



Advancing Gender Equality in Rural Areas in the EU November 2022

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Longford Women's Link



Women in Rural Communities

LWL Vision:

Longford women can fulfil their potential in a safe and equal society

> Founded in 1995 – 80 staff

Key issues:

- > Rural Isolation
- > Access to critical services childcare, transport
- > Experience of Domestic Violence
- Lack of third level & employment opportunities
- > Unequal representation in local & national government





PURPOSE:

LINK Women with the RESOURCES to CHANGE their lives and TRANSFORM their community.





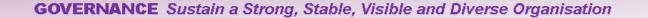
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Training & Education
- Peer Support Groups
- Female Entrepreneurship
- · Employment & Work Experience



- Local & National Representation & Advocacy
- Manifesto Model of Democratic Engagement

- **Domestic Violence Support**
- Counselling
- Childcare
- Mobile Childcare Solutions



Meeting the needs of women in rural communities

Women in Local Democracy

women's manifesto project

A Longford Women's Link Programme



- > Employment
 - > Community Employment Scheme 80% progression
 - > WISE Women Into Self-Employment
- > Education
 - Formal EQF L2-6.
 - > Access to Higher Education
 - > 400 learners p.a.
- Violence Against Women
 - > LWLDVS supports c.3-400 women and children annually
 - > Specific engagement with the criminal justice system
 - > Additional barriers for women living in rural communities



SHE (See Her Elected) Programme



SHE is a feminist, community-led, rural initiative providing pathways for women into political life.

#SHESchool is a series of programmes and seminars exploring and learning about politics which build women's capacity to participate in public life

- > 1000+ women engaged so far
- > Engagement with local authorities, political parties

Contact:

www.seeherelected.ie www.facebook.com/seeherelected

@SeeHerElected



















Overcoming Challenges as an Organisation

- Dependency on relationships
- Choosing partners
- > Funding issues
- * Context is key

- Network/external representation/media
- **& Be selective!**
- > Avoid funding-led
- * Know the local/regional factors







Thank you

Contact Longford Women's Link













