

RCFV - ANONYMOUS

For several months, a group of us has been looking into our capacity as volunteers to contribute at the community level to work in the area of domestic violence.

WHY

It seems to us that a problem so pervasive calls for legal, professional and volunteer contributors finding and implementing solutions together.

The involvement of volunteers from the community would mean that the nature of the problems and solutions would be more widely known and understood. Thus a volunteer contribution would seem to be potentially preventative as well as helpful.

EXPERIENCE

We have not been able to build a responsible and well informed base from which to set up community activity or, indeed, even to assess if it is called for.

New approaches are needed.

Although domestic violence in its many forms is widely present in our society at many levels, it is camouflaged. Whatever network of authorities, organisations and community groups is working in the area, many of them probably very successfully, it has not been possible for us to build up a framework better than our fragmented individual experiences. So what can we do?

Assuming that the Commission will map activity, we suggest that a body which can continue to integrate the approaches and experiences of professional, legal and volunteer groups is called for. The reliance of our society on volunteer activity is escalating and likely to do so. It need to be intergrated

I would be prepared to go into detail about how this could work but have been late in learning that submissions were called for and so cannot do so in time to meet your deadline.

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