January 2020 Newsletter from IFAN

A survey of food banks operating independently of The Trussell Trust food bank network

December 2019 saw the release of a first report based on the findings from a study of 114 independent food banks operating in England selected from IFAN’s list of independent food banks. You can read the full report [here](#). The study was led by Dr Rachel Loopstra of King’s College London working with Sabine Goodwin, Barbara Goldberg, Dr Hannah Lambie-Mumford, Dr Andrew Williams and Professor Jon May. You can also read a blog on the report [here](#).

New Independent Emergency Food Parcel Distribution Figures released in Scotland

IFAN and A Menu for Change released further data from independent food banks in Scotland on the 9th of January. A total of 596,472 food parcels handed out by independent and Trussell Trust food banks between April 2018 and September 2019. The figures showed a 22% increase from our last release in March 2019 that related to April 2017 to September 2018. Find out more [here](#) and read the full briefing [here](#). IFAN’s coordinator, Sabine Goodwin, who led the research said: “The
UK and Scottish Governments must take decisive action to address the root causes of poverty so that we can start to see a decrease in food bank use. For children and adults across Scotland, the long-term impact of inaction will be devastating.” You can read news coverage of the release of these figures here.

Sabine is starting a project to collate food parcel distribution data from independent food banks operating in England very soon.

**Health interventions in food aid provision venues**

Dr Rachel Loopstra ran a workshop on food aid providers as potential sites for health interventions at King’s College London on the 10th of January. It was very good to see a large number of IFAN member organisations attending and their representatives' contributions were invaluable.

**Support for member organisations seeking to develop food aid options**

Isabel Rice, Senior Dietician at Centrepoint, has been in touch with some of our member organisations about ways they can adapt the range of options available to meet special dietary needs. We’re very grateful indeed for her time and contribution. Please contact Sabine at ifanconnect@gmail.com if you’d like to find out more.

**Ask your local MP to address the root causes of the poverty driving the need for charitable food aid**

We’ve recently set up a form on our website which enables members of the public to request information on independent food banks in their constituency and to write to their local MP calling for the end for the need of food banks. Please find details here. We’d be very glad if any member organisations would like to refer to this link on their websites.
Make Some Noise fundraising comedy night for IFAN and the Trussell Trust

We’re very grateful to Show and Tell for running a fundraising comedy night, Make Some Noise, in aid of IFAN and the Trussell Trust at London’s Union Chapel on 18.1.20. The 900-seat venue was sold out and there was a lot of interest from audience members in the work of IFAN and its members.

IFAN in the News and IFAN Blogs

You can read news articles mentioning IFAN’s recent work [here](#) and our latest blogs [here](#) including Should we be welcoming apps and websites being developed to increase accessibility and donations to food banks? and Food banks need our help but they shouldn't be needed.

Recognition of Sabine Goodwin's work with IFAN

Very many thanks to both the Caroline Walker Trust and The Big Issue - In November 2019, Sabine was awarded the Caroline Walker Trust 30th Anniversary Media Campaigner of the Year Award. Details [here](#). And at the start of this year Sabine was included in The Big Issue list of 2020 Top 100 Changemakers.