

What is Cosc?

Cosc is the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. Cosc is an Irish word and means “to stop” or “to prevent”. Following a Government Decision, Cosc was established in June 2007 with the key responsibility to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated "whole of Government" response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The work of Cosc covers issues relating to domestic and sexual violence against women and men, including older people in the community.

The office is an executive office of the Department of Justice and Equality. It is situated within the Department, but has been given a remit to address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence from a cross-government perspective rather than solely from that of the justice sector. Cosc's role covers co-ordination across the justice, health, housing, education, family support and community sectors. This work includes close interaction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) supported by Government funds.

The current primary function of Cosc is to drive the implementation of the first

National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2010-2014.

Cosc has been given specific tasks as follows:

- Working with Government Departments, Agencies, and NGOs in the sector to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated service to support victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Developing and delivering awareness raising strategies to ensure that victims are aware of the availability of services in their locality and that society is made aware of the extent and impact of behaviours and crimes of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Developing strategies, standards for service delivery and training programmes to address the issue of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in line with best international practice.
- Putting in place strategically based positive actions which work with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Providing leadership and support to the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women (NSC) and its sub-committees.

- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the 1997 Task Force Report on Violence Against Women.
- Working to establish a body of research to inform future policy directions for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Representing Ireland at international fora which have a remit in relation to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
- Proposing legislative and policy change.

Cosc's Mission

We work to improve the delivery of a well co-ordinated effective response to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland. We do this by facilitating action for the prevention of these crimes, the protection of victims and the provision of services for those affected.

What are Cosc's Values?

The following values inform all of Cosc's activities.

Co-operation

We realise that in order to make progress co-operation with and between our stakeholders is critically important. Working in close co-operation with those organisations is key to successfully carrying out Cosc's functions.

Trust

We seek to develop the high level of trust shared with the organisations with which we co-operate.

Learning

We recognise the value of the experience of the organisations with which we interact. We respect that experience and works to build on it.

Fairness

We endeavour to be fair in all our actions.

Service

We respond to all queries and correspondence in the shortest possible timeframe.

How does Cosc do its work?

Cosc carries out its functions principally through interaction with interested and relevant organisations either on a one-to-one basis or through a small number of committees. The office strives to ensure a partnership approach working in a structure which minimises the number of committees. Cosc drives the follow-up actions arising from these discussions with a view to improving co-ordination of preventative and responsive measures.

Cosc links with the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to domestic and sexual violence involving children. Cosc also links with the Office for Older People in relation to domestic and sexual violence involving older people.

The Executive Director of Cosc reports to the Secretary General of the Department of Justice and Equality and to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence.

Further details on Cosc, on our work, as well as more information on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence are available on our website. Please visit www.cosc.ie.



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence
An Oifig Náisiúnta um Fhoréigean Baile, Gnéasach agus Inscnebhualthe a Chosc

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