



Annual Report 2020



Social Justice Ireland Annual Report

Contents

Note from the Chairperson.....	3
Work Programme.....	5
Public Policy and Research.....	5
Empowerment.....	9
Communications.....	11
Evaluation, Impacts and Outcomes.....	13
Proposals for the Future.....	13
Members of the Board.....	14
Mission and Values.....	15
Financial Statement*.....	16
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019.....	17
held in Croke Park, Dublin,.....	17
on Tuesday November 26, 2019 @ 5.15pm.....	17

Note from the Chairperson

Welcome to the Annual Report of *Social Justice Ireland*. This report covers the period from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

These 12 months were dominated by Covid-19, Brexit, and a general election. For *Social Justice Ireland* this year saw the development of a new strategic plan to cover the period to 2025, and a reorganisation as the team worked from home and Board meetings went online as a result of the pandemic. We continued our regular programme of work and highlighted the failure of Government to compensate low-income households for the impacts of Brexit, despite the potential increased cost of living that they face as a result of higher food costs due to potential trade tariffs.

Our annual social policy conference in November 2019 addressed ‘The Challenges of Success: Addressing Population Growth in Ireland’, It focussed on demographic change, celebrating success and ensuring that we develop policies so that young and old can live well in their communities. It also examined the services and investment required across the lifecycle.

In advance of the general election we published ten two-page briefings on issues such as rural development, sustainability, taxation, income distribution, housing and healthcare. We also published a ‘Framework for a Programme for Government’ which we circulated to all party leaders after the election.

From the beginning of March, the strategy we pursued was to develop the concept of ‘A New Social Contract’ in response to the Covid-19 crisis and the unprecedented social and economic changes it has wrought. We also lobbied political parties to give greater priority to this idea in their work on policy development. We were happy to see that the programme for government, ‘Our Shared Future’, contains a commitment to developing a new Social Contract. We also advocated the need for a new social dialogue structure to ensure Ireland can meet the challenges it faced prior to the pandemic in areas such as poverty, housing, healthcare, childcare, and the additional challenges we now face.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the most fundamental economic and social shock that most of us have ever experienced. Our economy and society have changed irrevocably, and we face into an uncertain future. A lesson from past experiences of economic shock and recovery is that the weakest in our society get left behind. A new social contract and a new social dialogue are essential to ensure that we do not repeat this mistake.

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 imperatives as we look to shape a society based on fairness, equality, solidarity, compassion and sustainability.

The stance taken and the work programme of *Social Justice Ireland* were developed by the Board and are now developed further in our new Strategic Plan (2020-2025). The Board put considerable effort into ensuring that views, insights and suggestions of members were reflected in our new Strategic Plan which is being launched at this AGM.

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 auditing, funding, staffing and membership, compliance and other governance and organisation 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 PPN National Advisory Group and were instrumental in producing the new 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 us/join](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*. In this particularly challenging year 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, covering the period September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. The work is summarised under each of the three Core Programmes, Public Policy & Research; Empowerment and Communications.

Public Policy and Research

Public Policy and Research

Research

- Prepared and published two editions of our National Social Monitor; two editions were focused on National issues, one on Sustainability and one on European issues.
- Continued the research on a Universal Pension.
- Worked with the Living Wage Technical Group on updating the living wage rate.
- Researched and published Budget 2020, Analysis and Critique.
- Researched and presented a paper to our Annual Social Policy Conference, theme 'The Challenges of Success: Addressing Population Growth in Ireland'
- Researched and published the 2020 edition of the Socio-Economic Review - Social Justice Matters: a 2020 guide to a fairer Irish society
- Researched and published 'Rising Tide Failing to Lift All Boats' – a review of the social situation in Europe and considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future (part of our European Research Series).
- Researched and published 'Ireland and the Europe 2020 Strategy'.
- Organised and collated the PPN Annual Report for 2019 drawing together the responses of Public Participation Networks (PPNs) from Local Authorities across the country.
- Published a response to the 'Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2021'.
- 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 2020.
- Published ten General Election briefings on relevant policy issues in advance of General Election 2020.
- Published a Programme for Government Briefing post - election.
- Published a response to the Fine Gael / Fianna Fail 'Framework for a Programme for Government'.
- Published an initial response to the Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future'.
- Published 'July Jobs Stimulus – Analysis' briefing.
- Published a Policy Briefing on the appropriate fiscal stance for Budget 2021.
- Published a Policy Briefing 'Budget Choices 2021' with costed proposals for Budget 2021.
- Published a Policy Briefing - SDGs in a Pandemic - Improving Ireland's Progress
- Published a Policy Briefing – Ireland's Taxation System post Covid-19: Policy Options
- Published a Policy Briefing – Indexation and Social Welfare Rates
- Published a Policy Briefing – Social Welfare Rates and Budget 2021
- Published a range of fifty research and analysis pieces on areas impacted by Covid-19 and how they would benefit from a new social contract.

- Researched a paper on convergences and divergences in agriculture and environment on the island of Ireland for the 2020 edition of The Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland.
- Developed a research questionnaire on participation across the Public Participation Networks and commenced work on the report.

Submissions

In the past year *Social Justice Ireland*

- Made a submission to the Low Pay Commission.
- Made a submission to the Department of the Taoiseach on Ireland and the 2020 Strategy focusing on the social inclusion aspects of the National Reform Programme.
- Made a submission to the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee on the impact of Budget 2020.
Made a submission to the Department of An Taoiseach consultation on Ireland's National Reform Programme.
- Made a submission to the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee on proposals for Budget 2021.
- Made a submission to the Department of Social Protection Pre-Budget Forum.
- Made a submission to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the Draft Scheme of the Housing and Planning and Development Bill.
- Made a submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development on the draft Volunteering Strategy.
- Made a submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development on Rural Development Policy.
- Made a submission to the Department of Social Protection on Employment Services Strategy.
- Made a submission to the Oireachtas Special Committee on Covid-19 Response.
- Made a submission to the European Commission Office in Dublin on the European Commission's Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020.
- Made a submission to the European Commission Office in Dublin on the Country Report for Ireland 2020.
- Made a submission to the European Commission Office in Dublin on the Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland 2020.

Europe

- Completed a study of the socio-economic situation in the 28 EU member states and considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future entitled A Rising Tide Failing to Lift All Boats. We presented this study to the European Semester Officers in the European Commission Office in Dublin.
- Took part in the annual factfinding mission by the European Commission to inform the 2020 Country Report and Country Specific Recommendations.
- Were invited to join a three-day delegation to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Irish Permanent Representation in Brussels with a focus on Brexit and European economic and financial policies.

Better Europe Alliance

- Continued our engagement with the Better Europe Alliance which is focused on *Ireland and the EU2020 Strategy*.

Caritas Europa

- Continued our engagement with Caritas Europa on the 'Caritas Cares Report' and the European Semester.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- To celebrate UN Day for Social Justice we organised a conference to launch our Sustainable Progress Index 2020. The research for this Index was done by Prof Charles Clark, Dr Catherine Kavanagh and Niamh Lenihan. 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.
- Researched and published a 2-page policy-focused summary with recommendations for action on SDGs, at both Local Authority and National Government 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:

- Addressing Employment Vulnerability as part of a Just Transition in Ireland
- The Transition to Low-Carbon and More Digital Future: Supporting the Needs of Vulnerable Workers and Enterprises.
- Approaches to Transition
- Four Case Studies on a Just Transition: Lessons for Ireland
- Modelling the Zero-Carbon Transition: International Approaches and Lessons for Ireland.

Meetings with Government, Officials, Politicians & Advisers

- Gave a presentation on the Socioeconomic Review to politicians and political advisors in Leinster House.
- Met with civil servants in the Department of Rural and Community Development on Rural Development.
- Took part in the Department of Social Protection Pre-Budget Forum.
- Met Peadar Toibin, TD, to discuss our Framework for a Programme for Government policy briefing.
- Met David Cullinane TD, Clare Kerrane TD and John Brady TD to discuss our Framework for a Programme for Government policy briefing.
- Met Eamon Ryan TD to discuss our Framework for a Programme for Government policy briefing.
- Met Dara Calleary TD to discuss our Framework for a Programme for Government policy briefing.
- Gave a presentation on policies to address poverty and inequality at Labour Party policy think-in.

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

- We act as secretariat to the CV Pillar.
- Participated in the regular meetings of the CV Pillar.
- Played an active role in the National Advisory Committee on Public Participation Networks (PPNs)
- As a member of the CV Pillar we met with the Minister for Finance in advance of Budget 2020.
- Represented the CV Pillar on the Southern and Eastern Operational Programme 2016-20220 Monitoring Committee.
- Represented the CV Pillar on the Community Services Programme Review Group
- 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

Basic Income

- *Social Justice Ireland* joined a host of international basic income advocates in writing a letter to the UN Secretary-General calling for the introduction of a Universal Basic Income as a key instrument of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Targets.
- We were one of eight signatories on a letter to Pope Francis on behalf of more than 100 organisations across the world praising him for his comments on the need for a Universal Basic Income and suggesting further initiatives he might take.
- Gave a presentation on Basic Income to the European Anti-Poverty Network in Ireland.
- Continue to support and engage with Basic Income Ireland.
- Continued work with the Irish branch of BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network)
- Engaged in a social media strategy for International Basic Income week.
- Produced four podcasts on Basic Income.

Social Policy Conference 2019

- The theme of the Conference was 'The Challenges of Success: Addressing Population Growth in Ireland'.
- The attendance was over 100 and representative of the various interests including policymakers, academics, media, arts, students and community activists.
- 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 positive and there was significant coverage of Roddy Doyle's input and our paper analysing the Government's housing strategy, Rebuilding Ireland.
- We published the papers as a book entitled 'The Challenges of Success: Addressing Population Growth in Ireland' on the day of the conference.

Budget 2020 and Budget 2021

- Four publications were prepared:
 - A Policy Briefing on 'Budget 2021 and Fiscal Stance' was published in July.
 - A Policy Briefing 'Budget Choices' which included fully costed Budget proposals was published in September.
 - A Policy Briefing 'Social Welfare Rates and Budget 2021' was published in July.
 - An analysis and critique of Budget 2020 published on the day following the Budget.
- SJI presented our analysis and proposals in the following arenas:
 - A Post-Budget Seminar hosted by SJI in Buswells Hotel. 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.
 - Submitted our Budget proposals to the Oireachtas Budget Committee.
 - The Pre-Budget forum hosted by the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys TD.
 - A Pre-Budget press webinar hosted by SJI. With the help of Kairos Communications this webinar was live-streamed through our website and on YouTube.
 - The CV Pre-Budget pillar meeting with the Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohoe TD.
 - Worked with the International Budget Project to get more international coverage of our Budget work.

Empowerment

a) Workshops/Conferences/Seminars

Social Justice Ireland facilitated and/or provided input to **20** workshops/conferences/seminars 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
- Virtual lecture on Poverty and Inequality to Applied Social Sciences students in Maynooth University
- A lecture on debt and credit issues on the Certificate on Homelessness Prevention and Intervention in DCU.
- 2nd Annual Public Housing Conference, Maynooth University
- A lecture on Housing and Ireland's Ageing Population on the Certificate on Homelessness Prevention and Intervention in DCU
- To the UCC School of Public Health and the Infant Research Centre.
- Labour Party Policy Think-in.
- Labour Disability Seminar and AGM.
- Central Bank Civil Society Roundtable
- Royal Irish Academy on Covid-19, Social Justice and Rebuilding Ireland
- Strategies on getting a Living Wage
- NERI Budget 2020 seminar

- To the Pension Policy Research Group Seminar
- To the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection Pre-Budget Forum.

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:

- Continued to support the development of Visions for Community Wellbeing across the PPNs and to provide project management of the Phase 2 roll-out, reporting to the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- Engaged extensively with the PPNs and the Department of Rural and Community Development in respect of the PPN Annual Report 2019 and produced the final draft for design and print.
- Developed the second draft of the PPN Handbook, collated a further 32 submissions on foot of circulation by the Department of Rural and Community Development; engaged with the Department to clarify policy-decisions where required and produced the final draft for design and print
- Developed a suite of online training programmes for PPN Representatives, developed a dedicated website to host this training and facilitated series of Zoom networking sessions.
- Formulated a proposal to provide online training to PPNs with the support of Waterford IT at the request of the Department for Rural and Community Development.
- Engaged with individual PPNs on a range of areas and issues of concern.
- 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) completed their course in June 2020.
- The partnership with WIT is very satisfactory.
- There were more than 40 applicants for the course starting in September 2020. Of these 15 are now on the course,
- Two bursaries were sponsored by Activelink in memory of their co-founder Giancarlo Ramaioli. *Social Justice Ireland* is deeply grateful to Activelink's other co-founder, Conor Murray, for their generosity in resourcing these two bursaries.
- 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.

e) ALONE

- *Social Justice Ireland* continues our work with ALONE providing research and advisory services on housing, health and funding options.
- Engaged with ALONE on research based on data from their Covid-19 Helpline.

- *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.
- We produced a policy briefing entitled ‘Sustainable Development Goals and a Global Pandemic – Improving Ireland’s Progress’.

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, and others, 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

- ‘The Challenges of Success: Addressing Population Growth in Ireland’ (This contains the papers of the Social Policy Conference (November 2019).
- *Budget 2019 Critique and Analysis* (October 2018).
- *A Rising Tide Failing to Lift All Boats* – a review of the social situation in Europe with considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future.
- Social Justice Matters 2020 (our annual Socio-Economic Review).
- Published a policy briefing entitled *Poverty Focus 2020*.
- Published a Policy Briefing on the appropriate fiscal stance for Budget 2021.
- Published a Policy Briefing ‘Budget Choices 2021’ with costed proposals for Budget 2021.
- Published a Policy Briefing - SDGs in a Pandemic - Improving Ireland's Progress
- Published a Policy Briefing – Ireland’s Taxation System post Covid-19: Policy Options
- Published a Policy Briefing – Indexation and Social Welfare Rates
- Published a Policy Briefing – Social Welfare Rates and Budget 2021
- Published the *Sustainable Progress Index 2020*.
- 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 – Sustainability Edition.

- **Live Streamed the two Conferences and the two Budget Seminars**
 - We live-streamed our response to Budget 2020 from Buswells and our 2019 conference from Croke Park. As a result of Covid-19 we had to reorganise our communications as we could no longer hold seminars or conferences. With the assistance of Kairos Communications we moved our presentations online – using the Kairos studio and live streamed our Budget Choices webinar on our website. We received very positive feedback regarding the quality of the broadcast and of the content.
- 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 **14** 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:
 - 2 **TV** interviews broadcast on news and current affairs programmes.
 - More than 1,000 views of videos on *Social Justice Ireland* YouTube channel
 - 14 interviews on **National Radio** news and current affairs programmes.
 - 4 stories broadcast a total of 104 times on 26 **Local Radio** news programmes.
 - 76 interviews on **Local Radio** current affairs programmes.
 - Over 80 stories in the **National** press including 7 editorials and 21 op-ed pieces.
 - 102 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
- g) Podcast**
- We launched our podcast, Social Justice Matters, in October 2019 and released 38 podcasts in the reporting year. Our podcasts take one of three formats – our SJI Interview Series, where we interview experts on a range of policy topics; our SJI Seminar Series, where we take a look back at presentations from our various conferences and seminars; and our SJI Ten Minute Lessons Series, where we provide a brief overview by way of introduction to some policy issues.

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:

- h) The weekly team 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.
- i) The annual 'think-in' by the team provides an opportunity to reflect on these learnings and the medium-term outcomes when planning the following year's work.
- j) The sub-committees of the Board monitor the activities within their areas of interest.
- k) At its regular meetings, the Board reviews the report by the staff on outcomes and impacts of recent and current activities.
- l) 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 new Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

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
Brigid Reynolds	Deputy CEO
Colette Bennett	Research and Policy Analyst
Eamon Murphy	Economic and Social Analyst
Michelle Murphy	Research and Policy Analyst
Liz Burdock	Finance Manager

Retiring members of the Board

Angela Durkin
Tony Fahey
Tom Jordan
Brid Ryan
Michael Tobin

The following have been nominated for election to the Board

Sara Bourke
Angela Durkin
Tony Fahey
Maureen O'Sullivan
Michael Tobin

Mission and Values

Social Justice Ireland works to build a just and sustainable society. We do this by:

- Researching to produce coherent, independent, evidence-based social analysis which:
 - identifies policy pathways towards a just and sustainable society,
 - addresses the structural causes of injustice, whether these be economic, political, cultural or social, and
 - promotes core societal values of human dignity, sustainability, equality, human rights and the common good.
- **Communicating** our analysis and that of others, to inform the public, academia and politics, and to advocate for a just and sustainable society across all relevant local, national and international public policy areas.
- **Empowering** other societal actors, by facilitating initiatives and working in partnership with citizens, organisations and institutions which share our goals, whether in Ireland, the EU or globally.
- **Organising** a modern, efficient, financially sustainable, and regulatory compliant charitable organisation.

Values

Social Justice Ireland is an organisation which envisages a just and sustainable society where human rights are respected, human dignity is upheld, human development is promoted and the environment is respected and protected.

Social Justice Ireland understands justice as a harmony that comes from fidelity to right relationships between people, institutions and the environment. In carrying out our work we adhere to the following values:

- **Excellence:** We will be a centre of excellence, credible and effective in all that we do.
- **Leadership:** We will be visionary about an achievable sustainable future, unwavering in pursuit of our goals, while remaining responsive and adaptive to the evolution of the political, policy or public opinion environment.
- **Collaboration:** We will engage and respond in a spirit of dialogue with all societal actors. We will speak in a language appropriate to particular audiences, and draw on the work and evidence of our members.
- **Independence:** We will be independent in our mission, research and analysis of policy.

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
- 3) Communications

Financial Statement*

Income	2020 (€)	2019 (€)
Membership	16,485	15,371
Donations	4,958	28,850
Grants	27,000	71,209
SMA Grant	34,000	24,000
Teaching & Consultancy	48,842	22,013
Conferences	3,351	2,785
Department of HP& LG	73,476	83,076
Bank Interest	56	117
Books	419	126
Research	37,679	13,360
SSNO Grant	94,500	85,470
Trocaire Strategic Partnership	8,000	8,000
	348,710	354,377
Expenditure		
Wages & Salaries	148,224	139,851
Social welfare costs	13,732	12,750
Staff Training	-	440
Travel & Subsistence	2,833	7,712
Rent	45,535	41,916
Insurance	1,728	1,781
Stationery & Computer	5,455	4,116
Phone	1,907	2,150
Printing	13,606	16,040
Postage	1,785	1,690
Website	292	814
Communications	8,218	21,540
Library	499	1,261
Research	27,603	31,033
Meetings/Hospitality	2,984	4,478
Bank Charges	796	511
Equipment	3,008	62
Conferences	21,191	23,085
Auditor & Legal	7,215	4,756
Fundraising	7,196	12,468
	313,807	327,968
Surplus/Deficit	34,959	26,409
Current Assets	2020	2019
Cash at bank and in hand	232,395	275,019

*Full audited accounts may be viewed on our website www.socialjustice.ie

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019

held in Croke Park, Dublin,
on Tuesday November 26, 2019 @ 5.10pm

Present: Justin Kilcullen (Chairperson), Anthony Kelly, Mags Hassett, Therese Hassett, Tony Fahey, Colette Bennett, Simon Devilly, Angela Durkin, Tom Jordan, Jean Quirke, Neville Keery, Carmen Lee, Sandra McCullagh, Philomena Murphy, Lorraine O'Brien, Brid Ryan, Michael Tobin, Finbarr Tracey, Seán Ward, 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 10th Annual General Meeting of Social Justice Ireland.

2. **Minutes of the 2018 AGM Meeting**

Tony Fahey 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 with gratitude the volume of work done by members of the Board and the various sub-committees. Seán Healy presented an outline of the report under the three programmes. Members commented on the wide scope and quality of the work done by such a small team and the impact it was having on public policy. The staff was thanked for their commitment and professionalism. Brid Ryan proposed the adoption of the Report. It was seconded by Michael Tobin.

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 in the coming days. She explained the variations in income and expenditure from the previous year. Justin Kilcullen and Seán Healy reported on the fundraising strategy. While it is showing results progress is slow. Tom Jordan proposed the adoption of the Financial Report which was seconded by Finbarr Tracey.

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 Sandra McCullagh, seconded by Seán Ward.

5. **Elections**

Five members were nominated to fill the five vacancies on the Board. The following were returned unopposed; Joe Egan, Margaret Hassett, Justin Kilcullen, Finbarr Tracey and Seán Ward.

6. In the absence of any other business the meeting was closed @ 5.35 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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