Company Number: 195618

SONAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

SONAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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SONAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors	Jacqueline Cremin (resigned 1 January 2020) Ciairín de Buis (resigned 2 September 2020) Olive Killoury (resigned 2 September 2020) Mary Connolly (resigned 31 December 2020) Shane Browne (appointed 1 September 2020) Kimberly Tully (appointed 1 July 2020) Harry McIntyre Dervla Sugrue Fiona Walsh Eugene Davy
Company Secretary	Eugene Davy
Company Number	195618
Registered Charity Number	20028497
Charity Revenue Number	CHY 10872
Registered Office	Sonas Housing Project 3 Killester Court Dublin 5
Auditors	Crowe Ireland Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Marine House Clanwilliam Place Dublin 2
Bankers	Bank of Ireland 371 North Circular Road Dublin 7 AIB 40 – 41 Westmoreland Street Dublin 2 Permanent TSB 70 Grafton Street Dublin 2 EBS 7 – 12 Dame Street Dublin 2 KBC Sandwith Street Upper Dublin 2 AnPost General Post Office O'Connell Street Lower Dublin 1

Bankers	Ulster Bank 33 College Green Dublin 2
Solicitors	Hayes Solicitors LLP Lavery House 2 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
	Ryans Solicitors 46 Harrington Street Portobello Dublin 8

SONAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The organisation is a charitable company with a registered office at Sonas Housing Project, 3 Killester Court, Dublin 5. The company's registered number is 195618.

The charity has been granted charitable tax status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity Revenue Number CHY 10872 and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority. The charity had 6 directors at the balance sheet date.

The CEO is Todd Prevost, who has a significant number of relevant years' experience. The day-to-day management of the charity is directed by the following individuals who are considered key management personnel:

Sonas Senior Team

- Todd Prevost, Chief Executive Officer
- Barry Hyland, Finance Manager
- Deborah Tully, Housing/Property Services Manager
- Siobhan Ferguson, Head of Services

Sonas Service Management Team

- Lisa Whelan, Accommodation Based Services Manager
- Linda Daly, Community Based Services Manager
- Sonya Logan, Refuge Manager
- Elva Farrell, Team Leader, Refuge
- Chiara Varchetta, Team Leader, Accommodation Based Services

Details of the external advisors engaged by the Charity for each of Bankers, Solicitors and Auditors are provided in the Directors' and Other Information page of these financial statements. The Company does not engage the services of any investment managers as it does not hold any investments.

MISSION STATEMENT

Sonas works to keep women and children experiencing domestic abuse safe by providing effective frontline support services. The safety of women and children is our priority, their needs shape our response.

VISION

No woman or child should experience or be at risk of experiencing domestic abuse. If abuse happens, victims should receive all necessary interventions and supports as early as possible to guarantee their safety and wellbeing. There will always be those who seek to abuse, but domestic abuse is not inevitable. As a country, we can make a difference by:

- Recognising and upholding the rights of women and children
- Putting in place the primary prevention strategies needed to ensure domestic violence does not occur
- Providing necessary and timely support services to victims of domestic abuse
- Recognising that domestic violence is a crime. While anyone can be a victim, it is a crime that overwhelmingly and disproportionately affects women and children
- Supporting women and children to access a justice system that recognises and understands the dynamics of domestic abuse
- Ensuring our justice system holds perpetrators accountable

CORE PRINCIPLES

- Accountable
- Outcome focused
- Early intervention and prevention
- Safety, welfare, and protection are paramount
- Rights based / equality & equality of access
- Quality
- Partnership & collaboration
- Evidence informed

DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Jacqueline Cremin (resigned 1 January 2020)
Ciairín de Buis (resigned 2 September 2020)
Olive Killoury (resigned 2 September 2020)
Mary Connolly (resigned 31 December 2020)
Shane Browne (appointed 1 September 2020)
Kimberly Tully (appointed 1 July 2020)
Harry McIntyre
Dervla Sugrue
Fiona Walsh
Eugene Davy

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Eugene Davy.

In accordance with the company's Constitution, the number of directors shall be not less than 5 and, unless and until determined by the company in General Meeting, not more than 12.

At the AGM, half of the directors retire from office and if the total number of directors should be an uneven number, then the number of directors, which with the addition of 1 would make it half of the directors, shall retire from office. The directors to retire are those who have been longest in office since their last election. A retiring director is eligible for re-election.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The company has the following core objectives:

- To provide the supports necessary for women and their children to equip them with the skills to be able to live independent lives.

- To provide food quality and safe accommodation for women and children out of home primarily because of gender-based violence.

- To influence housing and social policy decision making as it relates to women and children out of home primarily because of violence. All policy work must have at its core experiences of tenants and their children.

- Ensure that the structures, procedures, and policies of the organisation are adequate to deliver the objects of the company and should be its strategic plan.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES - continued

As outlined above, the company's charitable objects and principal activities are to provide refuge, support and accommodation to women and children experiencing domestic abuse and it is a leading provider of those services. The organisation has charitable status. It was established as a voluntary housing association and granted approved status under Section 6 of the 1992 Housing Act by the Minister of the Environment.

For over two and a half decades, the charity had provided support to women and children traumatised by domestic abuse; many of whom were facing intersecting challenges of poverty, disability, poor mental health, history of childhood abuse and substance misuse issues. In more recent years, these challenges had expanded as Irish society changed to include language barriers and immigration status.

The company has a rights-based perspective on service provision to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. It has a clearly defined client services pathway. Support services for women and children include but are not limited to community support, refuge, safe home, high support, outreach, and advice, visiting support, crisis intervention and accommodation complexes and service hubs together with telephone and web support and court accompaniment. Supports also include risk assessment and safety planning, information and advice, emotional support, and advocacy around accessing housing, legal processes such as applying for a domestic violence order and support around custody and access. The charity carried out over 200 accompaniments of victims to court in the context of applications to secure domestic violence orders.

The company works successfully in partnership with aligned organisations and within an effective multi-agency client support environment.

In 2020, we provided direct frontline support services to hundreds of women and children experiencing domestic abuse across the greater Dublin Region from Dun Laoghaire to Balbriggan, Blanchardstown to Ringsend.

New Services

Thanks to Tusla funding, Sonas was able to partner with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and Aoibhneas Domestic Abuse for Women and Children to provide a new co-located service for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Balbriggan, north county Dublin. Additionally, Sonas engaged with the Dublin County Council to re-designate some of its properties as additional "emergency accommodation units" and as such, were awarded an additional €109,000 for 2021.

Charitable Priorities

Priority 1 - Ongoing provision of needs-led, outcome-focused, quality services to women and children at risk of, or experiencing domestic abuse

- Sonas provides support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse across a continuum of risks and needs.

- Sonas is the largest front-line provider of services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse in the State, supporting on average 1,200 people a year.

- Sonas operates across the Greater Dublin Region – the most demographically diverse area in the country: supporting over 30 nationalities every year as well as particularly vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

Charitable Priorities – continued

Priority 2 - Develop existing and new services in response to identified unmet support needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse

- Domestic violence reporting rates are low in Ireland compared to prevalence rates. The number of women and children that seek and receive help is low in comparison to the number of women and children actually experiencing domestic abuse.

- Women tend to primarily rely on their own resources, both financial and personal, to cope in domestic abuse situations; they, generally, turn to domestic abuse support services when these resources are not available, for whatever reason, to them.

- Children experiencing domestic abuse can generally only access domestic abuse support services if their parent does and that can have implications for a child's wellbeing, welfare, safety and protection.

- If a woman or family is already facing an intersection of challenges such as poverty, disability, serious and long-term mental health and/ or addiction issues, homelessness etc, immigration status, language barrier then their vulnerability can be significantly increased. A significant proportion of Sonas clients face one or more of these challenges.

Priority 3 - Ensure sustainability and accountability of organisation to highest standards

- We are accountable to our clients to respect their individual experiences, provide effective supports and work towards achieving the best outcomes possible.

- We are accountable to the public and our funders for the monies we receive and how these funds are spent.

- We are accountable to our partners to work together to produce the best outcomes possible for the women and children we support.

Priority 4 - Advocacy – Empowering women and children experiencing domestic abuse to seek change; and seeking change on behalf of women and children

- Sonas's advocacy starts with individual clients and their support needs.

- Sonas supports clients to advocate on their own behalf; where appropriate we will advocate on a client's behalf to ensure they receive all necessary supports.

- Sonas will continue, based on our experiences of frontline services, to advocate for change on specific issues which negatively impact the safety, welfare and protection of women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

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KPIs in respect of strateg

- Service metrics, qu
  targets being met
- Needs and risks of
- Successful collabo
  may not have Sona
- Service metrics use
- Successful evaluatio
- Incorporate relevant
  partner engagement
- Service evaluations
- Incorporation of rele
- Extent of partnership
- Alignment of service
- Ongoing monitoring
- Satisfactory complet
- New funding stream
- Strategic and operat
- Compliance with all
- Demonstrate workin
  board and senior ma
- Annual operational p
- Risk register reviewe
- Financial Manageme
- Annual Health and
  reviewed on quarter
- Appropriate capacity
  development
- Increased staff satis
  etc
- Client case advocac
  court preparation; cc
- Partnerships and co
  experiencing domes
- Engagement with d
  women and children
- Participation in relev

GRANT MAKING POLICY

To date the charity has not
does not have a grant makir

OUR VOLUNTERS

The company is very gratefu

SOCIAL INVESTMENT

During the financial year th
programme related investme