



amnesty
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ACTION SIXTEEN

Mental health: Let's make it happen

WHAT? The link between violence against women and mental health.

→ ***A Vision for Change* does not fully explore the link between mental health and gender-based violence against women. A statutory body, the Women's Health Council (WHC), published a report in November 2007 entitled *Violence Against Women & Health*, which outlines how gender-based violence has huge consequences on a person's mental health.**

→ Ask the TDs and ministers:

1. What measures are planned, or have been adopted, by your Department, to address the link between violence against women and mental ill health, and to implement the WHC's recommendations?
2. Will additional funding and support be granted to expert counselling and support organisations in the community and voluntary sector for women who experience violence who are at present grossly underfunded?

WHO?

→ **Call or write to all TDs in your constituency.** (script for phone calls and letters enclosed) TDs have a duty to represent the views of all their constituents and to defend and promote local interests. Remember to call all the TDs in your constituency. **As well as your local TD please send the letter to Mary Harney**

Ms Mary Harney, T.D.
Minister for Health and Children
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2

Mr Brian Lenihan TD
Minister for Justice, Equality and
Law Reform
94 St. Stephens Green
Dublin 2

Ms. Eimear Fisher
Executive Director
COSC - Irish Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
2nd Floor
Montague Court
Montague Street
Dublin 2

Copies to:

Dr Jimmy Devins
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2

WHEN?→ Send letters to your local TD/Ministers on **Monday 25 February 2008**
Make phone calls on **Wednesday 27 February 2008**