

SECTION 1: POLICY & LEGISLATION

CHARITIES BILL LATEST UPDATE

On 11 December, 2008 the Charities Bill completed its passage through the Seanad with a number of further amendments being accepted which once again improve the Bill. Some of the more significant amendments are:

- Granting relief from personal liabilities for trustees where a trustee has acted in good faith and in line with their fiduciary responsibilities.
- Requiring anyone who sells Mass cards to show that they have entered into an agreement with the Catholic Church to do so.
- Prohibiting religious-cult-type organisations, the principal object of which is the making of profit, or that employ oppressive psychological manipulation on followers - or for gaining new followers - from being charities.
- Increasing membership of the Charity Regulator to up to 20 (to allow for the necessary skills to be available to the authority to enable it to take on the complex responsibilities of the Commissioners for Charitable Donations and Bequests).
- Removing the prohibition on members of local authorities from being appointed to the Authority.

Unfortunately the amendment that proposed to include the Promotion of Human Rights as a charitable purpose was once again defeated. The Government has consistently opposed all amendments proposed in this area on the grounds no charity has been granted a CHY number by Revenue on the basis that it is a human rights organisation per se.

With regard to the situation when the opposition were successful in including an amendment to make sporting bodies eligible for inclusion in the register of charities - the Government introduced a fresh amendment to overturn that opposition amendment and the effect is that sporting bodies will - as is currently the case - remain ineligible for inclusion in the register (Specifically, the amendment reinserted the provision excluding an approved body of persons within the meaning of section 235 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 - sporting bodies - from being eligible for inclusion in the register)

Amendments were also accepted to strengthen the existing provisions to ensure that charities do not find

themselves vulnerable to being used as conduits for terrorism.

The Bill will now return to the Dáil to have the amendments that have been accepted in the Seanad approved. It will then be sent over to the President to be signed into law, and will be commenced in stages over time (the Minister has indicated that it could take up to two years for the resulting Act to be fully operationalised). Indications are that this will happen early in the New Year when the Dáil resumes.

The transcript of the debate is available at: <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/DDebate.aspx?F=SEN20081211.xml&Page=3&Ex=733#N733>

For further information please contact:

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Tel: 01 4548727
Email: ivan@wheel.ie
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SECTION 2: FUNDING

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR IRELAND'S SMALL GRANTS 2009

The Community Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit and voluntary groups working in communities throughout the Republic of Ireland. It favours projects leading to the social inclusion of people and communities who are excluded by reason of geography, race, age, disability, family circumstances, poverty, gender or race. The General Criteria for 2009 are:

Carers

Support for carers including actions such as the development of social networks, local respite initiatives.

Older People

a) For outreach schemes which assist older people to join social groups and networks in their community. This is a pilot scheme whereby grants will be a maximum of €2,000. The foundation will require grantees to share learning of the strategies employed. Such information will be disseminated as best practice to other groups.

b) For projects promoting social contact for older isolated men.

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c) For groups who are working with older people through visitation/ phone services and with older people who are in hospitals/ nursing homes for long periods.

Families at Risk - Pilot Grants Scheme

Aimed at very vulnerable children, this scheme is for projects which provide supports allowing children at particular risk to participate in social and educational activities within their community. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that children are at particular risk. Indicators include substance misuse issues in the family setting, if they are in receipt of social work services, or in consistent poverty.

Sexual Minorities

Supports for sexual minorities, especially outreach projects to LGBT ethnic minorities and those in rural areas.

Ethnic Minorities

Assisting the building of networks and structures for ethnic minorities, with a particular emphasis on Integration.

Mental Health and Integration

Community integration and supports for people who have had recent mental health difficulties.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and assessed three times per year. The closing dates for 2009 are:

27th February (successful grantees will receive their grants in April)

31st July (successful grantees will receive their grants in September)

30th October (successful grantees will receive their grants in December)

Application forms and further information are available from:

The Community Foundation for Ireland
32 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 8747354

Website: www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/

IRISH AID DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION FUNDING SCHEME

Irish Aid, the Government's official development assistance programme, now invites applications from voluntary organisations and educational bodies (e.g.

school networks/clusters, higher education institutions, further/adult education centres) for grants for development education projects, designed to increase awareness and understanding of development issues.

The closing date for applications is **5pm, Friday 30th January 2009.**

For further information on grant types and application guidelines please check our website:

www.irishaid.gov.ie/grants_education.asp

Development Education Funding Scheme

Irish Aid

Department of Foreign Affairs

Riverstone House

23-27 Henry Street, Limerick

Tel: 061 774102

Email: developmenteducation@dfa.ie

RAY MURPHY FUND FOR LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2009

The Ray Murphy Fund will make grants to build leadership within the community sector for the next 10 years, 2008 - 2017. The grants will be for a maximum of €4,000 each and 5 grants will be awarded per year. The fund is envisaged to assist people managing organizations within the community and voluntary sector access leadership - education or training.

The Fund will support the management or members of the management team of community and voluntary groups. The Fund will issue grants to organisations to allow individuals to:

- Attend a course or take an opportunity that will provide time for reflection and skills development that will enhance the community sector.
- The Foundation will construct an opportunity to enable the attendee to present their learning to their peer group by way of seminars possible a lunchtime series on Leadership.
- The fund will not issue grants retrospectively.
- Grants will be awarded to charities or organisations working within the charitable sector.
- Grant recipients will be expected to provide a final report to the CFI regarding their progress.

The 2009 closing dates are:

27th February (successful grantees will receive their grants in April)

Youth Work Ireland Local Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

31st July (successful grantees will receive their grants in September)

30th October (successful grantees will receive their grants in December)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/> or the European Parliament's Office website at: <http://www.europarl.ie/>.

The Application Form is not freely available. Potential applicants must contact the Grants Officer to discuss the suitability of a proposed project prior to applying:

Email: info@foundation.ie Tel: 01 8747354

For more information please contact:

Jean Marie Cullen, International Officer
National Youth Council of Ireland,
3 Montague Street, Dublin 2.
Tel Direct: 01 4255945
Email: international@nyci.ie
Website: www.international.youth.ie

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

CHARLEMAGNE YOUTH PRIZE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for the submission of applications for the Charlemagne Youth Prize has been postponed to 16th February in order to give more candidates the opportunity to participate. The Prize targets young people aged 16 to 30 who have been involved with projects helping to promote understanding between peoples of different EU countries.

Organised by the European Parliament and the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, the Charlemagne Youth Prize winners will receive funding of €2,000 - €5,000 for existing projects that foster a shared sense of European identity and cooperation. Representatives of the best projects from each of the 27 EU Member States will be invited to Aachen, in Germany, on 19 May 2009, to participate in the award ceremony expenses paid.

As well as promoting European and international understanding, the winning projects could serve as role models for young people living in Europe. In particular, the organisers are looking for practical examples of Europeans living together. The projects can focus on the organisation of youth events, youth exchanges or Internet projects with a European dimension.

Last year the first prize was awarded to a Hungarian youth project "Students without Boundaries". Thanks to this project, more than one hundred students from Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine and other countries gather every year for leadership workshops on European issues. The second and third prize went to the United Kingdom and Greece respectively.

SAFER INTERNET DAY (SID) 2009

SID 2009 will be celebrated on 10th February in an expected 65 countries across the globe. As in previous years, the day's celebrations will include local, national, and international events organised by a broad variety of organisations ranging from schools and youth clubs to businesses, charities and government agencies.

There are numerous possibilities for organisations to participate from displaying the logo on their website to organising their own event. Schools, organisations, government agencies, businesses and all those concerned in promoting responsible use of today's information and communication tools have been invited to join Safer Internet Day in Ireland. Three major actions are planned in Ireland to mark the day:

1. The Office for Internet Safety, the National Centre for Technology in Education, the National Parents Council (Primary), Childline, and the Hotline will host a joint Safer Internet Day event in Dublin.
2. Online quiz quest competition for young people aged 10 to 15 years on both internet safety and different aspects of European culture is currently running - prize giving ceremony on 10th February 2009
3. TV and online awareness raising campaign focusing on the issue of cyberbullying will be launched.

The NCTE will publish the findings of the Webwise 2008 Survey of Children's Use of the Internet. You can get involved by contacting internetsafety@ncte.ie.

**Copies of all publications and
documentation highlighted in this edition
are available for reference or loan
purposes from the Irish YouthWork Centre**
Tel: 01 8729933
Email: fbissett@youthworkireland.ie
Website: www.iywc.com

Application forms are available on:
<http://cyp.adagio4.eu/> or