



Women's organisations have been central to the care and support of victims of the NI conflict. Read more about the women's sector in this short profile.

OVERVIEW

There are 280 organisations in the voluntary and community sector with women as their primary beneficiary group. Total income for 2003/04 is estimated to be £13.92 million.

37.2% of these organisations have an income less than £1,000 per annum. There are no organisations in the £1 million plus income bracket based on the accounts of 2003/04.

There are approximately **668 paid employees** working in the women's sector with a further **2,341 volunteers** directly involved on a formal basis (management committees etc).

ROLE

It is generally acknowledged that women have sustained communities in Northern Ireland during the conflict, carrying out the daily tasks associated with domestic survival regardless of the political situation or conflict related incidents.

Women's organisations have been central to the care and support given to individuals suffering the effects of the conflict. Despite the provision of such essential services, the women's sector has recently encountered difficulties associated with funding.

FUNDING

Government spent £5.30 million on the activities of the women's sector in 2003/04. Examining the figures a little closer they reveal that central government departments spent £2.18 million (41.1% of all government funding) in 2003/04. Statutory agencies and non departmental public bodies spent £2.27 million (42.8%), with district councils contributing a further £0.18 million.

The voluntary sector is the next largest contributor to the women's sector. Charitable trusts distributed £3.58 million (25.7%) to this sector during 2003/04.

Peace II and the Lottery are also significant contributors and account for 19.5% and 13.5% respectively of total income.

Organisations in the women's sector are particularly dependent on voluntary income. This type of income is by grant aid and is often short term. Of all the funding received by the women's sector in 2003/04, **94.1% was voluntary income.**

PEOPLE

The women's sector **employs 668 individuals**, which represents **2.3% of the total sector's workforce**.

Just over half (53.8%) of all the employees in the women's sector are part time which is higher than the voluntary and community sector as whole where part time employees make up 36% of the workforce.

There are **2,341 volunteers** involved in the women's sector.