

# Annual Report 2015

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Working for Women and Children  
Experiencing Domestic Violence



## The Mission

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Sonas works to keep women and children experiencing domestic abuse safe by providing effective frontline support services. The safety of women and children is our priority; their needs shape our response.

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# Sonas... Who We Are

Sonas is the largest provider of frontline support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse in the country.

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We work across the Greater Dublin Region and Wicklow to provide a range of services delivered by our dedicated Women and Children's Support Teams.

Services include: refuge, mobile community services - outreach, court accompaniment, visiting support and Safe Home crisis accommodation in the community as well as other longer term accommodation based supports.

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## The Vision

No woman or child should experience, or be at risk of experiencing domestic abuse. If abuse happens, victims should receive all necessary interventions and supports as early as possible to guarantee their safety and wellbeing.

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There will always be those who seek to abuse but domestic abuse is not inevitable. As a country we can make a difference by...

- Recognising and upholding the rights of women and children
- Putting in place the primary prevention strategies needed to ensure domestic violence does not occur
- Providing necessary and timely support services to victims of domestic abuse
- Recognising that domestic violence is a crime. While anyone can be a victim, it is a crime that overwhelmingly and disproportionately affects women and children
- Supporting women and children to access a justice system that recognises and understands the dynamics of domestic abuse
- Ensuring our justice system holds perpetrators accountable



## ANNA'S STORY

SONAS OUTREACH SUPPORT WORKER

"It's funny when people ask what you do. Some people do ask questions but others already presume they know all about it. Like abuse only happens to a certain kind of woman.

But honestly, over the last year, I've worked with such a variety of women from different backgrounds. Women who own their own homes, women who work and women who don't work, Irish women, migrants. Women who have been beaten, sexually assaulted, psychologically abused. Some women who are living in fear of their lives.

***People do ask questions but others already presume they know all about it.***

One woman had to meet me during work time, her boss gave her the time off, she was worried her partner would be keeping an eye on her during lunch breaks because he worked locally. She said he had threatened to kill her a few times. She didn't know if he would really go through with it, but she was scared enough to look for help. Our support included offering her refuge, helping her to safety plan and encouraging her to report the threats and keep any evidence of the threats.

So when someone says to me now that it's only this kind of woman that gets abused, I just shake my head and say that's not true. I know because that's not what I see every day."

# Core Principles

## How we Work with Victims of Domestic Abuse...

Sonas exists to support services to women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their safety is our priority; their needs shape our response.

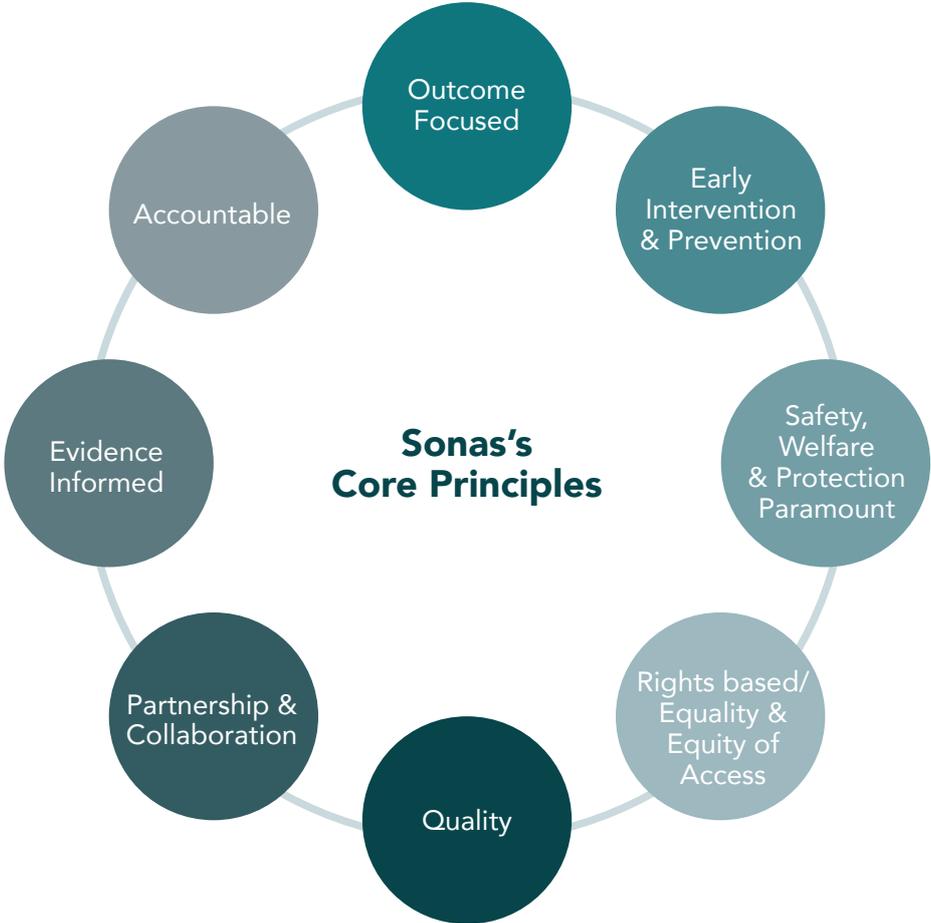
We do this by providing client-centred, needs-led, quality, effective and outcomes-focused services to women and children.

**Safety, welfare and protection are our paramount considerations.**

Sonas’s mission is to meet the support needs of women and children. This means we identify where needs are not being met and respond.

We look to the future, anticipating and planning for emerging needs.

We work from a partnership basis, with the women and children we support as our primary partners.



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# CEO Foreword

Sonas exists to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their safety is our priority and their needs shape our response. It is a simple statement, but it reinforces our commitment to always start with the client and what they need at a particular time.

In 2015, Sonas supported 1,250 women and children experiencing domestic abuse, the highest figure since Sonas came into existence 23 years earlier.

In the midst of these numbers, we never lose sight that each of these women and children is an individual. Victims of domestic abuse do overcome these challenges; we support them every day to come through their experiences. It would be naïve and dishonest not to say that the challenges victims face can seem overwhelming when allied with poverty, homelessness or risk of homelessness, insecure immigration status, disability, addiction, mental health issues or additional criminality on the part of perpetrators.

One of the biggest challenges facing us as an organisation in 2015 was the impact of the current accommodation crisis. We know that women were afraid to seek help, particularly refuge, because they feared they would become homeless. Women in refuge told us that they felt their choice was to go back to stay with family and friends, and if that wasn't available, to go back home to almost inevitably more abuse or go to homeless services.

As a service provider, we offer all clients follow-on services and support, whether staying with friends and family, returning home or going to homeless services. This support takes the form of supporting a woman to:

- apply for a legal order
- risk assessment and safety planning with women and children
- accommodation advocacy
- advocacy with other professionals to ensure additional support or continuity of support
- structured follow-on support where we work with women and children in whichever situation they find themselves.

We are highly aware that the more effective responses for clients are provided in partnership with other services and agencies, both statutory and non: Tusla social work teams across the Greater Dublin Region and Wicklow, An Garda Síochana, family support, child and adult mental health services, local authorities and other domestic abuse organisations.

Sonas Safe Home, an innovative service response to women and children in need of support and suitable crisis accommodation, was successfully evaluated by Trinity College Dublin during the year. Safe Home could only have happened through a partnership between Sonas and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, with the support of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, Tusla – the Child and Family Agency and An Garda Síochana.

Our hope for 2016 is that we can maintain this service as part of our overall services' response to the range of challenges, primarily safety, facing women and children experiencing domestic abuse.



**Fiona Ryan**  
CEO Sonas Domestic Violence Charity

# Sonas: A Big Thank You...

2015 was the year Sonas moved to being primarily funded by Tusla – the Child and Family Agency. We had previously been funded by a combination of Tusla and the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE).

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While 2015 marked the end of our funding relationship with DRHE, its investment in facilitating Sonas to develop flexible services in response to particularly complex needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse continues.

Our work in 2015 was made possible thanks to funding from:

- Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Safe Home)
- Wicklow County Council

Funding is a pre-requisite in providing wide-ranging, quality services. Skilled professional staff enable the organisation to deliver effective, targeted services. It is Sonas's partnerships, however, with other agencies and services, statutory and non, that make the crucial difference in achieving better outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

We work daily with other domestic abuse support organisations, schools, creches, local authorities, Tusla social work teams, An Garda Síochána, the courts, health professionals, legal professionals, family support programmes, government departments, mental health and homeless support organisations, etc. The list could, and should, go on reflecting as it does the needs of the women and children we support. To all our partners we say a heart-felt thank you.

Within Sonas, our work is guided by a voluntary board which oversees the governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation under the leadership of Chairperson Anne McKeon. On behalf of all of us – thank you.

Quality services require dedicated professional teams to deliver them, we are grateful to have skilled, dedicated professionals working in our women's and children's support teams. Our services' colleagues are supported in turn by an organisational back-up team consisting of - HR, finance, IT and accommodation management.

As ever, our ultimate thanks are to the women and children whom we work with. Their experiences remind us daily of the reality of domestic abuse. Their courage and resilience also remind us that domestic abuse can be overcome.



## SONAS IN 2015

We Supported **over 1,250** Women and Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse

# 7,232



### INDIVIDUAL 1-ON-1 SUPPORT VISITS/SESSIONS

5,574 visits with Women

1,522 visits with Children

OVER  
**140**  
COURT  
ACCOMPANIMENTS



# 3,382

### TOTAL GROUP SESSIONS

# 3,280

Group Sessions with Children

Group Sessions with Women

# 102



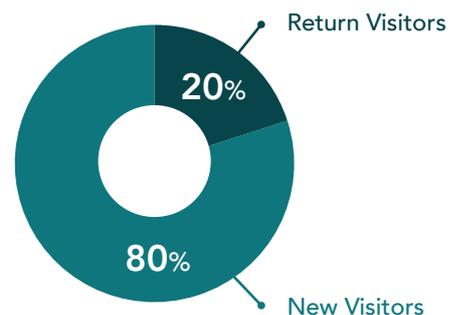
# 10,525

# 9,500+

SONAS'S  
DOMESTICABUSE.IE  
WEBSITE  
STATISTICS

Individual Users

Individual Sessions  
were Undertaken





## LAYLA'S STORY

"I have four children, this has been hard. My husband was very violent to me, the last time I felt he was going to kill me. He was sent to jail. Sonas has helped me to go to court without fear, knowing that we have support for myself and the children. Court has always been a challenging place to be for me, so knowing that I have support on each occasion has been something that I really appreciate.

I get support not just for court but for other important appointments. To know that I am not having to go to these on my own. I want to tell those that are dying in silence, to say that there is a place of hope for each and every one, you just need to ask."

*To know that I am not  
having to go to these  
on my own.*



# Sonas Services

## Supporting the Safety of Women and Children

Sonas exists to support women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their needs shape our response.

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Sonas provides services across the Greater Dublin Region and Wicklow.

We know from providing services over the past 23 years that needs can differ from individual to individual, based on personal circumstances. Needs can also change over time which is why Sonas developed our services to be flexible and responsive.

### Sonas Services...

- **Refuge:** 24/7 crisis accommodation service for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, including 24 hour crisis helpline.
- **Advice and Outreach:** A support service for women experiencing domestic abuse offering general advice and signposting to other services. The service also offers specific advice on risk and safety assessment/planning, court accompaniment and legal issues.
- **Court Accompaniment:** Sonas provides court accompaniment as an additional service to women who are already being supported by a Sonas service, as well as to women who may just want support going to court.
- **Visiting Support:** An intensive form of outreach support provided on a structured case management basis over a longer period.
- **Crisis Intervention Service:** Provided by the Visiting Support team, this is a specific support for women and children in homeless services and emergency hotel and B&B accommodation who are experiencing domestic abuse.

- **Children's Services:** Half of the people Sonas supports are under the age of 18; and 2 out of 3 are under the age of 10. Children's Services in Sonas are provided by a dedicated support team who work in every site-based service. The wellbeing, welfare and protection of a child or a young person is our priority across all services.

- **Long-term support via housing:** Sonas provides housing in different Dublin and Wicklow locations to women and children experiencing domestic abuse who may also have additional and/or complex needs.

The aim of the housing-based service is to provide women and children with structured support in designated accommodation for a period of time before progressing on to general housing.

- **Safe Home:** Women and children out of home due to domestic abuse are provided with intensive support and housed in the community in suitably security-outfitted accommodation.



IN 2015

**7,232**



**INDIVIDUAL 1-ON-1  
SUPPORT VISITS/SESSIONS**

5,574 visits with Women

1,522 visits with Children

# Sonas Services to Children

Domestic abuse robs children of their childhood. It steals away their sense of safety, their understanding of the most fundamental relationships in their lives, their sense of self... Like other forms of abuse, it attacks children at their core level of being.

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It wasn't so long ago that society viewed domestic abuse as an adult-only type of abuse, an adult-only experience where children were either unaware or witnesses at most. The effects of witnessing a parent being degraded, beaten and/or sexually assaulted were not fully countenanced, and a perpetrator could be viewed an acceptable parenting figure because they weren't directly abusing the children.

In Sonas, we have been supporting children experiencing domestic abuse for over 20 years, so we knew then, and we know now, this view is erroneous. All the evidence now shows that children are traumatised by witnessing abuse of the non-abusive parent and legislation recognises that domestic abuse is the emotional abuse of children. We also know that far from disregarding children or viewing them as collateral damage, perpetrators actively seek to abuse children as part of their coercive control of the whole family or to specifically further control the non-abusive parent.

Sonas supports hundreds of children every year who have witnessed abuse of a parent or been abused themselves. In 2015, our teams worked across our services to support over 700 children through direct work with children themselves, parenting work with their mothers and, frequently, a combination of both.

We supported children who had witnessed abuse and directly experienced abuse; physically and psychologically, their most basic needs for safety and care neglected. We used art, therapeutic play and structured activities to give children the space to safely disclose their experiences, process their emotions and, very importantly, sometimes to just play.

Many children struggled to make sense of their experiences. How do you find the words when you are seven years old to describe seeing your mother's face covered in blood? Or reconcile the father that you still love with the man who beat your mother so badly she had to be taken from home in an ambulance? Or understand why your mother cries when all you did was call her the same things your father does?

Sonas, in 2015, worked with other agencies and services to provide supports to these children; sometimes in a lead capacity and at other times providing the specialist intervention needed. Our aim was, and is, to provide the best child-centred support services we can, where the needs of the child shape our response.



IN 2015

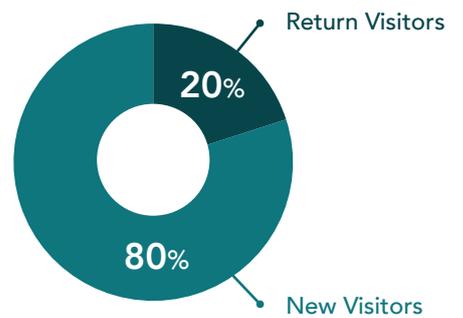
SONAS'S  
DOMESTICABUSE.IE  
WEBSITE  
STATISTICS

9,500+

Individual Users

10,525

Individual Sessions  
were Undertaken



# Sonas Safe Home Service

Sonas Safe Home Service is an innovative response established to provide an alternative to refuge. This service is for women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse but may not necessarily be at the level of risk or need required for refuge.

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In 2011, Sonas Domestic Violence Charity, in conjunction with the Homeless Agency and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, carried out a feasibility study to examine the need for a domestic violence refuge in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) local authority area. It was agreed that emergency refuge accommodation was needed, but, in the constrained economic climate of the time, it was decided that it would too costly to establish a refuge service.

Sonas would still maintain that there is a need for a refuge in an area which has close to a quarter of a million people living within its boundaries; the equivalent of the combined city populations of Cork and Limerick.

Using our experience of providing accommodation-based supports to women and children experiencing domestic abuse, Sonas submitted a development proposal to the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in late 2013; the service entered its development phase in the first half of 2014 and became operational in the second half of the year.

The involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the pilot phase of the service was key to its successful development. Representatives from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, its administrative staff, Tusla – the Child and Family Agency and An Garda Síochána with Sonas staff meant that the service received the necessary co-operation and strategic intervention at crucial stages of its development.

In September 2015, Sonas commissioned Dr Stephanie Holt of Trinity College Dublin's Social Work and Social Policy Department and Dr Mark Ward, of the university's Sociology Department, to evaluate the service. The results of the evaluation were overwhelmingly positive.

“Throughout the evaluation, impact was understood to occur at three different levels. At the level of service provision it is clearly felt by professionals as making a significant difference as it is providing a service that otherwise would not exist in this very mixed socio-economic area. This impact is observed to also extend to the service users who are encouraged to think about options and subsequently supported in that process – options that clearly for this cohort of service users were not conceivable before entering Safe Home. The third impact highlighted is one of prevention. Having the option of Safe Home, particularly for a cohort that would not use refuge, is understood to prevent low and mid-tier cases from escalating to a high risk one.”

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## Sonas Safe Home Service

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Continued

Or as one client, Lauren, put it:

“I’m different because of Safe Home... there was ‘Lauren then [before Safe Home] and Lauren now’. I thank Safe Home for making me stronger.”

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Even with this positive evaluation, there were significant challenges to the service, sustainability being one and the other being the lack of appropriate affordable follow-on accommodation for women and children homeless because of domestic abuse. Long-term homelessness as a result of fleeing domestic abuse is not likely to encourage victims to seek help.

Until the Government, local authorities and housing providers understand the impact of the current accommodation crisis and put in place the actions needed to prioritise the safety of victims of domestic abuse, victims are at risk (again) of significant harm and abuse.

### **Safe Home: Our Work**

The goal of the Sonas Safe Home service is to provide safe and secure crisis accommodation, with supports, for women and children who have had to leave home due to domestic abuse. The Sonas Safe Home service is staffed by members of both the Women and Children’s Support teams.

Our support work includes:

- Providing secure accommodation and settling women and children in for their stay
- Providing risk and safety assessment and planning
- Providing emotional support
- Supporting women to advocate on their own behalf; where appropriate Sonas advocates on behalf of a woman or a child with agencies and services
- Providing accompaniment services, including court accompaniment, for example, to secure a legal order
- Ensuring that women and children supported by Safe Home move safely on to appropriate accommodation
- Linking with relevant follow-on services that meet the identified needs of clients.



## EMILY'S STORY

Emily, her mother and brother fled from their home after social workers raised safety concerns when Emily's father threatened to buy a gun.

Emily and her family were supported by Sonas Safe Home Service but not before they discovered Emily's father had put a plan in place to track them down:

The night previous I saw an app downloaded called Life 360 and it's what my uncle and my aunt use so they're connected and they know where each other are, whereas my Dad was using it as a little spy network to track where I was, so I had to delete that off my phone the night before and I turned off all the locations and then I just remembered when we got [to Safe Home], I was like Mum where's your phone?? And I looked through everything, all the location services were on, everything was on, she had Life 360 hidden behind a whole load of apps that he had put in, I was like dear god and then I went to [brother's] iPad and the location was on, he must have put it on but I just turned it off. I was like dear God what's going on here? Mum give me your phone!!! \*

*Dad was using it as a little spy network to track where I was...*

\*The above story was recounted to Dr Stephanie Holt of Trinity College Dublin in her evaluation of Sonas's Safe Home Service



# Training and Awareness in Sonas

## Supporting our Partners to Work with Domestic Abuse

Sonas has been providing support services to women and children for over 20 years.

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As part of our commitment to working in partnership with other services and agencies, we routinely provide training to charities, community-based organisations and statutory bodies:

- on domestic abuse in general
- on the impact of domestic abuse on women, children and families.

One of our key specialist areas is working directly with children experiencing domestic abuse. Our experience has been developed in practice-based contexts working with hundreds of child victims of domestic abuse every year in one to one settings, via groups or supporting their mothers to rebuild the parent-child bond.

Our training is practical and focussed and informed by our practice-based learning of providing direct supports.

### What they say about Sonas training and awareness work...

*"I would like to extend our sincere thanks to you both for coming to meet with us, we all really appreciated the excellent presentation and discussion that lead on from it.*

The themes and issues raised have given us lots of "food for thought" and we are hoping to take some of the suggestions forward to include an educational piece re DV in our groups and also to consider different ways of exploring this issue as part of our assessment."

NIAP, Temple Street,  
Children's University Hospital

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*"Many thanks again for a brilliant presentation and briefing session this morning. The team really enjoyed it and felt they learned a lot of excellent first-hand knowledge.*

*We look forward to working with Sonas in the future."*

Merchants Quay Ireland

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*"Informative and interesting – definitely increased my knowledge of domestic violence issues."*

*"Learned more about agency support from initial referral to helping an individual experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence out of their homeless situation and into safe accommodation and rebuilding their lives."*

*"I feel the session has helped me very much – I am better informed and therefore will be more confident dealing with clients who are facing domestic violence – I have the knowledge now of what services are available and I am confident when making a referral or even just when talking to a client and trying to encourage them to engage with services that will assist them"*

Responses from participants including representatives from Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, HSE Programme for the Homeless and Dublin City Council Place Finders Service.

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# Directors and Other Information

## Board of Directors

Sile McGuckian Fitzpatrick

Jacqueline Cremin

Anne McKeon  
*(Resigned 22 June 2016)*

Theresa Sweeney  
*(Resigned 21 October 2015)*

Deirdre Murphy  
*(Resigned 21 October 2015)*

Mary Connolly  
*(Appointed 21 April 2015)*

Olive Killoury  
*(Appointed 21 April 2015)*

Margaret Dent  
*(Appointed 6 April 2016)*

## Secretary and Registered Office

Mary Connolly  
*(Appointed 21 October 2015)*

Sile McGuckian Fitzpatrick  
*(Resigned 21 October 2015)*

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited  
5 Aston Quay  
Dublin 2  
D02 K504

## Chief Executive Officer

Fiona Ryan

## Company Registration Number

195618

## Charity Registration Number

CHY 10872

## Auditors

Duignan Carthy O'Neill

Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors  
84 Northumberland Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

## Principal Bankers

Bank of Ireland  
371 North Circular Road  
Dublin 7

## Solicitors

Hayes Solicitors  
Lavery House  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 1

# Directors' Report

## for the year ended 31 December 2015

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The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 for consideration at the annual general meeting.

### Principal Activity

Sonas was established to provide refuge, support and accommodation to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. The organisation has charitable status. It was established as a voluntary housing association and granted approved status under section 6 of the 1992 Housing Act by the Minister of the Environment.

### Results for the Year and State of Affairs at 31 December 2015

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2015 and Balance Sheet as at that date are set out on pages 31 to 32. The deficit amounted to €56,896 with figures rounded up if 0.5 and over, compared to a deficit of €63,816 in the previous year. A nil charge to taxation arose and accordingly an amount of €56,896 was credited from reserves.

### Legal Status

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital incorporated under the Companies Acts 1963 to 1990. Membership of the company is unlimited. The liability of each member of the company is limited to €1. Although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) as issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales in October 2005 the company has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. All activities of the company are charitable.

### Properties Operated by Sonas

Sonas operated 110 properties in 2015 primarily in the Greater Dublin Area with the addition of Wicklow Town. Properties in Killester, Ringsend, Clondalkin, Wicklow and Stepaside are used to provide: accommodation-based support services to women and children. Sonas also operates a crisis refuge in Blanchardstown. Sonas has additional properties in Ranelagh, Tallaght, Belmayne and Ballymun which are used to: provide longer term accommodation to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse; Safe Homes i.e. an alternative to refuge for women and children at lower risk/need; as well as shorter term post-refuge "step-down" accommodation.

### Sonas Housing Partnership

The Sonas Housing Partnership (SHP) is the name given to a management arrangement between Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited and two other services: Meath Women's Aid Housing Association Limited and the Mayo Women's Support Service. Established in 1998 its aim was to replicate the Sonas model of accommodation based support.

### Board of Management

Within Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited there is a voluntary board of management established for good governance which provides oversight and strategic direction for the organisation. There are no other volunteers participating in Sonas other than the Board members.

### Staffing

In 2015, Sonas employed an average of 40 full time staff, and a relief panel which varied between 8 and 10 part time staff. Of the 40 full time staff, 32 work directly with women and children across Sonas services including Sonas's Crisis Refuge, community-based services (Visiting Support,

## Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

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Advice and Outreach and Court Accompaniment), high support long-term supported housing as well as Safe Home and additional accommodation-based supports.

The Sonas executive management team consists of the CEO, the Head of Services, Finance Manager, Housing and Property Manager and HR Manager.

### Funding and Income

Sonas in 2015 was primarily funded by Tusla - the Child and Family Agency who gave €1,911,130 in statutory grant aid to the charity in the year. Some additional funding was received from local authorities, most notably Wicklow County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council for specific services. There were in addition annual housing Maintenance and Management fees from relevant local authorities.

- Rents receivable make up 13% of total income, and amounted to €340,317 for the year.
- Fundraising and donations represents less than 1% of total income, and amounted to €11,172 for the year.
- All of the above funding received, with the exception of monies fundraised, is restricted funding.
- The balance of grant and revenue funding is for revenue expenditure. These revenue funds are to cover the running of all support services including housing.

Out of the €340,317 of rental income, the board agreed to ring-fence a minimum of 20% of rental income from non-refuge accommodation and 100% of its refuge rental income, into a building maintenance reserve with the balance going towards the annual running costs associated with the provision of high-quality accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

### Pensions

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the majority of the employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the company in independently administered funds. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year. The pension scheme is separate to the charity and is managed by Zurich with an oversight role held by TAB and an annual review is undertaken by an independent actuary engaged by Sonas. Investments are managed by Finance One.

### Internal Controls

Sonas follows the financial reporting protocols of its statutory funders including quarterly reports; management accounts and audited accounts.

The company prepares quarterly management accounts which are reviewed by the Finance and Property sub-committee and by the board and an independent audit is undertaken annually.

There is a formal organisational structure in place with clearly defined lines of responsibility, division of duties and delegation of authority and a dedicated finance manager.

Sonas has strict policies and procedures in place for the receipt, recording and control of donations.

Sonas has signed up to the DOECLG Voluntary Regulation Code for approved housing bodies, published in July 2013 and is compliant with the Tier 2 requirements.

# Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

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## Risk

Sonas directors are aware of the statutory obligations in relation to providing a fair review of the company's development and performance. The directors are satisfied that a principal risk facing the company is the availability of continued funding from the Government. The directors have addressed this risk by competent spending of the funds received, ensuring tenancies are sustained and properties adequately maintained. 2015 went according to budget with all planned services delivered at cost. There were no significant events and Tusla agreed the 2015 SLA and allowed Sonas to draw down their grant as committed. Risk is managed in accordance with our policy. Our future position is dependent upon us continuing to deliver services in accordance with Tusla requirements.

## Directors

In accordance with the Articles of Association half the members of the Board of Management shall retire from office at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.

## Future Developments

Sonas's starting point is always the needs of women and children experiencing domestic abuse; their specific safety and welfare needs shape our response. We will continue to provide effective services, innovating and adapting services to produce the best outcomes for the women and children we support our partners whom we work with, and our funders. The Sonas building maintenance reserve is a fund designated by the board which is to be used to meet the future costs of maintaining the Sonas housing units in good order and to maximise their useful life.

## Accounting Records

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities under Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to keep adequate accounting records for the company. To this end, the directors allocate appropriate resources to secure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

The books and records are kept at 5 Aston Quay, Dublin 2.

## Auditors

The auditors, Duignan Carthy O'Neill, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014.

# Directors' Responsibilities Statement

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The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Irish GAAP) giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for each financial year. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the charitable company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the charitable company; enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the charitable company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014; and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# Independent Auditors' Report

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We have audited the financial statements of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited for the year ended 31 December 2015 on pages 31 to 43, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 25 and 28. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act, 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement the directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). These standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practice Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

## Opinion on Financial Statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2015 and of its deficit for the year then ended: and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, the requirements of the Companies Act, 2014.

## Independent Auditors' Report

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014**

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion, the information given in the directors' report on pages 25 - 27 is consistent with the financial statements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 306 to 312 of the Act are not made.

**Liam McQuaid**  
for and on behalf of  
**Duignan Carthy O'Neill**

Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors  
84 Northumberland Road  
Dublin 4  
Ireland

# Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2015

## Income and Expenditure - Continuing Operations

		Restricted Funds 2015	Designated Funds 2015	Unrestricted Funds 2015	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Corporation & Grant Funding	2.9	2,372,170	-	-	2,372,170	1,990,862
Other Income		5,663			5,663	24,021
Rental Income		78,227	262,090	-	340,317	319,518
Donations & Fundraising		-	11,172	-	11,172	9,591
Amortisation of grant income		-	-	321,937	321,937	328,382
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		2,456,060	273,262	321,937	3,051,259	2,672,374
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
Crisis Intervention and Provision of Support Services		(2,379,604)	(681)	-	(2,380,285)	(2,214,651)
Depreciation		-	-	(412,946)	(412,946)	(398,089)
Legal, Professional and Administration		-	-	(73,697)	(73,697)	(60,288)
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		(2,379,604)	(681)	(486,643)	(2,866,928)	(2,673,028)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		76,456	272,581	(164,706)	184,331	(654)
Provision for building maintenance reserve		-	(262,090)	-	(262,090)	(72,882)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities before interest</b>	3	76,456	10,491	(164,706)	(77,759)	(73,536)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	-	-	20,863	20,863	9,720
<b>Deficit for the year</b>		76,456	10,491	(143,843)	(56,896)	(63,816)
<b>Deficit retained for the year</b>	13	76,456	10,491	(143,843)	(56,896)	(63,816)

# Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Intangible assets		-	-
Tangible assets	<b>7</b>	15,431,708	15,783,980
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	<b>8</b>	32,327	121,072
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>9</b>	1,346,760	1,346,819
		<u>1,379,087</u>	<u>1,467,891</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>10</b>	<u>(177,417)</u>	<u>(206,660)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		1,201,670	1,261,231
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		16,633,378	17,045,211
<b>Restricted Government Grants</b>	<b>11</b>	<u>(15,774,385)</u>	<u>(16,096,321)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>858,993</u>	<u>948,890</u>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>			
Building Maintenance Reserve	<b>12</b>	497,937	530,938
Accumulated Funds		<u>361,056</u>	<u>417,952</u>
<b>Funds</b>	<b>13</b>	<u>858,993</u>	<u>948,890</u>

# Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	€	€
<b>Reconciliation of operating surplus/(deficit) to net cash and cash equivalents</b>		
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(77,759)	(73,536)
Depreciation	412,946	398,089
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	88,745	(108,629)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(127,243)	44,754
Government grant released	(321,937)	(328,382)
Provision for building maintenance reserve	262,090	72,882
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>236,842</b>	<b>5,178</b>
<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>		
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>236,842</b>	<b>5,178</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Interest receivable	20,863	9,720
Capital expenditure	(60,673)	(27,616)
Capital Grants Received	-	6,730
Building Maintenance Reserve Expended	(197,091)	(113,770)
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>(119,758)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Deferred reserves/Income	-	-
Capital Grant received	-	-
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>(119,758)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds</b>		
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>(119,758)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2015</b>	<b>1,346,819</b>	<b>1,466,577</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2015</b>	<b>1,346,760</b>	<b>1,346,819</b>

# Statement of Changes in Funds

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>Building Maintenance Reserve</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	€	€	€
<b>At 1 January 2015</b>	417,952	530,938	948,890
Retained deficit for the year	(56,896)	-	(56,896)
Utilisation of Building Maintenance Reserve	-	(197,091)	(197,091)
Transfer to Building Maintenance Reserve	-	164,090	164,090
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<u>361,056</u>	<u>497,937</u>	<u>858,993</u>
In respect of prior year:			
<b>At 1 January 2014</b>	481,768	571,825	1,053,593
Retained deficit for the year	(63,816)	-	(63,816)
Utilisation of Building Maintenance Reserve	-	(113,769)	(113,769)
Transfer to Building Maintenance Reserve	-	72,882	72,882
<b>At 31 December 2014</b>	<u>417,952</u>	<u>530,938</u>	<u>948,890</u>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015

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## 1. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements of Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited incorporated in the Republic of Ireland have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014.

## 2. Accounting Policies

### 2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Act 2014, and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by Chartered Accountants Ireland and issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Sonas is a public benefit entity with the main objectives of working towards the elimination of violence towards women and children and assisting them with their housing needs arising from the abuse they have suffered. The charity does not carry out any income generating activities.

### 2.2. Transition to FRS 102

The entity transitioned from previous ROI GAAP to FRS 102 as at 1 January 2015. Details of how FRS 102 has affected the reported financial position and financial performance are given in note 17.

### 2.3. Judgments and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Long-lived assets comprising of property represent significant portion of total assets. The annual depreciation and amortisation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of residual values. The directors regularly review these useful lives and change them if necessary to reflect current conditions. In determining these useful lives management consider physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the property assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation and amortisation charge for the financial year. The net book value of Tangible Fixed Assets subject to depreciation at the financial year end date was €15,431,708.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### 2.4. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

All tangible fixed assets are recorded at historic cost.

Depreciation is on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land & Buildings	2% Straight Line
Office Equipment	20% Straight Line
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	20% Straight Line
Motor Vehicles	20% Straight Line

The carrying values of the tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

### 2.5. Pensions

Pension benefits for employees are met by payments to a defined contribution pension fund.

The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

### 2.6. Taxation

The company is exempt from taxation due to its charitable status.

### 2.7. Government Grants

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to

which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income. Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the same period as the related expenditure.

### 2.8. Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Debt instruments like accounts receivable and payable are initially measured at present value of the future payments and subsequently at amortised cost using effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade payables and receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

### 2.9. Income

Income represents the total of grants, donations and rental income related to the year.

Income is received in cash by way of donations, gifts, grants and fund-raising events. Cash donations, gifts and grants are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as they are received. Cash collected from fund-raising events is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as it is credited in the bank.

Bank interest received is included in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as it is credited to the bank account. Rental income is accrued for the year to which it relates.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### 2.9. Income (continued)

<b>Revenue-based Grant Income</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Dublin City Council/Dublin Region Homeless Executive	163,114	639,018
Tusla - DML	636,492	222,923
Tusla - DNE	1,274,639	923,782
Fingal Co. Council	3,981	4,071
South Dublin Co. Council	10,860	10,860
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	160,668	102,811
Mayo Co. Council	1,744	45,228
Meath Co. Council	2,172	2,172
Wicklow Co. Council	118,500	39,997
Other Grants	-	-
	<b>2,372,170</b>	<b>1,990,862</b>

<b>Income Received from Grant Funders</b>	<b>Received and released in 2015</b>	<b>Deferred from 2014</b>	<b>Deferred to 2015</b>	<b>Per Financial Statements 2015</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Dublin City Council/Dublin Region Homeless Executive	163,114	-	-	163,114
Fingal Co. Council	3,981	-	-	3,981
South Dublin Co. Council	10,860	-	-	10,860
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	160,668	-	-	160,668
Tusla - DML	636,492	-	-	636,492
Tusla - DNE	1,274,639	-	-	1,274,639
Mayo Co. Council	1,744	-	-	1,744
Meath Co. Council	2,172	-	-	2,172
Wicklow Co. Council	80,000	38,500	-	118,500
	<b>2,333,670</b>	<b>38,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,372,170</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### Expenditure

All expenditure is charged in the period to which it relates.

### 3. Deficit for the Year

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	€	€
Operating deficit is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	412,946	398,089
Auditors' remuneration	8,302	8,302
and after crediting:		
Government grants amortised	(321,937)	(328,382)

### 4. Interest Receivable and Similar Income

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	€	€
Bank interest	20,863	9,720

### 5. Pension Costs

The company operates one defined contribution scheme for eligible employees. Pension costs amounted to €48,663 (2014 - €37,039). The assets of the fund are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### 6. Employees

#### Number of Employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the directors) during the year were:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
All employees	40	38
<b>Employment costs</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Wages and salaries - support staff for women and children	1,450,467	1,277,753
Wages and salaries - administration support staff	254,992	267,460
Social welfare costs - support staff for women and children	153,056	135,194
Social welfare costs - administration support staff	27,635	28,281
Pension costs - support staff for women and children	40,627	10,375
Pension costs - administration support staff	8,036	26,664
	<b>1,934,813</b>	<b>1,745,727</b>

#### Employment Benefits Breakdown

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
€60,000 - €69,999	1	-
€70,000 - €79,999	-	-
€80,000 - €89,999	-	1
€90,000 - €99,999	1	-
€100,000 - €109,999	-	-
€110,000 - €119,999	-	-
€120,000 - €129,999	-	-
€130,000 - €139,999	-	-
€140,000 - €149,999	-	-
€150,000 - €159,999	-	-
€160,000 - €169,999	-	-

Directors' salary for 2015 was €Nil (2014: €Nil).

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### 7. Tangible Assets

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings Equipment</b>	<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>Total</b>
	€	€	€	€	€
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2015	18,984,697	150,502	173,206	16,700	19,325,105
Additions	16,298	35,975	8,400	-	60,673
At 31 December 2015	19,000,995	186,477	181,606	16,700	19,385,778
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2015	3,259,172	141,018	135,089	5,845	3,541,124
Charge for the year	384,899	10,643	14,064	3,340	412,946
At 31 December 2015	3,644,071	151,661	149,153	9,185	3,954,070
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 December 2015	15,356,924	34,816	32,453	7,515	15,431,708
At 31 December 2014	15,725,524	9,484	38,117	10,855	15,783,980

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings Equipment</b>	<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>Total</b>
	€	€	€	€	€
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2014	18,962,482	150,502	167,805	16,700	19,297,488
Additions	22,215	-	5,401	-	27,616
At 31 December 2014	18,984,697	150,502	173,206	16,700	19,325,105
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2014	2,879,597	137,558	123,375	2,505	3,143,035
Charge for the year	379,575	3,460	11,714	3,340	398,089
At 31 December 2014	3,259,172	141,018	135,089	5,845	3,541,124
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 December 2014	15,725,524	9,484	38,117	10,855	15,783,980
At 31 December 2013	16,082,884	12,944	44,430	14,195	16,154,453

Sonas Domestic Violence Charity Limited has secured title to 96% of the Land and Buildings included above at 31 December 2015. The company continues to apply resources to secure full title to the remaining 4% of these properties.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### 8. Debtors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Rent Receivable	119	119
Staff Tax Saver	3,183	4,148
Prepayments and Accrued Income	29,025	116,805
	<b>32,327</b>	<b>121,072</b>

### 9. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Current Accounts	138,695	142,877
Deposit Account		
- Amount set aside to provide for a Building Maintenance Reserve	497,937	530,938
- Other Deposits	707,048	669,980
Petty Cash	3,080	3,024
	<b>1,346,760</b>	<b>1,346,819</b>

The funds held in the current account are restricted to the running of the service and the charity. All monies held in the deposit accounts are restricted funds to cover charity running costs and the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund.

### 10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Credit Card	2,365	-
Trade Creditors	24,644	60,315
Pension	(7,490)	(725)
Impact Union Fees	321	417
Other Taxes and Social Security Costs	45,119	57,605
Accruals & Deferred Income	111,982	88,885
Other Creditors	476	163
	<b>177,417</b>	<b>206,660</b>
<b>Other taxes and social security costs include:</b>		
PAYE & PRSI	45,119	57,605

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

### 11. Housing Loans - CLSS & CAS

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
At 1 January 2015	16,096,321	16,417,973
Increase in year	-	6,730
	16,096,321	16,424,703
Released in year	(321,936)	(328,382)
At 31 December 2015	15,774,385	16,096,321

The company owns properties in Killester, Clondalkin, Ballina, Navan, Ringsend, Ballymun, Blanchardstown, Stepside, Belmayne, Tallaght and Wicklow. Housing loans are secured by specific charges on the charity's land and housing properties. No capital or interest repayments are required to be made on the above loans provided that the charity continues to comply with certain specific requirements of the local authorities with regard to the properties for which housing loans have been provided.

### 12. Building Maintenance Reserve

The company has a building maintenance reserve. This reserve is to meet contingency building maintenance expenditure that may arise on housing stock. This reserve has a balance of €497,937 at 31 December 2015 (2014: €530,938).

### 13. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Restricted Funds - Current Year	76,456	47,539
Designated Funds - Current Year	10,491	8,920
Unrestricted Funds - Current Year	(143,843)	(120,275)
Deficit for the year	(56,896)	(63,816)
(Decrease)/Increase in Building Maintenance Reserve	(33,001)	(40,887)
	(89,897)	(104,703)
Opening Funds brought forward	948,890	1,053,593
	858,993	948,890

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

## 13. Reconciliation of Movements in Funds (continued)

Closing Reserves allocated as follows:

	<b>Opening Surplus/(Deficit) 01/01/15</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Closing Surplus/(Deficit) 31/12/15</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Restricted Funds	830,719	76,456	907,175
Designated Funds	133,052	10,491	143,543
Unrestricted Funds	(868,037)	(143,843)	(1,011,880)
Un-allocated reserves prior to 1/1/07	322,218	-	322,218
Building Maintenance Reserve	530,938	(33,001)	497,937
	<b>948,890</b>	<b>(89,897)</b>	<b>858,993</b>

Reserves consist of designated reserves specifically held to cover the cost of future capital works on the Sonas property portfolio. Accumulated reserves held to cover general costs of Sonas not contained in the Tusla annual grant.

## 14. Ultimate Parent Undertaking

The company is controlled by its Members and the Board of Directors.

## 15. Contingent Liabilities

As outlined in Note 1, the company has received government grants for revenue purposes. Should these grants not be used for the purpose specified, the grants will become repayable in whole or in part.

## 16. Key management Personnel Compensation

The compensation paid to key management personnel during the year ended 31 December 2015 amounted to €260,863.

## 17. Transition to FRS 102

These are the first financial statements that comply with FRS 102. The company transitioned to FRS 102 on 1 January 2015.

### Reconciliation of Equity

No transitional adjustments were required.

### Reconciliation of Surplus or Deficit for the Year

No transitional adjustments were required.

## 18. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statement were approved by the Board of Directors on 27 September 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

**Mary Connolly**, Company Secretary

**Síle McGuckian Fitzpatrick**, Chairperson





Sonas supported over **1,250** women and children  
experiencing domestic abuse in 2015

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Sonas responded to over **3,000** phone  
calls from women looking for support

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Sonas supported women and children  
from over **30** nationalities

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Sonas is there 24/7

**365 Days of the Year**

Emergency Help Number

**01 866 2015**

For Advice, Outreach, Court Accompaniment

**087 952 5217**

Sonas Main Office 5, Aston Quay, Dublin 2 Tel: 01 671 8092 Eircode: D02 K504

Sonas Viva, Crisis Refuge Tel: 01 866 2015

Email: [info@sonasdomesticabuse.ie](mailto:info@sonasdomesticabuse.ie) [www.domesticabuse.ie](http://www.domesticabuse.ie)

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