Report for 2017 drawing together the responses of Public Participation Networks (PPNs) from Local Authorities across the country. This was published by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- Published a Policy Briefing entitled *Poverty Focus*.
- Published our Sustainable Progress Index comparing the performances of the EU-15 countries on progressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). entitled *Measuring Progress: The Sustainable Progress Index 2019*.
- Researched *Budget Choices*, our submission on Budget 2020.
- Researched and published Ireland and the Europe 2020 Strategy.

#### Submissions

##### **In the past year Social Justice Ireland made submissions to the following:**

- The Central Bank on Ireland's Strategic Plan 2019-2021.
- The Department of the Taoiseach on the Draft National Risk Assessment 2018.
- The Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government on Local Government Funding.
- Submitted our *Budget Choices* Policy Briefing to all Government Departments.

- The Dept of Justice on the Code of Conduct for Persons on Lobbying Activities.
- Department of Employment and Social protection on the Review of the Implementation of the National Action for Social Inclusion 2007-2017
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on the Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Development Goals Stakeholders Forum
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on the initial Public Consultation on the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030.
- The Low Pay Commission on the level of the Minimum Wage.
- Department of Rural & Community Development on the National Volunteering Strategy.
- The Department of the Taoiseach on Ireland and the 2020 Strategy focusing on the social inclusion aspects of the National Reform Programme.
- To SOLAS on the new Further Education and Training Strategy.
- The Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection on Indexation of Welfare Rates.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development on Social Enterprise.
- The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth Affairs on the impact of homelessness on children.
- Made a submission to the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee.
- Made a submission to the public consultation on Heritage Ireland 2030.
- Made a submission to the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities on Water Conservation.
- Made a submission on the review of Community Employment and Social Inclusion Schemes.
- Made a submission to the Low Pay Commission

## **Europe**

- Made a submission to the European Commission on the 2020 Strategy.
- Addressed the European Commission on the issue of Taxation.
- Completed a study of the socio-economic situation in the 28 EU member states and considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future entitled *Recovery in Europe? - Still not experienced by many.*
- Invited to meet with the EU staff in their Dublin Office
- Met with EU officials from Brussels during their annual visit to Ireland.
- Invited to two-day seminar by DG ECFIN in Brussels.
- Researched and published *Recovery in Europe: uneven and incomplete.*
- Had a meeting with the Semester Officer in the European Commission Office regarding the social direction of Europe and the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Was invited by the European Commission Office to give initial comments and critique of the Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland from the European Commission.
- Met with the President of the European Economic and Social Committee to discuss the post-Brexit and post-EU elections situation. The need for structures to secure real social dialogue in Ireland was emphasised by both sides.

### **Better Europe Alliance**

- Continued our engagement with the Better Europe Alliance which is focused on *Ireland and the EU2020 Strategy*.
- Invited as part of Better Europe Alliance to meet DG ECFIN to discuss the Annual Growth Survey by European Commission Office Dublin.

### **Caritas Europa**

- Researched and produced the Ireland section of the Caritas Europa 'Caritas Cares Report' on Europe 2020 Strategy.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- To celebrate UN Day for Social Justice we organised a conference to launch our Sustainable Progress Index 2019. The research for this Index was done by Prof Charles Clark and Dr Catherine Kavanagh. This Index shows how Ireland is doing vis-à-vis the EU-15 on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The presentation was followed by a very lively question and answer session
- The event which was over-subscribed was live streamed by Kairos.
- Following on from this event and publication we were invited to make a presentation at the DEAR annual conference in Croke Park on the SDGs and Ireland with special reference to Goal 2 on food, hunger, agriculture and rural development.
- Researched and published a 4-page policy-focused summary with recommendations for action on SDGs, especially at Local Authority level.

### **National Economic & Social Council (NESC)**

Seán Healy, as an elected representative of the Community and Voluntary Pillar, participates in the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) meetings. During the year they have worked on study papers addressing:

- Transport Orientated Development: Opportunities for Ireland.
- Towards a More Integrated Income Support System.
- Climate Change Policy: Getting the Process Right.

### **Meetings with Government, Officials, Politicians & Advisers**

- Met an Taoiseach, Leo Varadker TD, on actions Government could take to reduce poverty.
- Met Ms Regina Doherty TD, Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection on indexation of welfare rates, Refundable Tax Credits and a 5-year plan to eliminate child poverty.
- Had two meetings with Mr. Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development
  - re PPNs and Community Development issues.
  - Re Social Enterprise
- Met with the Secretary General of the Dept. of Finance,
- Met with the Assistant Secretary General and Team, Dept. of Finance on Taxation.
- Met Micheál Martin, TD, Leader of Fianna Fail, who asked us to prepare a briefing on actions FF could take in Government to tackle climate change.
- Met with Sinn Fein team on Budget and Health issues.



- Met with Dara Calleary TD, Deputy Leader of Fianna Fail on overall policy framework.
- Presented the Socio-Economic Review *Justice Matters* to politicians and their support staff in Leinster House.
- Participated in a review of the National Risk Assessment in the Department of the Taoiseach.
- Met with officials in the Department of Rural and Community Development on development and support programmes for Public Participation Networks (PPNs), their member groups and Local Authorities.
- Took part in the Fifth All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit.

### **Meetings with, and via, Community & Voluntary Pillar of Social Partners**

- Participated in the regular meetings of the CV Pillar.
- Played an active role in the National Advisory Committee on Public Participation Networks (PPNs)
- Wrote the first draft of the submission from the CV Pillar to the National Economic Dialogue.
- Helped to organise and participated in the following bilateral meetings with Government Departments:
  - Department of Rural and Community Development.
  - Department of Health.
  - Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection.
  - Dept of Education and Skills.
  - Dept of Public Expenditure & Reform.
  - Dept. of Justice & Equality
- Agreed to take on the secretariat role in the Community and Voluntary Pillar for one year

### **Basic Income**

- In conjunction with UCD and Basic Income Ireland hosted a Conference on Basic Income. This was to mark the tenth anniversary of the International BIEN Congress which was held in UCD in 2008 and which we had organised.
- Presented an updated version of our model on basic income to this conference.
- Presented our research findings on Basic Income to a meeting of Academics Stand Against Poverty at Trinity College.
- Presented the updated figures on Basic Income to BI Ireland
- Gave a lecture to UCD students on Basic Income.
- Continued work with the Irish branch of BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network)

### **Social Policy Conference 2018**

- The theme of the Conference was *From Here to Where?* Ten years on from the recession it explored the challenges and possibilities for the future.
- The attendance was about 100 and representative of the various interests including policymakers, academics, media, arts, students and community activists.
- The keynote speakers and the young contributors added an extra buzz to the day.

- Participation and feedback were good and provided insightful pointers for future conferences.
- With the help of Kairos Communications, the conference was live-streamed on YouTube and on our website. These are now available online.
- The cartoonist, Philip Barrett, who sketched each paper as it was being presented was much appreciated. His work is also available now on our website.
- Media coverage was a bit disappointing. However, the op-ed pieces were very useful in getting the message out. Of particular note was Tony Fahey's op-ed in the Journal online which was the most-read article on the site for two days.
- We published the papers as a book entitled *From Here to Where? Negotiating a Better and Fairer Future* on the day of the conference.

### **Budget 2019**

- Three publications were prepared:
  - A Policy Briefing on 'Budget Choices' which included proposals and a costed Budget - published in July.
  - A Policy Briefing on Tax Options published in September
  - An analysis and critique of Budget 2019 published on the day following the Budget.
- SJI presented the analysis and proposals in the following arenas:
  - The Pre-Budget forum hosted by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Ms. Regina Doherty TD.
  - A Pre-Budget press conference hosted by SJI in Buswell's Hotel. With the help of Kairos Communications this Seminar was live-streamed through our website and on YouTube.
  - The CV Pre-Budget pillar meeting with the Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohoe TD.
  - A Post-Budget Seminar hosted by SJI in Buswells Hotel. Again, with the help of Kairos Communications this Seminar was live-streamed through our website. These webcasts are now available on our website and on YouTube.
  - We also adjusted our traditional timeframe for responding to the Budget. The document was available to media at 7am on the morning after the Budget was announced. We held the seminar/webcast at 11am. The event was oversubscribed with many attendees from Leinster House. We got reasonable media coverage for this publication.
  - Presented our Budget proposals at a meeting of the Oireachtas Budget Committee.
  - Worked with the International Budget Project to get more international coverage of our Budget work.

### **National Economic Dialogue**

Seán Healy and Eamon Murphy were invited to participate in this two-day event.

## Empowerment and Spirituality

### a) Workshops/Conferences/Seminars

*Social Justice Ireland* facilitated and/or provided input to **30** workshops/conferences/seminars involving **1,662** people on a variety of public policy and values issues. These figures **do not include** the work with the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) which is outlined in the next section.

Among these workshops/seminars/conferences were the following presentations:

- To the Pensions Conference in Trinity
- On Cost Rental Housing to the Dublin Economics Workshop
- To the MA in Education in University of Limerick/MI
- To the SMA National Conference.
- To the Dublin Council of Churches.
- To the AGM of Irish Rural Link
- To the Tearfund Conference
- Ballyfermot Community Seminar
- To the TCD Seminar on Pensions
- To the Environmental Research Institute (UCC)
- To the Pension Policy Research Group Seminar
- To the Financial Justice Ireland Seminar on budget advocacy issues
- To the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection Assistant Principals' Conference
- To the Social Inclusion Forum hosted by the Dept of Employment Affairs & Social Protection - on Data
- To the Age Alliance Workshop on Homecare
- To the Irish Gerontological Society Conference on Housing
- To the ALONE Conference – on housing and older people
- To the National Advisory Council on Children and Young People on Child Poverty and Refundable Tax Credits.
- To the FORSA conference - on Education and educational disadvantage.
- To the Wheel annual conference – on the SDGs
- To the NALA and TASC seminar on Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Skills.

### b) Public Participation Networks (PPNs)

We continued to engage with the Department of Rural and Community Development and PPNS to support the development of the Public Participation Networks. This work included:

- The design and development of an online reporting template for the 2018 Annual Report
- The collating of returns and drafting of the 2018 PPN Annual Report
- The design and delivery of the Autumn / Winter 2018 Training and Facilitation calendar for PPNS – delivering training on Communications and Advocacy, Facilitation

Skills, Strategic Planning and facilitating six consultations on the development of the PPN User Guide

- Project Management of the Wellbeing Phase 2 project and the delivery of 5 training sessions on the use of the Toolkit for the Vision for Community Wellbeing and supports
- The design and delivery of two training sessions – one on Engaging Stakeholders and one on Managing Conflicts – at the PPN Resource Workers National CPD event.
- The design and development of a Training Needs Analysis for PPNs and their Member Groups
- The design of the Autumn / Winter 2019 Training and Facilitation calendar which included Delivering a Literacy Friendly Service (delivered on our behalf by NALA), Facilitation Skills and Communications and Advocacy (delivery commenced September 2019).
- Providing one to one and bespoke supports on request.

**c) MA in Social Justice & Public Policy**

- The first group of students taking the MA in Social Justice and Public Policy from Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) began their two-year part-time programme in September 2018. This programme is similar to that run for ten years in All Hallows College (accredited by DCU) but had to be terminated when the college closed.
- The partnership with WIT is very satisfactory.
- The programme is taught in the Carmelite Centre in Aungier Street, Dublin
- We lectured on three of the modules and contributed to the joint coordination of the programme.

**d) Trocaire**

- We implemented the agreed programme of work for Trocaire which included input and Research on Overseas Development Aid.
- In preparation for the European Elections *Social Justice Ireland* and Trocaire organised a Hustings in Dublin Castle.
- All the invited candidates accepted our invitation to present their positions on 5 'Asks'.
- About 60 people participated in the session, which was chaired by journalist, Michael Clifford.

**e) ALONE**

- *Social Justice Ireland* has worked with ALONE for several years to support their policy development and political lobbying. SJI supports ALONE by drafting policy statements and papers, fact checking and verifying their statistics, and advising on ALONE's policy position in relation to all areas, including housing, home care, equality and social protection. SJI played a key role in writing and verifying ALONE's Housing Choices for Older People: Time for Action report released last year.

- *Social Justice Ireland*
  - Supports and proofs social policy position papers for ALONE
  - Supports ALONE with ongoing engagement of policy makers and Government departments
  - Drafts and creates policy documents on a wide range of topics for ALONE
  - Identifies trends, opportunities and policy areas for ALONE to work in to achieve their goals

**f) DEAR Project**

- Continued work as part of this project. Of particular interest is our Sustainable Progress Index publication which plays a key role in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals which are at the core of this project.
- The project's annual conference examined the role of small-scale farmers and food producers in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We presented a paper on Ireland and the SDGs with a particular focus on those relating to food production and rural development.
- We also produced a 2-page Policy Briefing setting out how Local Authorities could take action towards implementing all 17 SDGs.

**g) Living Wage Group**

- We continued our involvement with this group which sets the rate for the Living Wage each year.

## Communications

**a) Communication with Members**

- We send a weekly update to members about the news items on our website.
- We send a monthly newsletter to all members.
- We also notify members about upcoming events as appropriate.

**b) Publications**

- Policy Briefing on *Budget Choices*
- National Social Monitor – Autumn Edition
- Taxation Briefing
- A Briefing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- A background paper for the SDGs project
- Wrote a chapter for Handbook for Leaving No One Behind produced by ATD
- *From Here to Where? Negotiating a Better and Fairer Future*. (This contains the papers of the Social Policy Conference (November 2018).
- *Budget 2019 Critique and Analysis* (October 2018).
- *Recovery in Europe? – Still not experienced by many* – a review of the social situation in Europe with considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future.
- National Social Monitor – Winter edition (December 2018)
- Social Justice Matters 2019 (our annual Socio-Economic Review).

- Published a policy briefing entitled *Poverty Focus 2019*
  - Published the *Sustainable Progress Index 2019*.
  - Published an analysis of the EU-28's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special focus on Ireland
  - Published 'Ireland and the 2020 Strategy'.
  - Published the National Social Monitor – European Edition.
  - Published the National Social Monitor – Local Issues Edition.
- **Live Streamed the two Conferences and the two Budget Seminars**

**c) Website**

- *Social Justice Ireland* had over 3.7 million hits in the last 12 months with an average of over 1,000 visitors on weekdays and close to 700 on Saturdays and Sundays.

**d) Newsreleases**

- *Social Justice Ireland* issued more than **40** news releases during the year; some were promoting our publications and events, while others were responding to developments and highlighting our position on various issues.

**e) Electronic and Print Media Coverage**

- *Social Justice Ireland* engaged with the media, print and electronic, so as to promote the outcomes we sought in the various issues raised. In the past year we are aware of the following coverage in the media:
  - 4 **TV** interviews broadcast on news and current affairs programmes.
  - More than 1,000 views of videos on *Social Justice Ireland* YouTube channel
  - 28 interviews on **National Radio** news and current affairs programmes.
  - 11 stories broadcast a total of 702 times on 26 **Local Radio** news programmes.
  - 103 interviews on **Local Radio** current affairs programmes.
  - Over 85 stories in the **National** press including 10 editorials and 22 op-ed pieces.
  - 96 online newspaper articles.
  - We are aware of a number of articles in the **Local press** but don't have the resources to track them.

**f) Social Media**

- Our combined social media footprint is now 20,699 up from 17,877 (+15.7%) in the past year

## Evaluation, Impacts and Outcomes

Evaluation is an ongoing process where great attention is given to outcomes and impacts. It is carried out in the following phases:

- The weekly staff meetings where specific projects are reviewed in relation to inputs and outputs. The short-term impacts and outcomes (both planned and unexpected) are assessed. The learnings are noted.
- The annual 'think-in' by the staff provides an opportunity to reflect on these learnings and the medium-term outcomes when planning the following year's work.
- The sub-committees of the Board monitor the activities within their areas of interest.
- At its regular meetings, the Board reviews the report by the staff on outcomes and impacts of recent and current activities.
- A thoughtful and well-focused preparation ensures that the annual think-in by the Board gives space for medium to long-term evaluation of outcomes and impacts.

## Proposals for the Future

The work of Social Justice Ireland for the coming year will be in the service of the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 as amended by the Board at its annual think-in.

## Members of the Board

### Members of the Board of Social Justice Ireland

Justin Kilcullen	(Chairperson)
Connor Barry	Angela Durkin
Joe Egan	Tony Fahey
Margaret Hassett	Pat Healy
Michael Howlett	Tom Jordan
Sandra McCullagh	Finbarr Tracey
Brid Ryan	Michael Tobin
Seán Ward	
Brigid Reynolds	(Secretary)
Micheál Collins	(Public Policy Adviser)

### Staff of Social Justice Ireland

Seán Healy,	Chief Executive Officer
Colette Bennett	Research and Policy Analyst
Eamon Murphy,	Economic and Social Analyst
Michelle Murphy,	Research and Policy Analyst
Brigid Reynolds,	Deputy CEO



## Mission and Values

***Social Justice Ireland* advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole.**

- We advance the lives of people and communities by working to build a just society. In doing this we give special priority to national and international issues related to poverty, inequality, social exclusion, sustainability and the environment.
- As an independent think tank *Social Justice Ireland* is a significant research resource in the area of social justice and public policy. We provide accurate social analysis of the current situation on an ongoing basis and identify effective policy proposals to address challenges.
- We are one of the leading advocates for the changes needed for a future that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially. We identify credible alternatives and effective pathways to resolving challenges faced across a wide range of public policy.
- *Social Justice Ireland* works to ensure that every member of society, and society as a whole, can flourish and thrive in a sustainable manner. We have a special concern for those who are vulnerable or on the margins of society. We believe that the dignity of all is enhanced when those on the margins of society are included. Consequently, we promote the development of an inclusive society in which everyone's rights and responsibilities are recognised and honoured.
- We work both nationally and internationally. The inter-relatedness of the local and the global requires that issues be addressed at different levels to ensure appropriate solutions are identified and implemented. We bring this perspective to bear on all we do.

### Values

*Social Justice Ireland* promotes the values of both human dignity and the centrality of the community. The person is seen as growing and developing in a context that includes other people and the environment. Justice is understood in terms of right relationships. A just society is one that is structured in such a way as to promote right relationships so that human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated, and the environment is respected and protected.

*Social Justice Ireland* speaks for those who have no voice in policy debates. We place a very high value on integrity in all we do and are confident enough to take an uncommon point of view or to propose an unpopular solution.

### Core Programmes

To ensure both effectiveness and efficiency in our work and to achieve our strategic objectives, *Social Justice Ireland* has three programmes, each with a number of projects. These programmes address:

- 1) Public Policy and Research
- 2) Empowerment and Spirituality
- 3) Communications

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

held in Croke Park, Dublin,  
on Tuesday November 13, 2018 @ 5.15pm

**Present:** Justin Kilcullen (Chairperson), John O'Brien, Mags Hassett, Tony Fahey, Colette Bennett, Sheila Curran, Ivan Cooper, Simon Devilly, Angela Durkin, Joe Egan, Tom Hannigan, Maurice Henry, Tom Jordan, John McGeady, Michael Moriarty, Lorraine O'Brien, David Quinn, Brid Ryan, Finbarr Tracey, Seán Healy, (CEO), Brigid Reynolds, (Secretary)

## 1. Opening

The meeting was chaired by Justin Kilcullen, Chairperson of *Social Justice Ireland*. Justin welcomed the 21 members present to the Annual General Meeting of *Social Justice Ireland*.

## 2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM Meeting

Mags Hassett proposed the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting. This was seconded by Angela Durkin.

## 3. Adoption of Annual Report

Copies of the annual report were circulated. The Chairperson, Justin Kilcullen introduced the report. He noted the socio-economic and cultural context of the past year in which the work of SJI took place. Seán Healy presented an outline of the report under the three programmes. Members commented on the volume and quality of the work done by such a small team and the impact it was having on public policy. The vast amount of voluntary work done by Board members and staff was acknowledged with gratitude. The staff was thanked for their commitment and professionalism. Tony Fahey proposed the adoption of the Report. It was seconded by Angela Durkin.

## 4. Adoption of the Financial Report

Brigid Reynolds presented the financial report which had been circulated to Members. She noted that the full audit will be on the website shortly. She drew attention to the small surplus of €1,150 with reference to the deficit of the previous two years. Justin Kilcullen and Seán Healy reported on the fundraising strategy. While it is showing results progress is slow. Tony Fahey proposed the adoption of the Financial Report which was seconded by Angela Durkin.

## 5. Re-appointment of Auditors

It was agreed to re-appoint the Company's Auditors, Walsh O'Brien Harnett Registered Auditors on the proposal of Tony Fahey seconded by Angela Durkin.

## 6. Elections

Four members were nominated to fill the Four vacancies on the Board. The following were returned unopposed; Connor Barry, Pat Healy, Michael Howlett and Brid Ryan.

7. In the absence of any other business the meeting was closed @ 6.00 pm.

**Social Justice Ireland** is an independent think-tank and justice advocacy organisation of individuals and groups throughout Ireland who are committed to working to build a just society where human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated and the environment is respected and protected.



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Registered Charity Number: 20076481

