

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE OF IRELAND
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The word 'addict' usually summons up a bleak picture of people whose lives have been destroyed by drugs. But we in Narcotics Anonymous (NA) have discovered a way to stop using drugs, and for over 25 years in Ireland we have been helping each other stay clean.

How do we do it? Well, next weekend in the CityWest Hotel in Dublin, a thousand addicts from all over Europe will gather together to celebrate recovery and enjoy themselves without the use of any mood-altering drugs. If you are interested in finding out more about NA, we would like to invite you to attend the convention, and we can also facilitate interviews with some of our members to talk about their recovery from addiction.

NA started in California in 1953 and since then has become a viable, respected program of recovery in over 130 countries and to date, NA literature has been translated into more than 28 languages. The first NA meetings in Europe were held during the late Seventies on US Army bases in Germany. Meetings started in Ireland shortly afterwards, and this was swiftly followed by NA communities forming all over Europe.

In 1984, the first European Service Conference was held in Trinity College in Dublin. This event developed into the European Convention & Conference of NA (ECCNA), which is hosted in turn by different European communities. By 2003 there were more than 2,000 weekly NA meetings in Europe, and we're delighted that the ECCNA is returning to Ireland this year, taking place in the CityWest Hotel, Dublin on July 22-24, 2005.

For any further information, please get in touch via na@ireland.org or phone Conor on **085-1348459**. We have also enclosed a pamphlet which contains more information about NA.

Yours sincerely,

ECCNA Public Information Committee

Anonymity Statement, for any members of the Press who may be present

The principle of anonymity allows addicts to attend meetings without fear of legal or social repercussions. This is an important consideration for an addict thinking about going to their first meeting. Anonymity also supports an atmosphere of equality in meetings. It helps ensure that no individual's personality or circumstance will be considered more important than the message of recovery shared in NA.

We ask your help in maintaining our tradition of personal anonymity by not identifying our members by name or in full face photos as members of Narcotics Anonymous, or by describing details of their personal circumstances which could reveal their identities.

In carrying our message of recovery, we welcome articles about our fellowship, but not in terms of personalities. We are not secret, just anonymous. Cooperation by the press has been very good, and we hope that continued exposure given to the Narcotics Anonymous program will play a major role in attracting the many thousands of addicts who need help. We thank you for your understanding.

I'd also like to ask members of the press to please contact the hospitality desk to be put in touch with the convention press liaison officer.

Former drug addicts meet in city to celebrate their recovery

Eilish O'Regan
Health Correspondent

MORE than 1,000 recovering drug addicts from all over Europe are to gather in Dublin next weekend to celebrate their progress at the European Convention and Conference of Narcotics Anonymous.

A spokesman said that the gathering in Citywest would allow them to enjoy themselves "without the use of mood altering drugs".

"The first Narcotic Anonymous meetings in Europe were held during the late Seventies on US Army bases in Germany.

"Meetings started in Ireland shortly afterwards and this was swiftly followed by communities forming all over Europe," he added.

By 2003, there were more than 2,000 weekly Narcotics Anonymous meetings in Europe and those who attend can have been addicted not just to illicit drugs but also to alcohol or to prescription medicines.

At its heart is a recovery

process and support network which are linked together.

Members share their successes and challenges in overcoming active addiction and living drug-free productive lives, through the application of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and help other drug addicts who want to recover.

The spokesman said the European Delegates Meeting, which meets twice yearly and is a forum for multi-lingual and multi-cultural communities inside and outside Europe supports the growth of these communities and help them to fulfil the primary purpose of carrying the organisation's message to the addict who is still suffering.

As well as serving as a forum for European communities, it also organises and funds Fellowship Development visits to emerging Narcotic Anonymous communities.

The growing use of illicit drugs in Ireland over the past decade or more has

seen the membership of Narcotic Anonymous here increase.

Although no records are kept it is believed around 1,000 people attend meetings.

Speakers at the conference have to have a minimum of "five years continuous clean time" and a series of workshops will also take place at next week's gathering.

A survey of the make up of the World Convention in 2003 found that 55pc were male and three quarters were employed full-time with 9pc in part-time jobs. Continuous abstinence and recovery ranged from less than one year up to forty years.

The average abstinence period was 7 years and 3pc of those attending were under the age of 20 years.

Those who are not able to afford the full rate to attend the conference - which is not open to the public - are able to avail of a central fund donated to by members.

Narcotics Anonymous gathers

THIS weekend more than 1,400 recovering drug addicts from all over Europe gathered in Dublin to celebrate their progress at the European Convention and Conference of Narcotics Anonymous. A spokesman said the gathering in Citywest was a celebration of recovery.

There are 164 weekly NA meetings in Ireland, and it is believed more than 1,000 people regularly attend meetings.

Narcotics Anonymous, tel: (01) 6728000; www.na.ireland.org