

1980s

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Irish activists significantly contributed to the global movement against apartheid in South Africa. The most notable event was the Dunnes Stores strike in 1984, where workers protested the sale of South African goods, drawing international attention to the issue.



Credit: <https://bit.ly/3NL0M2N>

1980s

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Irish participation in the global movement for nuclear disarmament, particularly during the Cold War, highlighted concerns about nuclear proliferation and the potential for nuclear conflict.



Credit: <https://img.rasset.ie/0010d2b6-1600.jpg>

1981

EL SALVADOR: MOTION DÁIL EIREANN DEBATE

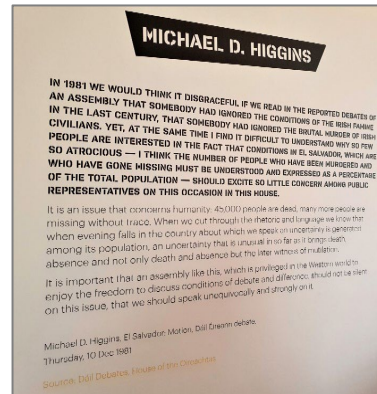


Photo: Chris Bellew/Fennell Photography & Tony Daly/developmenteducation.ie

The photograph above is of an extract from Michael D Higgins's intervention on a motion on El Salvador in a Dáil Eireann debate, 10 Dec 1981. This segment is from a speech given by the then recently elected TD Michael D. Higgins. Higgins would subsequently lead a monitoring visit from an Irish delegation to El Salvador, who were stopped at gunpoint from entering the country to investigate mass killings during a bloody civil war.

"In 1981 we would think it disgraceful if we read in the reported debates of an Assembly that somebody had ignored the conditions of the Irish Famine in the last century, that somebody had ignored the brutal murder of Irish civilians. Yet, at the same time I find it difficult to understand why so few people are interested in the fact that conditions in El Salvador, which are so atrocious — I think the number of people who have been murdered and who have gone missing must be understood and expressed as a percentage of the total population — should excite so little concern among public representatives on this occasion in this House. ... It is an issue that concerns humanity: 45,000 people are dead; many more people are missing without trace. When we cut through the rhetoric and language, we know that when evening falls in the country about which we speak an uncertainty is generated among its population, an uncertainty that is unusual in so far as it brings death, absence and not only death and absence but the later witness of mutilation.

It is important that an assembly like this, which is privileged in the Western world to enjoy the freedom to discuss conditions of debate and difference, should not be silent on this issue, that we should speak unequivocally and strongly on it."

As President, Michael D. Higgins returned to El Salvador 31 years later. For more, take a look at the full debate as recorded in the House of the Oireachtas Debates on 10 December 1981 (Source: House of the Oireachtas, 1981).

1984

75:25



36 years ago, this cartoon by Martyn Turner appeared on the cover of the first edition of 80:20 Development in an Unequal World – then titled 75:25.

After its publication, the editors received many complaints that the cartoon stereotyped people from what was then often called the ‘Third World’ and that it reduces the complexity and diversity of that world to a set of simplistic and inaccurate images. The editors noted that, interestingly, no complaints were received that the First World was treated in the same manner.

Since that first edition, the cartoons have continued to elicit considerable comment – not always positive. By its very nature, cartooning trades in caricatures and stereotypes of everyone and anyone.

To get a core truth or reality, good cartoonists do strip away detail and therefore do reduce complexity. The editors of 80:20 Development in an Unequal World are pleased to continue that tradition.

For more of Martyn Turner’s work check out Martyn’s editorial cartoons for the Irish Times.

Source: 75:25 by Martyn Turner, 1984. Courtesy of Colm Regan

1984

BANGLADESHI URN



“The Concern Debates pre-date the introduction of Social and Political Studies to the curriculum and it is to them that the public is indebted for children being made aware of North/South differences based on aid, trade, and debt. Again, the justice issues involved are an invaluable moral resource for analysing issues at home. ...As somebody who was the Auditor of the Literary and Debating Society at UCG in 1965, I have remained convinced of the value of debating in itself.”

“I particularly commend the structure of the Concern Debates with its emphasis on participation in a league system. This validated the emphasis on education and promotion of clarity of thought.

All students may thus be very proud of their Certificate of Participation in the Debates which indicates something far more important than having been involved in a competition, however worthy.” (Michael D. Higgins. T.D, July, 1999)



Running for more than 30 years, the Concern Debates programme has engaged tens of thousands of young people in the art of speech writing, making winning arguments and landing lightning-quick rebuttals as more than 100 schools are directly involved across Ireland annually.

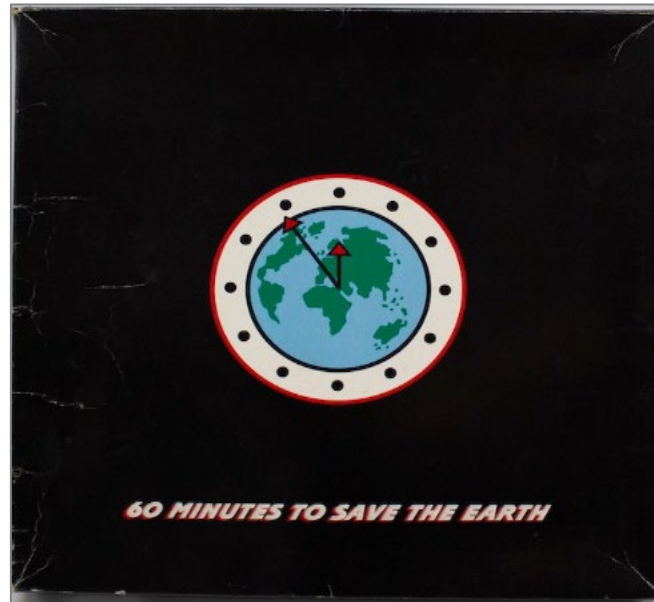
Source: Michael Doorly, Concern Worldwide, 1984-2016.

Credit: Irish Global Solidarity in 100 Objects <https://developmenteducation.ie/100objects>

Design editor: Dr Rene Gonzales, UCC.

1991

60 MINUTES TO SAVE THE EARTH



60 Minutes to Save the Earth is a board game produced in Ireland in 1991 and plots industry against the environment and against the clock. Having a green conscience and being environmentally aware may not be enough to win this game. You must also successfully run major industries, nuclear, oil, timber etc and amass a major fortune. Easier said than done! Fate may deal you a dirty hand or you may lose millions on the turn of a card. The winner will be the player who can strike a balance between greed and conscience when you only have “60 Minutes to Save the Earth”.

A cooperative-ish game, 60 Minutes casts players in the role of industrialists who need to not only make money, but also be environmentally conscientious doing it. At the end, if the world is polluted, there is no winner.

Source: Seven Gates Designs, 1991. Courtesy of Tony Daly.

1993

DROP THE DEBT QUILT



This collaborative quilt was created by members of Debt and Development Coalition Ireland, as part of protest actions calling on the Irish government to cancel sovereign debt of developed countries.

Source: the Irish Countrywomen's Association, 1993. Courtesy of Helena McNeill.

1996

BEWLEYS FAIR TRADE



Bewley's is the first Irish company to agree to source raw materials on Fairtrade terms.

Their first Fair Trade coffee was called Bewley's Direct

Bewley's Direct was originally sourced from a single coffee cooperative in Costa Rica, COOCAFE. The original order was for two tonnes of Fairtrade coffee and at the time, Bewley's were unsure if it would sell at all.

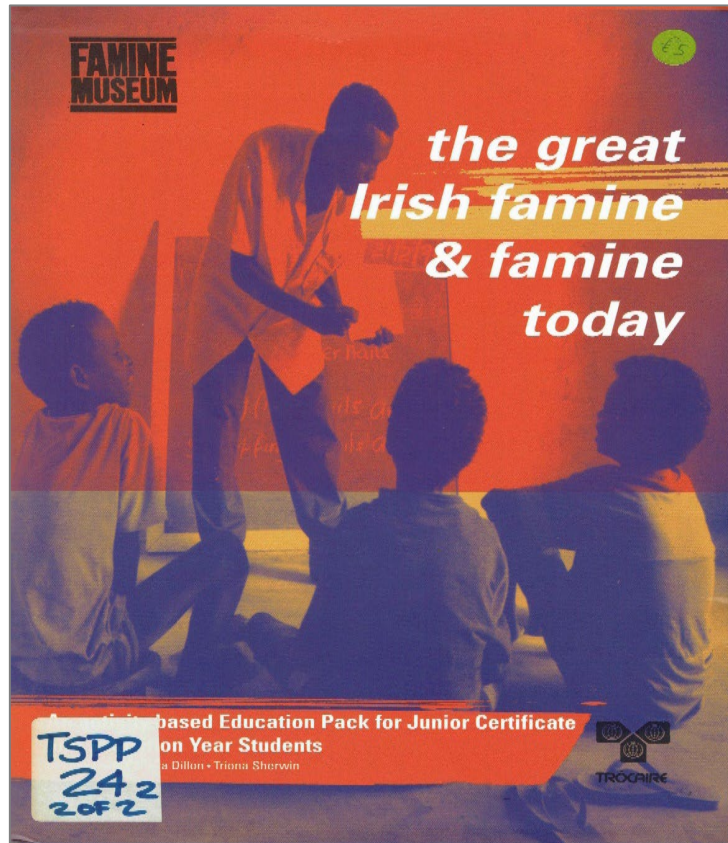
In comparison, in 2014 the Fairtrade coffee market had grown to almost 1,000 tonnes of coffee.

In 2016 Bewley's announced that 100% of its branded coffee products are Fairtrade certified.

Source: Bewley's, 1996. Courtesy of Fairtrade Ireland.

1996

THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE AND FAMINE TODAY



An activity-based Education pack for Junior Certificate and Transition Year Students.

Famine has deep resonance in Ireland and in many Third World Countries especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Its scale, impact, causes and the human stories that haunt it have much in common. This resource was written and published to explore commonalities and differences in the realities of famine in Ireland and internationally.

The Great Irish Famine of the 1840s has long been regarded as the single greatest social disaster of 19th century Europe. Between 1845 and 1850, when blight devastated the potato crop, in excess of two million people (almost one-quarter of the entire population) either died or emigrated.

The famine of 1983 to 1985 in Ethiopia is considered to be its 20th century equivalent.

Source: The National Famine Museum, Strokestown and Trócaire, 1996.

Late 1990s - 2000s

CAMPAIGNS FOR DEBT RELIEF

Activism in Ireland, aligned with the global Jubilee 2000 campaign, called for the cancellation of debt in developing countries, emphasizing issues of global economic justice.



Credit: <https://debtgwa.net/>

2000s-Present

MOVEMENT AGAINST US MILITARY USE OF SHANNON AIRPORT

Protests against the use of Shannon Airport by the US military for flights to conflict zones, raising issues of neutrality, human rights, and Ireland's role in global conflict.



Credit January 2020: <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2020/01/14/irish-activists-demand-ouster-of-us-military-from-shannon-airport/>

2000s-Present

FAIR TRADE MOVEMENT

The promotion and support of fair-trade products in Ireland, part of a larger global initiative to ensure fairer trading conditions for producers in developing countries.



Credit: <https://developmenteducation.ie/blog/2015/03/20/top-10-facts-about-the-fairtrade-movement-in-ireland/>

2000s-Present

REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER ADVOCACY

Activism in support of refugees and asylum seekers, reflecting global concerns about migration, human rights, and the treatment of displaced individuals.



Credit: <https://villagemagazine.ie/left-fails-to-properly-address-scandal-of-direct-provision-at-election-time/>

2000s-Present

SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS WITH PALESTINE

Ongoing activism in Ireland in support of Palestinian rights, including boycotts and protests against Israeli policies, reflecting a global concern for the Israel-Palestine conflict.



Pro-Palestinian protesters seen on O'Connell Street, Dublin, during a Rally for Palestine on Saturday, May 22, 2021, in Dublin, Ireland

Credit: <https://www.sott.net/article/453260-Ireland-recognises-Israelis-de-facto-annexation-of-Palestine-will-vote-on-expelling-Israeli-ambassador>



2023 Staff and Student Vigil in Support of Palestine

Credit: Dr Gertrude Cotter, 2023.

2003

PROTESTS AGAINST THE IRAQ WAR

Large-scale demonstrations in Ireland against the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, in line with global peace and anti-war movements.



Crowds thronged Dublin's streets for the 2003 protests.

Credit: <https://www.thejournal.ie/iraq-march-dublin-2003-2864415-Jul2016/>

2010s-Present

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

Ireland's involvement in the global climate strikes, inspired by Greta Thunberg, reflects the country's growing concern and activism regarding climate change and the need for environmental sustainability.



Credit: <https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.IJmROnUHdkAebv67pWmX7wHaEr?rs=1&pid=ImgDetMain>

2014

WORLD'S BEST NEWS



“The reality is, there IS good news. And it happens every day, around the globe”.

The World's Best News, was the brainchild of Seán O'Connell – a returned volunteer with University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO). Seán had taken part in a Comhlámh 'What Next?' course, encouraging returned volunteers to continue their work for global justice on return to Ireland and take on an action project. His action project was to bring the Danish concept of the World's Best News to Ireland.

The initiative found a home within Dóchas, collating stories of 'positive change' from across the globe of people who are making a difference and empowering others to do the same. The newspaper, launched in 2013, highlighted achievements made in tackling global issues, for example, halving extreme poverty, increasing access to education for girls, conflict resolution among local communities, communicating action to combat climate change, etc.

Dóchas means 'hope' and that's just what this is about. Hope.

Check out WBN issues from 2014 and 2015 or read up more about the initiative as summarised by Dóchas in 2015.

Source: Dóchas and Comhlámh, 2014-2015. Text by Mark Cumming.

2015

FASHION REVOLUTION CAMPAIGN STENCIL



Shop, sleep, trash, repeat.

Credit: <https://developmenteducation.ie/objects/fashion-revolution-campaign-stencil/>

Approximately 75 million people work to make our clothes. 80% of them are women between the ages of 18 and 35. However, most people who make clothes for the global market live in poverty, unable to afford life's basic necessities. Many are subject to exploitation; verbal and physical abuse, working in unsafe and dirty conditions, with very little pay.

On average, 100 pairs of hands touch our clothes before they get to us. There is no such thing as cheap labour. Someone somewhere always pays the price.

Re-Dress and artist Mark Fitz produced the living wage graphic to be used all over the EU to highlight the clothing industry's dependency on cheap labour. It was pasted up all over Dublin city to mark the Rana Plaza Factory collapse in Bangladesh in 2013.

Source: Mark Fitz, Re-Dress, 2015. Courtesy of Rosie O'Reilly.

2016

CHARONS BOATS, XR



‘Charon’s Boats’ was created by County Limerick artist Sheila Stone, with the help of friends, students, and local community groups. The name of the project is a reference to Charon, the boatman of Greek mythology who was paid to ferry the dead to the next life.

In 2016, the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR estimates that 362,753 people fled to the EU by crossing the Mediterranean. Of these, more than five thousand have been reported missing or dead. Inspired by an RTÉ Documentary about the Irish Navy and their humanitarian rescue mission in the Mediterranean, Sheila decided to use her skills as a ceramic artist to highlight the situation.

‘With ‘Charon’s Boats’, I have created a ceramic installation which expresses my deep concern at the plight of migrants fleeing across the Mediterranean. Each of these boats honours the memory of one of the five thousand and more, men, women, and children who drowned in 2016. Most of these individuals do not even have a grave to mark their passing. My intention is that the visual impact of five thousand boats, seen *en masse*, will illustrate the enormity of this ongoing human catastrophe.

Donated to XR Ireland directly by the artist, a number of Charon’s Boats were re-imagined to create a unique reflection on migration and climate displaced peoples for the Irish Global Solidarity in 100 Objects exhibition by members of Extinction Rebellion Ireland (Source: Sheila Stone, 2016 and 2020. Courtesy of Johanna Pykala and members of Extinction Rebellion Ireland).

2018

PROJECT HONDURAS



Project Honduras is an online strategy game produced by Irish NGO Trócaire, from on-the-ground experiences of their work in Honduras among local communities who are experiencing the devastating effects of climate change.

The game demonstrates the importance of need for communities in working together to combat climate change.

You play as the leader of a disaster relief centre who helps locals by providing volunteers for tasks that you think will help Honduras with the upcoming disaster.

Your score is determined by the importance of the task and if it helps the community at large.

So, choose wisely.



Project Honduras, which was the first online Development Education game of its kind in Ireland, won the International Educational Game Competition in 2018.

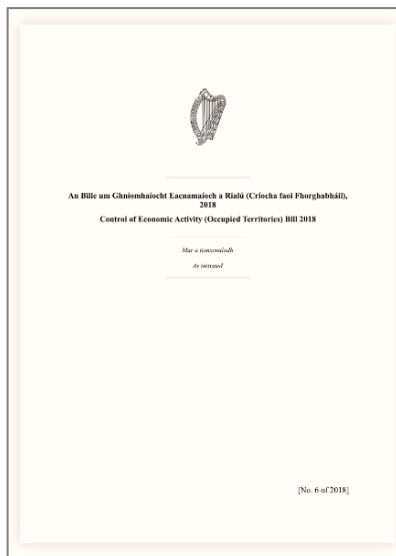
Source: Trócaire, 2018. Courtesy of Stephen Farley.

Credit: Irish Global Solidarity in 100 Objects <https://developmenteducation.ie/100objects>

Design editor: Dr Rene Gonzales, UCC.

2018

THE CONTROL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) BILL



This bill is currently being debated in Ireland and has been an active issue over the last two years.

The Control of Economic Activities (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 is a piece of proposed legislation. If enacted, it would ban trade between Ireland and Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank. The Bill was introduced by Senator Frances Black and is supported by leading human rights organisations in Ireland.

If enacted, the legislation would apply to territories where there is a clear international legal consensus on the status of the occupation. As it stands, only the occupied Palestinian territories have been confirmed as occupied by the International Court of Justice.

However, this Bill allows for other territories to be included so long as there is consensus between the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade and both houses of the Oireachtas.

Text by Trócaire ('What You Need To Know About The Occupied Territories Bill', 4 Dec 2018).

Current Status: The Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 was passed in full by Seanad Éireann in 2018 and passed its first vote in Dáil Éireann in early 2019. It was then sent for detailed scrutiny in the Oireachtas Select Committee on Foreign & Affairs and Trade. This review took place over several months, hearing from expert testimony and input, and in December 2019 the Committee also voted in favour of the bill.

However, before becoming law it needs to go back to the Dáil for final votes.

Source: Houses of the Oireachtas, 2018.

Credit: Irish Global Solidarity in 100 Objects

<https://developmenteducation.ie/100objects>

Design editor: Dr Rene Gonzales, UCC.

2018

LEG IRONS



In 2006, comedian and campaigner Mark Thomas, Irish NGO Afri, Sr. Barbara Raftery and students from Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise, along with a school in the UK, collaborated in developing a Channel 4 Dispatches documentary to highlight the inconsistencies, loopholes and legal omissions that enable virtually anyone, anywhere to broker and purchase ‘illegal’ arms.

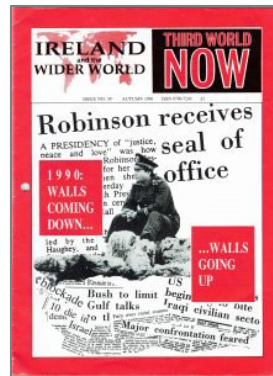
The students involved in the After School Arms Club in Ireland were able to set up a dummy arms-brokering company, contact arms dealers, arrange arms deals over the internet and phone and purchase weapons of torture.

Marketed by a sales company in South Africa, as ‘worn by Nelson Mandela’ while in prison on Robben Island, which were purchased by the students who had them delivered to Ireland. The students were able to highlight the loophole in Ireland that legalised leg irons despite being banned in other European countries.

Source: Afri, 2006. Courtesy of Joe Murray; Afri.

2018

FOCUS MAGAZINE (COMHLÁMH) VARIOUS ISSUES



Third World Now Autumn 1990 © Comhlámh.

Comhlámh is the Irish association of development workers and volunteers and has been as the centre of solidarity work in Ireland since its foundation in 1975.

Focus is Comhlámh's newsletter since 1978 and was one of the first such magazines to focus in on global solidarity and on Ireland's role.

While the name has changed over the years – from Comhlámh News to Third World Now, Focus on the Wider World to (presently) Focus – Action for Global Justice – it has been to the forefront in challenging assumptions, and promoting understanding, interest in and action on development issues publicly.

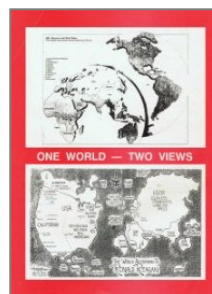
Selection of Focus magazine covers (© Comhlámh):



Focus Winter, 1997



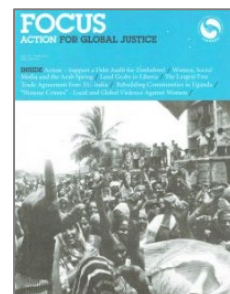
Comhlámh News Summer 1983



Comhlámh News Summer 1983 back



Third World Now Winter 1989



Focus Winter, 2012

Source: Comhlámh, 1979-2019. Courtesy of Mark Cumming and Comhlámh.

2019

11 MINUTES TO 1PM



At the Youth Strike for the Climate on Friday, September 20th, 2019, the strikers' alarms on their phones rang out at 11 minutes to 1pm as part of a symbolic moment.

On the main stage, a clock was smashed as part of this moment to highlight the 11 years left to avert a climate catastrophe and prevent irreversible damage to the planet.

Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have stated that 'unprecedented' action needed to prevent 1.5C of global warming by 2030.

Source: Action Network (SCAN), 2019: Courtesy of Schools Climate Action Network.

2020

'THEY'RE ARE NOT REAL GARDA' HONESTLY!'



Michael Doorly with replica landmines, as used in education workshops as part of international campaign to ban landmines. † Wooden replica anti-personnel (pressure and trip wire) and anti-tank landmines, on loan from the Active Citizenship archives in Concern Worldwide. Photos: Joshua Mulholland/developmenteducation.ie, Feb 2020.

"It was a cold, wintry night, lost on the backroads of Monaghan in the mid-1990s. I had just finished giving a talk and had casually thrown the props used on the back seat of the car.

It was around 10pm when I set off for Dublin, it was before Google maps, so getting lost for me was *de rigueur*.

I was actually relieved when I first saw the Garda spot check up ahead, with blue lights flashing, thinking the Garda could direct me back to the main road.

It didn't take long, the beam of his torch rested on the 'landmines' in the back. I was asked to get out of the car.

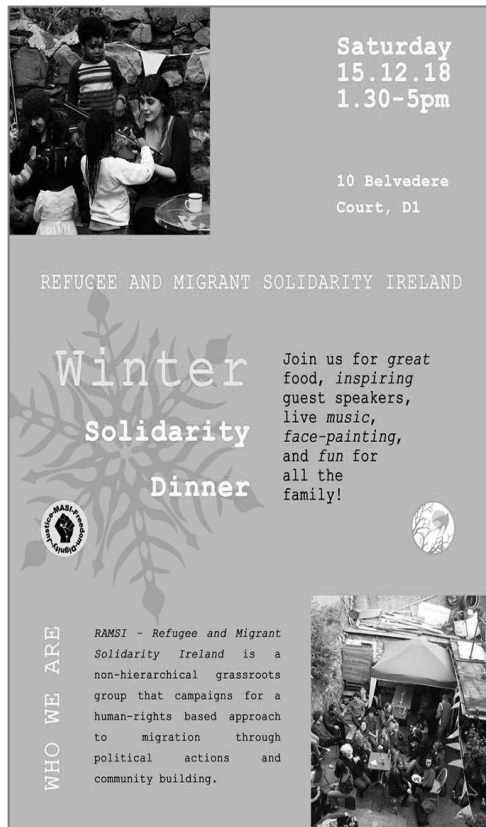
"They're not real Garda, honestly".

I told him about Jody Williams, about the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), about Angola, Mozambique and Cambodia, about the thousands of innocents maimed and injured long after the 'war' was over. He told me to put them in the boot and sent me on my way.

I've wondered since, when the ICBL won the Nobel Prize in 1997, if that Garda remembered our little impromptu development education 'workshop' at the side of the road (Source: Concern Worlwide, 1995. Text by Michael Doorly).

2024

WINTER SOLIDARITY DINNER



"...let's challenge the separation and isolation the system of Direct Provision creates by coming together as people going through DP, people who've migrated to Ireland and been on the move and local people in a spirit of friendship, fun and solidarity".

Refugee and Migrant Solidarity Ireland (RAMSI), Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI) and Dublin Central Housing Action (DCHA) hold monthly solidarity dinners in Dublin as a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, eat good food and raise much-needed funds for those seeking refuge and migrating in Ireland and abroad. The dinners are an opportunity for families or individuals to come together, share a meal, have a chat, and get to know each other.

Source: RAMSI, MASI and DCHA, Ongoing (monthly).