



September 17th Flag Day for local Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre

On September 17th The Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre for Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan are holding their annual Flag Day Collection and need your support. Volunteers will be out-and-about in Sligo Town, Ballisodare and Carrick on Shannon looking for your support for a very important service.

They will also be holding a bric-a-brac and all-sorts stall at the IT Sligo Farmer's Market on Saturday, September 18th. Your support at both the Flag Day and Saturday Market would be much appreciated. Over €4,000 has been raised through the Flag Day over the past two years; expectations are high to exceed that figure this year.

The Centre provides counselling, support and advocacy to survivors of sexual violence, their family and friends. Sexual violence includes experiences such as rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, prostitution, trafficking and sexual harassment.

In recent years, there has been a huge growth in demand for the Centre's services. In 2009 the number of clients visiting the centre increased by 16%, with an increase of 24% in the number of counselling sessions provided. The Centre also provides a free and confidential phone counselling service, which has seen a 62% increase in demand over the past 2 years. As with all support agencies, dependent on funding, cut-backs are having an impact, especially given the huge increase in demand for the service. The impact of these two factors has sometimes resulted in waiting lists of up to 6 weeks.

The centre is hoping the goodwill of people in the Northwest on September 17th & 18th will help reduce those waiting lists so people can avail of the support they need, when they need it.

A spokeswoman for the Centre commented, 'our annual Flag Day raises much-needed funds for the centre and also creates great awareness of our services. We are very lucky to have an incredible support network; we will have up to 50 volunteers collecting on the day.'

If you would like to speak to someone about a personal experience of sexual violence please ring free phone 1800 750 780 or visit www.srcc.ie

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For further info please contact Tina Horton 071 91 71188 or info@srcc.ie