



ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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Chairperson's Report

Climate change has exploded further into the media over recent years, as reports of extreme weather events and record breaking temperatures are increasing. This can seem overwhelming at times, but the actions of activists across Ireland and far beyond and the possibility of a better, more sustainable and just organisation of society keep us motivated and active.

The intersection between our first two objectives is at the heart of our work over the last year - that is - to seek to support community struggles for environmental justice while also seeking to support the growth of a strong climate justice movement in Ireland.

The Climate Camp held at Pollboy in Co. Leitrim during August was a powerful expression of how these important objectives coincide. Holding the camp in an area threatened by large-scale destructive mining, and already hosting land-grabbing monoculture plantations, provided a boost of support and visibility to local campaigns, while also supporting their activism through direct action. It simultaneously functioned to knit groups based in different parts of the country more strongly together, building bonds of solidarity and friendship that are crucial to the building of an enduring and expanding climate justice movement across Ireland.

Also featured in our activities was supporting other local groups fighting mining threats in their areas such as *Keep Tulla Untouched* and *Save our Sperrins*. This can help connect smaller groups, fostering collaboration and development as they grow. Continuing to work with communities and other environmental groups opposing Data Centres, further fosters this collaboration as these local groups engage with issues of national and international concern.

In terms of international connections, working with Talamh Beo to send two Irish delegates to the 8th International Conference of La Via Campesina supported our objectives of working towards sustainability and facilitating networking with activists from many countries. Knowledge gathered at ULEX was shared with others through a series of workshops in February in preparation for Climate Camp. This shows how the benefits of the skills and understandings gained from the collaboration with ULEX continued to be shared after that project's completion.

Gluaiseacht also continued our work with supporting grassroots media, helping ensure that our struggles are covered in depth, in the manner that they deserve. Turning Earth and CATU have done brilliant work in this regard, publicising critical views on the ecological and social issues facing us in Ireland. Our move into campaign group website hosting is also about providing practical support for activists, as well as preserving historical knowledge from past campaigns, and we see this as an area that will hopefully grow in the coming years.

We would like to thank our membership, who have continued to learn and grow with us, working hard at linking diverse struggles and fighting for a better way to organise society, for everyone and for the planet. And we'd like to thank everyone who keeps struggling against the odds for environmental justice, around Ireland and around the world - another world is possible!

Is mise le meas,

Tara Sheehy
Tara Sheehy
Chairperson



‘Straw boys’ direct action at Climate Camp

Gluaiseacht for Global Justice

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What we're all about

Gluaiseacht is a non-hierarchical environmental and social justice movement bringing together grassroots organisations, concerned individuals and student groups from all over Ireland to raise awareness and take non-violent direct action on social, environmental and political issues.

Our objectives are:

- To support community struggles for social and environmental justice in Ireland.
- To foster the development of a strong climate justice movement in Ireland.
- To build the capacity of activists living in Ireland to take direct action for social and environmental justice, and to take action for practical sustainability.
- To build the capacity of our organisation to facilitate movement building for social and environmental justice.
- To promote education for sustainability within the activist community in Ireland and beyond.
- To facilitate networking between environmental justice activists in Ireland and the broader European and Global movements.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2023 -



CLIMATE CAMP

Gluaiseacht partnered with Slí Eile, Save Leitrim, Treasure Leitrim, Love Leitrim and others to run Climate Camp Ireland 2023 in Pollboy, Co Leitrim from 9-13th August. Continuing to work in solidarity with local grassroots struggles. This year we were invited by communities in Leitrim who are resisting destructive gold mining and industrial Coillte conifer plantations. We invited groups and individuals from across the island of Ireland to share skills and strategies to combat these harmful and exploitative industries.



Campaigning against industrial forestry

Continuing to work in solidarity with local grassroots struggles

The camp built on the success of a memorable gathering in North Kerry the year before, where we supported local resistance to the proposed Shannon LNG fracked gas import terminal.

Gluaiseacht's involvement was central to the running of the camp with much of the infrastructure that was used for the week belonging to Gluaiseacht, such as new marquees and hiring insurance so the site is safe and accessible for all attendees at the camp.



Climate Camp bathed in sunshine



Involvement in Climate Camp meets a large number of Gluaiseacht's core objectives. The central aim of the camp was to support and integrate local struggles with national groups, within the broader goal of strengthening and growing the climate justice movement in Ireland. The close networked co-operation involved in the organisation of the camp was a practical exercise in movement building, while the many workshops and the direct actions taken at the event grew the capacity of Gluaiseacht members and many of the other participants at the camp.

CAMPAIGN GROUP WEB HOSTING

Gluaiseacht established a web hosting service for environmental groups, this is for both active campaigns and also for the archiving of environmental websites. This supports the further development of a strong climate justice movement in this country (objective 2), while simultaneously helping achieve objective 4 by building Gluaiseacht's capacity to facilitate movement learning and memory. We hope to add further websites in the coming year.

Examples of hosted campaign websites:

[Climate Camp Ireland](#)

Archive examples:

[Shell to Sea](#)

[Sustainability Institute](#)

[Fruit and Nut](#)

ABHAINN AN OLLFHIA WELCOMES KEEP TULLA UNTOUCHED

Ó Sliabh Eachtaí go dtí na Speiríní

From Sliabh Aughty to the Sperrins

In memory of Niall Harnett

23rd September 2023
12 to 7pm



Speakers

Fidelma O'Kane -
Save Our Sperrins
Eddie Mitchell -
Treasure Leitrim
Andrew St.Ledger -
Woodland League

Live Music

Damien Dempsey
Bog Bodies
Seán Mulrooney
(TAU)
Su Hammond
and more

Awareness Day to highlight mining prospecting in Ireland

Venue in Tulla Co, Clare

Booking and details on [Eventbrite](#)

"Can we avoid the Great Irish Mining Disaster?"
~Garry McGovern, Hot Press



Ó SLIABH EACHTAÍ GO DTÍ NA SPEIRÍNÍ

‘From Sliabh Aughty to the Sperrins’

Gluaiseacht supported the Keep Tulla Untouched Awareness Day to inform and educate people about the prospecting licences which have been granted for gold, silver, barytes and base metal mining in the area around Tulla, Co. Clare. The day was also dedicated to the memory of long-time Gluaiseacht activist Niall Harnett, who lived in Co. Clare and whose 10th anniversary occurred around the time of the event.

This event was about highlighting the dangers of this proposed development, while simultaneously drawing links of solidarity and

support with the struggle of the Save Our Sperrins campaign against the same overall company, the Canadian gold mining company Dalradian, and also raising much-needed funds for the campaigns.

Working with this campaign clearly fits well with Gluaiseacht's objectives of supporting community struggles for environmental justice and to work towards networking between various local struggles and national groups.

This is all done with the aim of fostering a strong climate justice movement around the country. These events also help build individual group capacity.

ART OF RESISTANCE

We have worked in solidarity with the Save Our Sperrins campaign against gold mining in Co Tyrone. Gluaiseacht supported the 'Art of Resistance' exhibition to publicise and also fundraise for the campaign. The campaign opposes the creation of a toxic goldmine and a massive waste dump in close proximity to a small rural community, in the middle of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

This involved funding workshop materials and the videography enabling the creation of a short film about the exhibition for YouTube. Similarly to the previous event, working with Save Our Sperrins meets Gluaiseacht's objectives through supporting campaigns on a local level, while also drawing the links with and nurturing the national movement against environmentally destructive extractivism.

OPPOSING DATA CENTRES

Gluaiseacht was involved in supporting a protest run by Sli Eile against the huge energy use of Data Centres in Ireland on the theme 'Data Centres are Energy Vampires'. This involved paying for printing costs for banners and leaflets, and also funding Canva and Zoom accounts, which are crucial in enabling organising and publicising such an event.

This ongoing activism and campaigning fits perfectly with our core commitment to work towards growing the climate justice movement in Ireland. Additionally, supporting community struggles for environmental justice and building links between these struggles and other local campaigns also meets our core objectives.





Protest against Data Centres **SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS INDEPENDENT MEDIA**

Both of the below projects seek to create space for a grassroots critique of how society is organised, and to start to imagine how we could do better. Both of these projects meet Gluaiseacht's objectives as they support community struggles, while promoting education from below. They also assist movements in Ireland to create their own counter-narratives to those of the dominant capitalist society, facilitating the building of movement cultures and shared understandings.



Gluaiseacht supports Turning Earth, which is an ecologically-focussed independent podcast series. Their goals are to create a radical space to enable open discussion and critique of a capitalist-led society and the destruction this entails.

Some of the topics covered in 2023 include 'Environmentalism from Below', 'The Land is Your Birthright' and a 'primer' for the Climate Camp held in Co. Leitrim. This is the place to hear the stories at the frontline of debates on climate change and environmental justice.

CATU DOCUMENTARY

'THE RENT STRIKE'

Gluaiseacht supported the making of 'The Rent Strike' documentary telling the story of the 1970s rent strike through part-financing its production. The documentary explains this inspiring (but often forgotten) story through interviews with people who organised and participated in the campaign and their relatives. It shows how collective action and mass organisation can bring about fundamental changes in the housing system. Produced by members of the Community Action Tenants Union Ireland (CATU).

LA VIA CAMPESINA CONFERENCE

Glúaiseacht worked in conjunction with Talamh Beo to send two delegates to attend the 8th International conference of La Via Campesina in Bogota in December 2023.

Talamh Beo are a group who stand for a system which puts the power back into the hands of farmers, communities and citizens, while La Via Campesina is an international movement of farmers who are working for agroecology, food sovereignty and social justice.

Talamh Beo officially joined the international movement at the event, which was attended by more than 500 participants from around the world. More info in the articles below. This event fits perfectly with Glúaiseacht's objective to facilitate networking between Irish environmental justice activists and broader European and global movements.

It also works to build capacity towards practical sustainability, while promoting education for sustainability.



Flying the flag at La Via Camperina!

ULEX training

Following on from Gluaiseacht sending a group of activists to a week-long session of activist training sessions run by ULEX during 2022, the knowledge gained continued to be shared during 2023.

Feedback sessions were held at an in-person meet-up in February 2023 arranged for planning of the Climate Camp for 2023. There was also a larger group session with 25 people to explain about the different ULEX courses that participants attending were involved with: Framing & Narrative, Anti-Oppression, Psychosocial resilience.

These are strong concrete examples of building capacity for movement building, as well growing movement skills and knowledges towards the wider goal of building a strong climate justice movement in Ireland.





Financial Overview

Our income for 2023 was €13,500.

Our source for funding this year was Leargas.

Our expenditure for year ending was €17,886. Our expenditure is divided between our Advocacy and Support, Education and Training, Administration, Outreach and Communications, Audits and Accounts and Miscellaneous expenses.



Directors

The directors held 3 meetings during 2023

Erris O'Regan Company Secretary

Tara Sheehy Company Chairperson

Catherine Friedrich

Nancy Serrano

Eoin O'Leidhin



gluaiseacht
FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE