

legalisation of the adult sex trade to the criminalisation of prostitution will be under consideration when oral submissions from various groups aligned to the Turn off the Red Light (TORL) campaign, including Limerick's Doras Luimní, will be made to the Oireachtas Justice Committee this week.

Last summer, the Department of Justice prepared a discussion document seeking written submissions from groups, both for and against criminalisation. Over 1000 submissions were received and the public hearing process began in December and is to

delivered to Government that the people of Limerick want to see an end to trafficking, prostitution and activities associated with the sex trade.

With the local authorities backing the calls to make the paying for sex in Ireland illegal, Doras Luimní claims that policy changes would seriously impinge the flow of trafficked women into the sex trade operated by criminal gangs from both Ireland and Europe.

Referring to changes made in Swedish law, they state that the sex trade in Sweden has diminished and there is a marked reduction in the

they are concerned with the high numbers of migrant women engaged in on-street and organised prostitution in Limerick, largely controlled by pimps acting with relative impunity.

"We are also concerned with the lack of support services available to the women in terms of providing for their health needs as well as offering support to exit prostitution."

In a call to tackle the legislation, Doras Luimní maintains that while the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 created barriers to profiting from and controlling prostitution, the reality is that the

Diane Kelly, an anti-trafficking officer with TORL, said that the project has made huge strides in the past few years and the end goal is to have suitable legislation in place to combat trafficking and the supply of women to the sex trade.

Tackling demand, she says, is key.

She described the consultation process as a very welcome format to address the matter.

"It's getting worse. Many more women are being trafficked that we don't know about. The figures we have are just the tip of the iceberg", she said.

## Milford 10k

RUNNERS and walkers are being asked to support the Milford Hospice with a 10km charity event this Sunday January 20. The run/ walk will kick off at 9.30am outside the Stables Bar in University of Limerick. The official AAI measured route includes the scenic River Shannon, University and Plassey areas.

Cash prizes will be presented for first, second and third places in both male and female categories. Registration for the event is €20 and can be completed online at [eventmaster.ie/event.php](http://eventmaster.ie/event.php)

## Refugee opinions

THE United Nations High Commission for Refugees is seeking feedback from Limerick refugees about their experiences here. UNHCR is currently undertaking a research project and is looking for refugees from around the country to play an active role. "We are hoping that people from the Limerick region will get involved and tell us about their experience of integrating into local communities," a spokesperson said.

Refugees can choose to make their input confidentially. Contact Diana Gouveia on [gouveia@unhcr.org](mailto:gouveia@unhcr.org), see [www.unhcr.ie](http://www.unhcr.ie) or text/telephone 087 131 4234 for more information.

## Register the tank

LIMERICK TD Patrick O'Donovan is urging septic tank owners in the county to register their systems before the February 1 deadline to apply for a remediation grant under a government grant assistance scheme. "I'm encouraging septic tank owners in Limerick to register their system before February 1 to ensure they can apply for a grant in the unlikely event of remedial works being necessary. Septic tank inspections are due to get underway shortly, and the vast majority of systems are expected to pass without any issues", he said.

## The new Picasso

THE search is on to find Limerick's next Picasso. Brochures for the Texaco Children's Art Competition have been sent to all registered primary and second level schools throughout the county. Now in its 59th year, some 30,000 students around the country compete for the top prizes that are awarded across seven age categories, including one exclusively devoted to special needs students. The closing date for entries is Friday February 22. For full details see

## Choice Music Prize nomination for Limerick's Windings

LIMERICK band Windings has been nominated for the Meteor Choice Music Prize for their album, 'I Am Not The Crow'. This will be the first time that the band has been nominated for the award and is also the first nomination for independent label Out On A Limb records, also based in Limerick. The music prize live event will take place on Thursday, March 7 in Vicar Street, Dublin. Photo shows band members Steve Ryan, Brian Meaney, Liam Marley, Pa O'Brien and Mike Gavin



## "Criminal behaviour" in estates slammed

## City can't take any more Garda cutbacks

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