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14 July 2014

Minister Phil Hogan
Dept. of Environment, Community
& Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

Dear Minister Hogan,

RE : Funding of Donegal Women's Network.

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your decision to cut the funding of Donegal Women's Network (DWN) and the 16 other women's networks nationally. I have worked directly with Finola Brennan and her team and have learned a great deal about the nature of their work and the excellent support they provide to women throughout the county.

As project manager of Donegal Change Makers, an Irish Aid funded Development Education Project, I have worked in partnership with DWN on a project to raise awareness of gender equality and female representation to tie in with the recent local elections. The grass roots knowledge that DWN have of the women's groups in the county and the issues that women face in all aspects of their lives is extremely valuable. This knowledge is of great benefit to both statutory and community organisations and the network is an important part of the community infrastructure of Donegal.

The contribution that DWN makes to lives of women in the county cannot be underestimated, and I would urge you to ring fence the necessary funding to maintain this extremely important service for the county.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Wilkinson

[sent via email]

Kate Wilkinson, Project Manager
Donegal Change Makers

Directors: Anthony Doogan (Chairperson), Kevin Callaghan, Charlie Cavanagh, Cllr. Mickey Doherty, Raymond Doherty, Cllr. Rena Donaghey, Owen Doyle, Cllr. Martin Farren, Michael Ferry, Paddy Gallen, Cllr. James Gill, Eamon Glackin, Kevin Lake, Martin McDermott, Susan McGonagle, Dermott McLaughlin, John H McLaughlin, Lynn McLaughlin, Mura MacLochlainn, Paddy McLaughlin, Cllr John Ryan

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