



European Network for
Rural Development



Advancing Gender Equality in Rural Areas in the EU November 2022

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CEO Longford Women's Link
Chair Irish Rural Link



@TeeFarr
@LWLLongford

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



LWL

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

GOVERNANCE *Sustain a Strong, Stable, Visible and Diverse Organisation*

Meeting the needs of women in rural communities

- Women in Local Democracy
- 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

WMA women's
manifesto
project
A Longford Women's Link Programme



 **SHE**
See Her Elected



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](https://www.instagram.com/SeeHerElected)



SHE is a collaboration between **Longford Women's Link** and **50:50 Northwest**.

Listen Back



Cllr Donna McGettigan Dr Michelle Maher

“ We were able to send a man to the moon before we could get a woman elected to Clare County Council. There have only ever been 9 women elected to Clare council since 1925! ”



See Her Elected

Supporting Women in Rural Ireland to engage in Politics

INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS WINNER 2021

13 OCTOBER 22
COMMITTEE ROOM 2

Contact us
086 032 0455
info@seeherelected.ie
www.seeherelected.ie
www.facebook.com/SeeHerElected

JOINT COMMITTEE GENDER EQUALITY

Recommendations of the Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality in relation to Leadership in Politics, Public Life and the Workplace (resumed)

- MC
- SO
- EÓ
- R
- LC

We're Going To The Ploughing!

Getting more rural women into local politics

Come visit us at National Ploughing Championships Ratheniska, Co Laois September 20th-22nd

Block 2 Row 36 Stand 571

#Ploughing2022

See Her Elected rolls out schools' roadshow

See Her Elected is proud to announce the launch of its Schools' Roadshow, a series of events designed to encourage young women to get involved in politics. The roadshow will be visiting schools across the country, providing a platform for young women to share their views and experiences. The roadshow is a key part of See Her Elected's commitment to supporting women in rural Ireland to engage in politics.

Number of Women Councillors June 2022

Offaly	Galway County
Carlow	Tipperary
Longford	Limerick
Mayo	Louth
Monaghan	
Leitrim	
Sligo	
	Wicklow
	Meath
	Fingal
	Kildare
	South Dublin
	Cork County
	Dir
	Dublin City

International Day of Rural Women

See Her Elected Supporting women from rural Ireland into local politics

Free online workshops

www.seeherelected.ie

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



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www.lwl.ie



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