

# CSAN

## Review of the Year: 2014



***“A crucial part of serving society, whether through the calling of politics or through the Church, is to face the reality before us. This is where rhetoric ends, where philosophy gives way to reality, where dogmatism gets its hands dirty. For us this is what being a Church of the poor and for the poor really means. Our self-awareness is sharp; our sense of purpose is clear. Perhaps governments could take a lead from this too.”***

**H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols,  
CSAN Parliamentary Reception, 5 November 2014**

## CSAN's Achievements: 2014

In 2014 CSAN achieved the following in working to create a society where every person is valuable and valued...

We worked with **42 Member** organisations, providing services to children and families, older people, disabled people, prisoners, refugees and homeless people

At our Parliamentary Reception the **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** challenged Secretary of State **Rt Hon Eric Pickles** to take a lead from the Catholic Church in tackling poverty

A number of CSAN's recommendations were included in the Hunger and Food Poverty Inquiry's '**Feeding Britain**' Report

CSAN spoke out on **4 pieces of legislation** and responded to **6 consultations** on issues affecting vulnerable and marginalised people

CSAN held 2 **Caritas Roadshows** with over 200 attendees. Over 40 charities were represented in the social action Marketplaces

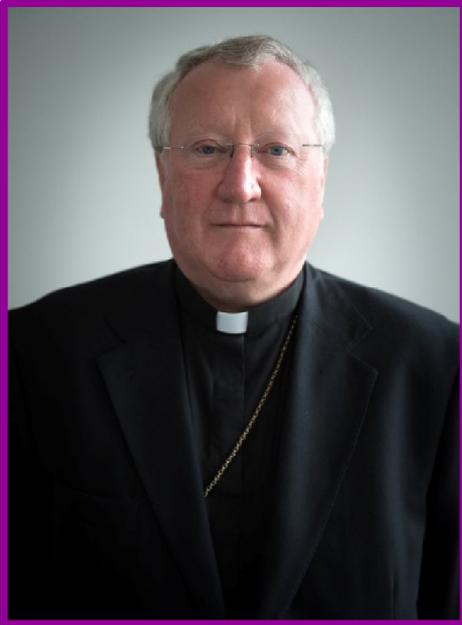
We held 15 special interest **Member forums** throughout the year attended by 190 CSAN member representatives

CSAN's **voice** has been strong on draft legislation on human trafficking, immigration, poverty, welfare and criminal justice

More than 20 charities met with more than 35 MPs and Peers at our **annual parliamentary event** to discuss issues affecting the most vulnerable people in our society

CSAN produced over 130 press articles and took part in a radio documentary on **Britain's Foodbanks**

## Message from our Chair Bishop Terence Drainey



Having joined as Chair of Trustees of CSAN in August of this year, I want first to thank my predecessor Bishop Terence Brain, for his support, wisdom and guidance of CSAN for the past 14 years. I am delighted to be taking the baton from Bishop Brain in supporting the work of this vibrant network of Catholic charities who are living out the Gospel in the spirit of Caritas and providing a lifeline to those people most in need in our communities.

This report outlines the tremendous amount of work undertaken by Helen and the team this year and I commend it to you, and thank them, for their dedication in strengthening the voice *'of the poor and for the poor'* on our doorstep.

## Message from our CEO Helen O'Brien

Looking back on the work of the CSAN team over the past year, our main focus has once again been on combating the rising levels of inequality and poverty in our society. With 1 in 5 people in the UK living below the poverty line, lacking the basic necessities of a dignified and flourishing life, the role our members play in supporting people has never been more important.

The *Feeding Britain* strategy report released in December 2014 detailed the chronic hunger crisis in the UK. The CSAN members working on the frontline know the bleak reality outlined in the report all too well. CSAN will be working with the new national network and are eager to develop a practical exit plan from the emergency response of food support so that no person has to face the indignity of hunger.

Looking ahead to the 2015 General Election, our focus will be on holding potential decision makers to account on issues which affect the most vulnerable people in our society – making sure that employment allows people to flourish rather than struggle to get by, and that everyone can afford a home for themselves and their family.

We undertake all this work guided by the human stories of the real lives of people with whom CSAN members work, and underpinned by our belief in the innate human dignity and rights of all people. I take this opportunity to thank all our members, our friends and funders for your continued support.

Helen O'Brien



## Advocacy and Policy

***“CSAN’s endeavour is second to none in providing a coherent framework of reflection and response”***

**Archbishop George Stack, May 2014**

### A strong Catholic voice on UK poverty

CSAN’s parliamentary work in 2014 focused once again on speaking out on the rising levels of inequality and poverty in the England and Wales. Throughout the year we have drawn together our member charities experiences in order to inform decision makers in Westminster about the human impact of poverty. In particular, CSAN has sought to articulate the impact the changes to the welfare system have had on people’s lives especially those from the poorest and most vulnerable families.

The rise of food poverty is one of the most acute illustrations of the difficulties facing households across England and Wales. Addressing hunger and food poverty has become an everyday reality for many of our members, parishes and dioceses. Subsequently, CSAN – through case studies provided and a round table with members – used the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger and Food Poverty to demonstrate the, often devastating, human impact food poverty is having on families whilst also highlighting how the Church is helping those in need.

The response received significant attention from parliamentarians and was mentioned by Labour MP Cat McKinnell. A number of CSAN’s recommendations were included in the APPG’s final report *Feeding Britain* including the need to extend free school meals into the school holidays to prevent child hunger.

***“CSAN has been equally active in advocating the right response – recognising that making work pay and addressing falling living standards must be the priority”***

**Cat McKinnell MP, *The Catholic Universe*, 5 September 2014**

***“Our members are seeing families increasingly having to turn to emergency food assistance to get by due to falling wages, rising essential costs and the gradual erosion of the welfare safety net. Chronic hunger is unacceptable in the UK today”***

**Helen O’Brien, *The Tablet*, 14 June 2014**

Child poverty has continued to be a key area of work for CSAN as families struggle to make ends meet due to the rising cost of living. In partnership with the members, over 25 of which work directly with children in poverty, we produced detailed responses to the Government’s consultation on the *Child Poverty Strategy* and the *Persistent Child Poverty Target*. CSAN has also sought to evaluate the impact of Welfare Benefit changes on our member organisations, their staff and clients, as well as responding to the DWP Select Committee inquiry into *Benefit Sanctions Policy*.

An underlying theme of all our parliamentary work on poverty in England and Wales has been the ever increasing frequency of in-work poverty. As well as raising the issue of in-work poverty in our communication with decision makers we have continued to support the roll-out of the Living Wage within the Church. CSAN also continues to add its voice to a number of campaigns which challenge negative rhetoric around people in poverty including *The Debt Trap* and *Who Benefits?* campaigns.

## A strong Catholic voice on trafficking, asylum and migration

CSAN, together with the Catholic Bishops Conference England and Wales, have worked on the high profile Modern Slavery Bill which aims to specifically address slavery and trafficking in the 21st century.

In February this year the Catholic Bishops' Conference Office for Migration Policy and CSAN jointly made a submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Draft Modern Slavery Bill calling for greater victim support and protection.

Since the Bill was published in June 2014, CSAN has continued to work on the Bill. CSAN assisted the Catholic Bishops' Conference Office for Migration Policy appearance in front of the Bill Committee and has prepared briefings for parliamentarians calling for greater protection and support for victims, in particular children and strengthening the role of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, who is now designated as independent.

We also continued our significant work around the Immigration Bill, which received Royal Assent in May 2014, highlighting the potential harm that new restrictions on housing and NHS healthcare may cause to some of the most vulnerable people including those who have been victims of violence, trafficking or Female Genital Mutilation.

***“The Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), has championed challenging and taking on human trafficking as a priority for some time.”***

***Rt Hon. John Battle KC\*SG,  
The Catholic Universe,  
12 September 2014***

## A strong Catholic voice on criminal justice

CSAN's Criminal Justice Forum, which was created last year, continues to bring together our members who work in the criminal justice field and helps to form the basis of our advocacy work in this vital area.

Over the past year, CSAN has been involved in the *Families Left Behind* campaign (fronted by PACT and Barnardo's) which is a campaign to raise awareness of the needs of children and vulnerable adults who are left behind when a parent or carer is sent to prison. The *Families Left Behind* will be submitting an amendment – which CSAN will support – to the Criminal Courts and Justice Bill. The amendment will ask for a practice direction to be used by the criminal courts to ask whether there have been arrangements made for the care of dependent children and vulnerable adults after sentencing.

***“A blanket ban on prisoner voting is disproportionate. The continued decision to flout the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights also undermines the Rule of Law... We should seek to reform and rehabilitate offenders rather than cutting them off from activities that contribute to the re-forging of a prisoner's link to society.”***

***Bishop Richard Moth,  
Bishop for Prisons***

CSAN has continued its opposition to the blanket ban on prisoner voting, which has been the Catholic Church's position since 2004 and have also briefed Parliamentarians on the Criminal Courts and Justice Bill's plans to introduce Secure Colleges.

## Supporting our Catholic charities

A central part of our work is the provision of political information, analysis and support to Catholic charities working on the front-line. Throughout the year we have regularly given briefings – both digitally and in person – to Chief Executives, staff, trustees and funders of the charities in our network. In this way we help to ensure that organisations involved in Catholic social action are both aware of legislative changes that will affect their service users and are actively involved in formulating our responses to Government.



*CSAN met with staff and service users at Nugent Care in August to discuss the impact of Welfare Benefit Changes on their work and lives*

CSAN has sought to raise awareness about the impact of the vast changes to Welfare Benefits upon the lives of the people our charities work with through our *Benefit Changes Impact Project*, as well as taking part in radio interviews, and contributing to the *Britain's Foodbanks* documentary alongside The Trussell Trust and Frank Field MP.

We have also given our members opportunities to share their experiences and views directly with decisions makers. This year's Parliamentary Reception took place on 5 November and once again provided the opportunity for our members and their representatives to meet with Parliamentarians to discuss their vital work. The reception was hosted by Eric Ollerenshaw MP and addressed by His Eminence, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, and Secretary of State and Minister for Faith, Eric Pickles MP. More broadly, we worked during the year to raise the profile of Catholic social action at the heart of UK politics through attending Party Conferences and attending meetings and events with Ministers, MPs and Peers.

## Summary

Throughout 2014 the CSAN Public Affairs Team has worked on four bills and draft bills; made submissions to seven government and European Union consultations; provided briefings for debates and committee appearances and Parliamentary Questions for MPs and Peers; and given detailed responses to major government announcements including the Chancellor's Budget Statement, Autumn Statement and the Queen's Speech.

As circumstances have become harder for the poorest and most vulnerable people we have endeavoured to tell their stories to decision makers whilst providing a consistently strong and influential Catholic response informed by both the Church's social teaching and the experience of its charities.



*H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Helen O'Brien (CEO of CSAN) and Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles at the CSAN Parliamentary Reception*

## The Caritas Network

*“Pope Francis is very clear that the Church is a missionary community...recognising the special place of the poor in God’s heart and in God’s people he calls us to be close to, to listen to, to reach out to, to speak up for, and especially to find ways to include the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. This is an enormous challenge but it is also a great privilege – the privilege of showing God’s love to our world today.”*

Bishop Pat Lynch, Southwark Caritas Roadshow, 21 June 2014

### The Caritas Network’s contribution

CSAN’s network of **42 Catholic Charities** across England and Wales represents a rich and vast contribution to our society’s most vulnerable and marginalised people. CSAN members have been working for decades, and in some cases for more than a century, to respond to the needs of people in their communities including – older people, children and families, refugees, asylum seekers, prisoners and homeless people.

#### In 2013 the Caritas Network...

**Contributed more than £105 million to those in need**

**Benefited around 500,000 people**

**Employed more than 3,800 staff**

**Was supported by more than 14,700 volunteers**

### Bringing Catholic social action together

During 2014 CSAN has continued to work towards developing networks of Catholic social action at a local level, key to which have been the Caritas diocesan roadshows.

*“It is so encouraging to meet such a good group of people displaying gospel values that go generally unnoticed or unthanked.”*

*“I have been inspired with a lot of information from different charity groups, I will go back and reflect on what I could do to help the poor in our communities.”*

**Delegates, Cardiff Roadshow, May 2014**

*“I found it very informative and it’s encouraging to be aware of the great amount of work being done for the disadvantaged and vulnerable. A well worth-while initiative”*

**Delegate, Southwark Roadshow, June 2014**

The **Cardiff Caritas roadshow** was held on 17 May and sought to link up the social action across the Archdiocese. Archbishop George Stack is eager to build on the enthusiasm triggered by the roadshow and to forge links between existing organisations undertaking very valuable work across the archdiocese. A consultative meeting will be held in December 2014 with a view to holding ‘mini-roadshows’ in the deaneries in 2015.

The **Southwark Caritas roadshow** was held on 21 June in Woolwich and was well attended – the day included an address from Archbishop Peter Smith and Bishop Pat Lynch. Delegates were enthused by the bustling Market Place and inputs from local ‘inspiring individuals’. The Archdiocese is now looking to take forward plans to build a Caritas network across the Southwark diocese and joint meetings with CSAN and the Deans are planned for 2015.

## Caritas in the Dioceses

In 2014 CSAN has continued to develop ways to support the Caritas spirit and ethos of the network and to promote a deeper awareness of Catholic social teaching in the network and wider Catholic community. A key part of this has been supporting the **Caritas Diocesan organisations** and developing a CST training and discernment resource for parish groups.



***“Caritas is a process, and not a product. We are not setting up a new organisation but wanting people to continue to do their work – with an eye to other people.”***

**Mgr. Bob Reardon, Caritas Network Lead, Cardiff Archdiocese**

***“Caritas is about sharing ventures with other churches, faiths and organisations. It is about weaving a tapestry of faith and CST, woven into practice and practical action.”***

**Most Rev. George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff**

A meeting hosted by Archbishop Smith to reflect on the **‘Journey in Caritas so far’** took place on 27 March 2014 and was attended by representatives from 9 dioceses across England and Wales who are undertaking Caritas developments. The meeting offered those Dioceses currently on the ‘Caritas journey’ the opportunity to meet, network and share experiences and ideas.

In Birmingham, on 5 October Archbishop Longley launched **Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham** at a service held in St Chad’s Cathedral. The new diocesan Caritas network organisation will be supported by a Secretariat team and aims to bring together in joint membership the more than 600 Catholic social action groups which have been identified across the diocese.

**Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough** has continued to progress during 2014 and collaborative work between CSAN and CAFOD has been positive. The group held a ‘poverty hearing’ in September and are in the process of establishing Caritas representatives in parishes to focus on issues of social justice ‘at home and abroad’.

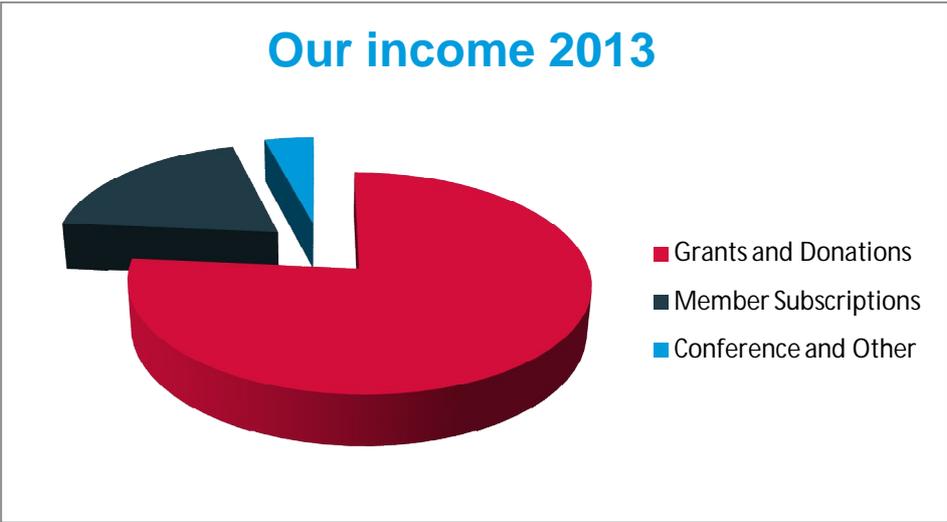
## The CSAN Forums: Fostering Solidarity and Collaborative Action

Throughout 2014 CSAN has continued to run the five established **CSAN Forums**, as well as launching a new **Communications Forum** in September, dedicated to developing and sharing communications and media expertise across the network. The forums have continued to foster solidarity between members, enhance operational capacity and to develop collaborative work.

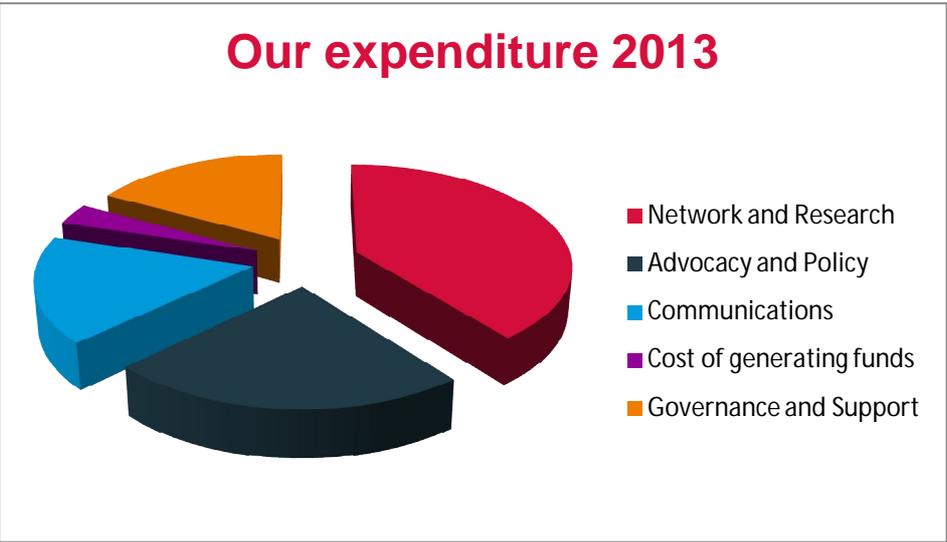
The **Older People’s Services Forum** is developing a national volunteer-led project to tackle the loneliness and isolation of older people. The project is the first of its kind to be undertaken as a CSAN partnership of 4 member charities and aims to develop model projects responding to the needs of older people and to produce a practical toolkit to assist grassroots projects in parishes. The **Criminal Justice Forum** is also increasingly developing joint partnership working on issues affecting victims, prisoners and their families and the **Schools Services Forum** have undertaken a number of joint training sessions throughout the year.

# Financial Summary

<b>2013 Total Income</b> £267, 578	
<b>Grants and Donations</b>	£204, 502
<b>Member Subscriptions</b>	£52,040
<b>Conference and Other</b>	£11,036



<b>2013 Total Expenditure</b> £265, 737	
<b>Network and Research</b>	£104, 718
<b>Advocacy and Policy</b>	£62, 395
<b>Communications</b>	£44, 833
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	£8, 880
<b>Governance and Support costs</b>	£44, 911



## The CSAN Members

*With thanks for the support and opportunity to work with the following CSAN Members throughout 2014:*

1. **Apostleship of the Sea**
2. **Brentwood Catholic Children's Society**
3. **British Province of the Society of Jesus**
4. **Cabrini Children's Society**
5. **Cardinal Hume Centre**
6. **Caritas Anchor House**
7. **Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham**
8. **Caritas Care**
9. **Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough**
10. **Caritas Diocese of Salford**
11. **Caritas Westminster**
12. **Catholic Agency for Racial Justice (CARJ)**
13. **Catholic Care Leeds**
14. **Catholic Children's Society, Shrewsbury**
15. **Catholic Children's Society, Westminster**
16. **Catholics for Aids Prevention & Support**
17. **Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Services (CSAS)**
18. **CCS Adoption**
19. **Depaul UK**
20. **Faith in Families**
21. **Families for Children**
22. **Father Hudson's Society**
23. **Hallam Diocesan Caring Services**
24. **Housing Justice**
25. **Institute of Our Lady of Mercy**
26. **Irish Chaplaincy in Britain**
27. **Jesuit Refugee Services UK**
28. **Marriage Care**
29. **Nugent Care**
30. **The Passage**
31. **Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)**
32. **Saint John of God Care Services**
33. **Society of the Holy Child Jesus**
34. **St Antony's Centre for Church and Industry**
35. **St Cuthbert's Care**
36. **St David's Children's Society**
37. **St Francis' Children's Society**
38. **St Vincent de Paul Society**
39. **The Kairos Forum**
40. **Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
41. **Vincentians in Partnership**
42. **Women@thewell**