***Advocacy Posts***

***August 2012***

Welcome to *Advocacy Posts*, regular news from The Advocacy Initiative. We aim to let you know how the Initiative is developing, what’s happening next, and to bring you interesting stories and resources about social justice advocacy. You can let us know what you think or join in the discussion at [www.advocacyinitiative.ie](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie) follow us on Twitter & Facebook!

**2nd Knowledge Exchange Forum: Social Justice Media**

On 12th July The Advocacy Initiative held a 2nd Knowledge Exchange Forum on social media for social justice. A stimulating debate and experience was shared during eight workshops on Facebook, News Media, Twitter and other social media tools. The Initiative is delighted with the presence of the forum's speakers Johnny Chatterton from change.org, Eugene Flynn from 54 Degrees and David Eyre from Oxfam Scotland. Key lessons from the workshops, along with videos of the speakers and their presentations, and workshop presentations are available [**on our website.**](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie/learn/tools/videoknowledge.html)

**Speak Truth to Power**

In this blog Gerry Mangan, a member of the Initiative's Project Management Group considers some of the challenges facing social justice and those advocating for it. Gerry poses the challenge to social justice advocates to 'speak truth to power, not just for individual groups and issues, but from within a genuinely shared social justice framework which would connect the ambitions of all C&V organisations in working for transformative society wide change based on and informed by the goal of social justice.

The 'social justice' dimension of the advocacy process may seem obvious. If we are campaigning on issues that benefit those who are experiencing poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion, then we are doing social justice advocacy. Of course we are. But there are, in my opinion, other more fundamental dimensions to achieving social justice that also need constant advocacy.

**Perceptions study**

The Initiative is delighted to announce the appointment of the research team which will undertake a participant research study to explore the perceptions of social justice advocacy amongst policy-makers and policy-implementers. Dr Kathy Walsh will lead the team which includes Catherine Joyce (Bardardos), Catherine Lynch (ENAR Ireland), Cliona McCormack (Irish Heart Foundation), Diarmaid O'Sullivan (Older and Bolder), Rachel Mullen (Equality and Rights Alliance), Rory Hearne (Rialto Rights In Action Group), and Sue Conlan (Irish Refugee Council). The team will undertake their field work in the Autumn.

**E-campaigning is no silver bullet but it IS helping**

 Johnny Chatterton of Change.org one of The Initiative's 2nd Knowledge Exchange Forum speakers in [**thejournal. ie**](http://www.thejournal.ie/readme/column-e-campaigning-is-no-silver-bullet-but-it-is-helping/) article argues that 'clicktivism' might not cure all the world's ills in one go but online campaigns are helping shift the balance of power.

**The Advocacy Initiative is looking for a part-time Communications Officer**

Twelve months into its three-year strategy the Initiative is seeking to appoint a part-time Communications Officer who will deepen and broaden the communications capacity of the Initiative. The success of the Initiative depends on its capacity to engage a broad range of stakeholder involved in the policy-making process in Ireland.

**Advocacy around the world**

**Strategem**

This paper is sponsored by Objective Corporation, a specialist provider of content, collaboration and process management solutions and is prepared by Rhion Jones, who, as Director of The Consultation Institute has written extensively about public engagement and its relationship with public policy. Its aim is to contribute to a much-needed debate about how best to support democratic decision-making at all levels and in all aspects of the public realm.

**Niall Crowley**

The aim of this discussion paper is to provoke debate about the role of community organisations, their responses to austerity, and challenges for the future. It argues that the roots of the crisis lie in the times of economic boom during which the community sector formed increased partnerships with the Irish state.

**Editor Stuart L. Lustig**

A wealth of advocacy tools for health and mental health professionals at all levels of training and practice are included in this clear and comprehensive volume. This tools is relevant to anyone doing advocacy work.

To get involved in The Advocacy Initiative, you can sign up here.

***The Advocacy Initiative*** *is a three-year community and voluntary sector project that promotes understanding, awareness and effectiveness of social justice advocacy in Ireland. By creating the conditions for stronger social justice advocacy, the Initiative will strengthen policy responses to existing and emerging challenges in addressing poverty and social exclusion, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society. For more information see:* [*www.advocacyinitiative.ie*](http://www.advocacyinitiative.ie)*.*

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