

## MindFreedom Ireland

*MF International proudly accepted MF Ireland's bid to become an affiliate in 2003. On their website, MF Ireland describes itself as "one of the very few totally independent groups in the mental health field with zero funding from the mental health system, government or drug companies."*

*From a historical meeting involving five people, Helena King, Maria O'Mahony, Marguerite Gates, Mary Maddock and Jim Maddock the organization emerged to be one of MFI's strongest affiliates.*

*"MF Ireland endeavors to promote activism, advocacy, peaceful protest, public education and mutual support." Their vision is "a non-violent revolution in 'mental health care' and their goals include establishing "full human rights for people experiencing emotional distress, challenging "abuse by the psychiatric drug industry" and to "promote safe, humane and effective alternatives."*

MF Ireland favors two campaigns: full recognition of Advance Directives and the abolishment of electroshock. Their signature event is an annual public protest against electroshock. You can see pictures from some of their protests [HERE](#)

Emerging activists can get great organizing ideas and inspiration from viewing the annual reports of MF Ireland posted [HERE](#). A comprehensive list of MF Ireland's many accomplishments can be found [HERE](#): A few highlights are:

- Organised the first ever electroshock protest in Ireland in 2007 with further annual protests right up to this year.

- Supported Amnesty Ireland's campaign against psychiatric human rights abuse.

- Supported the Delete 59b Campaign to ban forced electroshock.

MF Ireland understands the importance of building coalitions. They established links to other organizations such as the **European Network of ex/Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP)**, **World Network of ex/Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)**, The Critical Voices Network Ireland, Drop the Disorder in the UK, The Campaign Against Psychiatric Assault in Canada, International Network towards Alternatives and Recovery (INTAR), Psychrights in Alaska, the Soteria Network in the UK, the Campaign against Psychiatric Assault (CAPA) in Canada and Patients' Rights Advocacy in New Zealand They also formed a close alliance with Asylum, the UK organisation for democratic psychiatry and its Campaign for the Abolition of the Schizophrenic Label (CASL)

MF Ireland reminds us actions to ban harmful psychiatric interventions such as ECT originated from survivor led organizations and the importance of mutual support for activists. MF Ireland continues in this tradition today by running several support groups for psychiatric survivors.

For years, MF Ireland has facilitated a weekly support 'Stand by Me' in a warm and welcoming atmosphere every Wednesday at 3pm. Members of the group provided practical and emotional support to friends going through hard times. They also have a music group for survivors, which is not surprising, given Mary Maddock's training as a piano teacher.

MF Ireland also facilitated the establishment and inaugural meeting of Hearing Voices Ireland in Cork, November 2006

**While most of members are psychiatric survivors, MF Ireland is open to all who support human rights including psychiatric professionals, advocates, family members and the general public**

Mary Maddock diligently advocates for individuals in Ireland whose rights were violated using social media. She routinely posts 'memes' on Facebook to educate individuals about harmful psychiatric interventions and she has contributed to MindFreedom International's Shield campaigns many times to advocate for survivors in the US and around the world.