



**HAVEN
HORIZONS**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Gripping book on domestic abuse and coercive control to be launched in Co. Clare.

30 Years Combating Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control

Light on the Horizon is the inspiring story of two women who said no to domestic abuse and of an entire community that walked that journey with them.

In 1992 Ennis women Colette Reddington and Mary Fitzgerald met by chance when they helped women who had experienced domestic abuse. As there was no refuge and no services for victims of domestic violence in Co. Clare, Colette and Mary first brought women into their own homes and organised B&B accommodation for them. They then secured a house that could accommodate one family at a time and Clare Haven was born.

They established a refuge, second-stage houses, a full range of outreach services and education programmes in Co. Clare. Unfortunately, it is an enduring statistic that one in four Irish women has been abused by a current or former partner. However, after 20 years there continued to be huge demand for the frontline services. Colette and Mary realised that in addition to the provision of support services, something else was needed.

Colette Redington, co-founder of Clare Haven and Haven Horizons says: “We realised that if we just kept providing refuge spaces, and if you fast-forwarded twenty years, some daughters would find themselves in the same situation as their mothers. We asked ourselves what we could do to break this cycle, so we set up Haven Horizons, a national education and research centre dedicated to preventing domestic abuse.”

The education and research centre developed a level-six certificate for frontline professionals ‘*Reflecting on and Responding to Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control*’ in collaboration with the Technological University of Shannon: Midlands and Midwest. It also promotes research that informs practice, policy, and legislation on a national level and brings visibility to the issue of domestic abuse and coercive control.

Madeline McAleer, research, training, and development director of Haven Horizons, says:

“Education is powerful, but it is using our shared knowledge to inform and influence practice, policy, and legislation that leads to structural and systemic change.”

Mary FitzGerald, co-founder of Clare Haven and Haven Horizons says: “What has been achieved in Clare is living proof of the truth of Margaret Mead’s words, never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, in fact it is the only thing that ever has.”

The public is invited to come and celebrate an important milestone in Co. Clare - the launch of the book ‘Light on the Horizon’ at a wine reception in The Old Ground Hotel, Ennis on 10 November at 6.30 pm.

Light on the Horizon will be available to buy at the launch, in selected Clare, Limerick, and Galway bookshops, in the Winding Stair bookshop, Dublin and online at the Ennis Bookshop and the Winding Stair. The book can be pre-ordered [via this link](#).

[Link to PDF](#)

For anyone affected by domestic abuse contact:

Women’s Aid 24-hour national freephone helpline – 1800 341 900

Clare Haven Services – 24-hour confidential helpline – 065 6822435

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Further Media information/Media Interviews contact

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Clare Haven Services offers refuge and support services to women experiencing domestic abuse. [Clare Haven Services](#)

Haven Horizons focuses on prevention activities including education, research, collaborative partnerships, and piloting best-practice models. [Haven Horizons](#)