



Newsletter: Jan – April 2017

“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women” – Kofi Annan

i-Smile hosts a ball for International Women’s Day

As an organisation of migrant women, it’s very important to us to celebrate International Women’s Day every year. We hosted an elegant ball in Louis Fitzgerald hotel, in collaboration with Breakforth, a migrant led organisation based in Portlaoise. Our founder Adaku Ezeudo gave an inspiring speech to launch a new initiative addressing family violence, called Men Do Care.



The event was a great success, with a large number of participants including the Lord Mayor of Fingal, Charge D’Affaires of the Nigerian Embassy, Wives of the Ambassadors to Kenya, South-Africa and Lesotho and many other dignitaries, members, friends, and supporters of i-Smile. As well as being a good opportunity to raise funds and build awareness of our work, it was a great night for members to get together and share their stories and support.

i-Smile adopts its first Strategic Plan

i-Smile has finalised its first ever Strategic Plan, which will guide the organisation from 2017 to 2020. It states that:

“Our vision is of a local community where every migrant woman has access to education, equal status in the society and is self-reliant in creating a bright and sustainable future for herself”.

In April 2017, members of i-Smile participated in two exciting and at times challenging workshops led by Dominic Colbert (Training & Development Facilitator). The workshops enabled us to identify the most important aims of the organisation, and what we need to do to achieve them. Over the next three years, our strategic plan should help us to develop a range of migrant-focused activities in the areas of education, leadership, advocacy, integration, and research.

We identified two critical success factors, meaning that these are required if the strategy is to be successfully implemented. These are: acquiring suitable accommodation; and the development of a sustainable financial model. Now that the plan is in place, we are ready to get to work.

i-Smile approved as registered charity

In March 2017, i-Smile was granted full status as a registered charity, under RCN number 20101435. All charities operating in Ireland must be registered on the register of charities. In 2016, i-Smile applied for recognition of our charitable status, and gave full details of our purpose and activities to the [Charities Regulator](#).

Now that we are a registered charity, we are entitled to work for the public benefit, and to raise funds for our purpose. This is an important step in beginning to deliver our strategic plan and make a difference for our community.

i-Smile signs up to the Governance Code journey

The [Governance Code](#) is a set of guidelines for community, charity and voluntary organisations. It helps organisations to be transparent, accountable, and well-managed. The code is completely voluntary, but we believe that it will help us to become a better organisation and to deliver benefits for our members and community.

In April, we signed up to begin the journey to compliance with the governance code. Over the next eighteen months, we will work to meet all of the standards in the code. This means developing certain ways of working, and creating policies and practices. Complying with the Governance Code is one way to help us to deliver our new Strategic Plan.

i-Smile at the VHI women's mini-marathon, June 5th

Since 2014, members of i-Smile have participated in the [VHI women's mini-marathon](#). The biggest women's event of its kind in the world, the women's mini-marathon is always great fun, with an incredible atmosphere of fun and solidarity. It's a great opportunity for us to fundraise for i-Smile's activities.

Entry for the mini marathon closes on April 28th, and we're encouraging everybody who can to join us on the run, and raise money for i-Smile. Watch our Facebook page for more photos!

