

# HEARING VOICES NETWORK IRELAND

## *The Launch of a National Network*

The **Hearing Voices Network Ireland (HVNI)** invites you to its National launch on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 1.30 pm-4.30pm, at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2. The Network launch will be led by Jacqui Dillon, Chair of the Hearing Voices Network, England and founder of the Hearing Voices Movement worldwide, Professor Marius Romme from the Netherlands, on whose research the approach was founded.

With the launch of **Hearing Voices Network Ireland**, the Network joins over 30 nationally based networks around the world joined by shared goals and values, incorporating a fundamental belief that there are many ways to understand the experience of hearing voices and other unusual or extreme experiences. It is part of an international collaboration between people with lived experience, their families and professionals, to develop an alternative approach to coping with emotional distress that is empowering and useful to people, and does not start from the assumption that people who experience voice hearing have an illness.

Over the past 3 years, the Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing embarked upon a programme of training delivered by Jacqui Dillon in the development and facilitation of Hearing Voices groups. This training was delivered nationwide with the support of the mental health nursing programmes in TCD, UCC, DCU, NUIG, St Angela's, Sligo and UCD and the Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Units. Over 250 people; professionals, voice hearers and family members attended the facilitator training and to date over 15 groups have been established across the length and breadth of the country, with more groups in the process of development.

The event will also feature the official launch of the **Hearing Voices Network Ireland** logo created by Michelle Dalton, Irish Voice Hearer and artist, and the **Hearing Voices Network Ireland** ([www.hearingvoicesnetworkireland.ie](http://www.hearingvoicesnetworkireland.ie)) website. 'High Hopes', Ireland's first homeless choir will provide the entertainment on the day.

We will be most grateful if you would join us for the launch and to celebrate this momentous event.

**RSVP: [launch@hearingvoicesnetworkireland.ie](mailto:launch@hearingvoicesnetworkireland.ie) for  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

