



Community  
Law & Mediation

1975-2020  
**45**  
YEARS



## Impact 2020: In brief

[www.communitylawandmediation.ie](http://www.communitylawandmediation.ie)

## VISION, MISSION

### VISION

To make our communities more just and inclusive by facilitating access to legal services for all.

### MISSION

To provide people in our communities with expert legal, mediation, and education services they would not otherwise have access to and in doing so, to address underlying issues of injustice and exclusion while working for real change.

## WHAT WE DO

Community Law & Mediation works to empower individuals experiencing disadvantage through:

LEGAL ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION;

MEDIATION AND CONFLICT COACHING;

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION; AND

BY ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE THROUGH POLICY AND LAW REFORM WORK.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2020

4,152

people were assisted and/or legal issues advised on through our range of services: legal; mediation; and education

### Providing a Legal Lifeline

2,357

number of people we helped through legal advice and advocacy

422

legal advice clinics (face-to-face and phone) held by CLM

↑ 60%

rise in people seeking information and advice about employment during COVID-19

↑ 40%

rise in people seeking information and advice about housing during COVID-19

1 in 10

people seeking legal help were at risk of becoming homeless

1 in 3

people seeking legal help were unemployed

33

legal volunteers & interns

### Finding a Way Forward

636.5

hours of support given by our mediators

85%

of those seeking mediation support were families

56

mediation volunteers

### Educating and Advocating

120

students took part in our LEGAL EAGLES school programme

10

policy submissions made to Government and other agencies, advocating for change

627

people reached by our Know your Rights talks

792

people attended our Legal Training courses

We held 3 roundtables, involving expert stakeholders, on the topics of:

- COVID-19: Challenges in the area of Social Welfare and the Workplace for At-Risk Groups
- Young People Leaving State Care at risk of Homelessness
- Establishment of a Centre for Environmental Justice

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CLM celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2020, a year which saw the organisation undergo a significant transformation to meet the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, while also embarking on new projects, with the establishment of a Centre for Environmental Justice. During this time, the organisation saw a 33 per cent increase in demand for its services, particularly in the areas of employment and housing law.

We would like to thank our legal and mediation volunteers as well as the many barristers who represent our clients on a pro bono basis. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, they stepped up to ensure we continue to provide much needed services during a very difficult time.

Community Law & Mediation (CLM) is Ireland's longest-running independent community law centre, established in 1975 as part of the campaign for civil legal aid. Today, CLM's two law centres in Dublin and Limerick provide free legal advice, advocacy, mediation and education services to more than 4,000 people in communities experiencing disadvantage. We specialise in employment, equality, housing, environmental justice, social welfare, child and family law.

 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*“The advice I received was excellent. Receiving sound legal advice lifted a weight off my shoulders. I highly recommend the service, many thanks.”*

*“Anytime we needed help, you were on the phone with advice and sending letters and emails, very helpful, fantastic, couldn’t have done it without you.”*

*“The call really put my mind at ease... I was very stressed before ringing... She [the solicitor] more than answered my questions. She gave information on points I would never have even thought of and I am more confident in my case now and where I stand with it.”*

*“Thank you for all your support...I am very happy with the smooth process. [The] mediator was very qualified and helped, without judgment, find the right solution”*

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