



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland

Conference Programme



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The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission was established under statute on 1 November 2014 to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland, to promote a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding, to promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality, and to work towards the elimination of human rights abuses and discrimination.

Agenda

Opening Session (10:00 – 12:00)

10:00 – Opening Remarks

- ▶ **Ms Sinéad Gibney**, Chief Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (Moderator)

National Focus

10:10 – Key Findings and Recommendations of the Second Report

- ▶ **Dr Nusha Yonkova**, Head of Anti-Human Trafficking
IHREC

10:25 – Survivor Input

10:35 – Priorities in the National Anti-Trafficking Response

- ▶ **Mr Ben Ryan**, Assistant Secretary General Department of Justice

10:50 – International Monitoring: Key Findings of GRETA's Third Evaluation Report of Ireland

- ▶ **Dr Petya Nestorova**, Executive Secretary Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

11:05 – US Department of State: Trafficking in Persons Report

- ▶ **Michael Clausen**, Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy Dublin

EU Focus

11:15 – EU Directive Reform: New directions in the EU Anti-Trafficking Response

- ▶ **MEP Malin Björk**, Rapporteur for the European Parliament for the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive

11:30 – Survivor Leader and Advocate: ‘Sanctioning the Use of Violence’

- ▶ **Ms Saga Brodersen**, Inte Din Hora

11:40 – Q&A Session

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch and Refreshments

Panel 1: National Referral Mechanism (13:00 – 14:20)

13:00 – Opening remarks and Speakers introduction

- ▶ **Ms Noeline Blackwell**, Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (Moderator)

13:05 – Overview of the NRM Handbook

- ▶ **Ms Tatiana Kotlyarenko**, Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues at OSCE/ODIHR

13:20 – National Referral Mechanism in Ireland, IHREC/Rapporteur Perspective

- ▶ **Ms Sunniva McDonagh SC**, Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

13:35 Panel Discussion

Panellists:

- ▶ **Ms Ann Mara**, Education Manager MECPATHS
- ▶ **Ms Isabel Toolan**, Anti-Trafficking Lead Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
- ▶ **Ms Kathryn McGrath**, Manager HSE Anti-Human Trafficking Team
- ▶ **Mr Brian Killoran**, CEO Immigrant Council of Ireland
- ▶ **Ms Mia de Faoite**, Lead on Training Ruhama

14:05 Q&A with Audience

14:20-14:40 Coffee Break

Panel 2: Technology-Facilitated Trafficking (14:40 – 15:55)

14:40 – Opening Remarks

- ▶ **Ms Sinéad Gibney**, Chief Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (Moderator)

14:45 – Leveraging policies and legislation to address technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings

- ▶ **Mr Andrea Salvoni**, Acting Co-ordinator, Office of the OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

15:00 – Panel Discussion

Panellists:

- ▶ **D/I Danny Kelly**, Detective Inspector Garda National Protective Services Bureau
- ▶ **Ms Niamh Hodnett**, Online Safety Commissioner Coimisiún na Meán
- ▶ **Dr Patricia Brazil BL**, Averil Deverell Lecturer in Law at Trinity College Dublin
- ▶ **Dr Ray Genoe**, Director of the UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation
- ▶ **Ms Ruth Breslin**, Lead Researcher Sexual Exploitation Research Programme, UCD

15:40 – Q&A with Audience

15:55 Closing Remarks by Chief Commissioner, Ms Sinéad Gibney

Speakers and Panellists Bios

Sinead Gibney,

Chief Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Chief Commissioner Sinéad Gibney leads the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in its mission to build a just and inclusive society that protects and promotes human rights and equality. She is driven by equality, people's inherent dignity and a passion to make society work for those among us with the most acute and complex needs.

Sinéad was the inaugural Director of the Commission, bringing together the former legacy bodies in the merger period and building up the organisation in terms of teams, facilities, planning and structure. Prior to this she built and led Google Ireland's corporate social responsibility function, Social Action. Most recently Sinéad has been self-employed providing training, consultancy and media production to a range of organisations in the civil society and public sectors.

Sinéad is a lifelong learner with an undergraduate degree in History from University of Ulster and four postgraduate qualifications in the topics of Information Technology & Education (MSc), Cyberpsychology, Equality Studies (MSc) and Human Rights Law from Trinity College Dublin, IADT Dun Laoghaire, UCD and the Law Society respectively. Sinéad is a former chair of the board of One Family and has served on a number of other boards; Digital Charity Lab, Victims' Rights Alliance, Responsible Research & Innovation industry advisory group.

Dr Nusha Yonkova,

Head of Anti-Human Trafficking Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Dr Nusha Yonkova is Head of Anti-trafficking Unit at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission -National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking. Prior to this, Nusha worked as a gender and anti-trafficking manager with the Immigrant Council of Ireland. She became a Doctor of Philosophy at University College Dublin in 2019. Nusha is a recognised expert with the European Commission and the European Asylum Support Office, for which she has worked as an evaluator, researcher and trainer. Originally from Bulgaria, Nusha is a qualified engineer (1990) and holds a Master of Arts Degree in Intercultural Studies from Dublin City University (2004). Nusha was the first migrant woman elected on the board of the National Women’s Council of Ireland in 2008. She has served on the boards of Women’s Aid Ireland (2018-2021) and Ruhama (2019-2021) and has been an elected chair of the European Network of Migrant Women, a pan-European network (2013-2014)

Mr Ben Ryan,

Assistant Secretary General Department of Justice

Ben has been an Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Justice since 2018, initially with responsibility for the Crime and Security Directorate, before taking up responsibility for the Criminal Justice Policy function when it was established in 2019. He joined the Department from the Revenue Commissioners in 2005, working in various roles in International Policy, Immigration Service Delivery and the Permanent Representation in Brussels. He has worked in the Crime and Security area since 2016. He is a law graduate of Technical University Dublin.

Ms Petya Nestorova,

Executive Secretary Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Ms Petya Nestorova has been responsible for the Council of Europe's activities in the area of combating trafficking in human beings since 2010. She oversees all aspects on the monitoring of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which currently has 48 state parties, including country visits by the Group of Experts on Action against trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), preparation of reports and recommendations, and follow-up to their implementation. Her activities include policy development, advocacy and capacity building, in close collaboration with public officials, civil society and other intergovernmental organisations. Ms Nestorova holds Master's degrees in international Economic Relations and Comparative European Studies, as well as a D.Phil from the University of Sussex, UK.

Michael Clausen,

Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy Dublin

Michael Clausen arrived in Dublin as Deputy Chief of Mission in August 2022. Since joining the State Department in 2002, Mike has served in a wide variety of policy, communications, and staff positions, including as spokesperson at the U.S. Mission to the European Union, Director of the North Korea Unit in the Office of Korean Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff at Embassy Kabul, and Watch Officer in the Executive Secretariat's Operations Center.

Mike's other overseas assignments include postings in Beijing, Singapore, Baghdad, Taipei, and, most recently, Kyiv. In Washington

he has also served in the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and in the Office of Chinese Affairs.

Mike earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Columbia University and a Master's degree in National Security Studies at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is joined in Dublin by his wife, also a Foreign Service Officer, and their two children. (2016).

Ms Malin Björk,

Rapporteur for the European Parliament for the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive

Malin Björk of the Swedish Left Party is a Member of the European Parliament and its LIBE Committee, which mainly deals with refugee policy. She is co-rapporteur on the revision of the anti-trafficking directive, which is currently negotiated in the parliament. She is also the shadow rapporteur on the directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

From 2014 until 2019, Malin was also a Member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) in the European Parliament. With fellow progressive members of FEMM, she formed the pro-choice group All of Us, to highlight and defend sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and support abortion rights activists throughout Europe. She is also vice-president of the parliament's inter-political group for LGBTI rights and a member of the parliament's anti-racist group, ARDI.

Prior to her office in the European Parliament, Malin Björk worked for NGO European Women's Lobby. A long-time feminist and LGBTI activist, she also edited the lesbian and feminist magazine ScumGirrrls and ran the feminist web-based news agency Les Pénélopes. She is based in Brussels.

Ms Saga Bordersen,

Inte Din Hora Survivor Leader Advocate

Saga Brodersen, born in Sweden, is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation and is today working as an expert and an advocate for fighting trafficking in persons and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. She is the chairman of Scandinavia's biggest survivor-led organizations and the co-founder of the European survivor cluster called Beyond Survivors. Currently she is working as an expert at ChildX Foundation, an organization working with ending child sex trafficking. Additionally, she is also studying Law at Uppsala University in Sweden.

Noeline Blackwell,

Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Noeline Blackwell is a human rights lawyer and CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, a voluntary organisation which works to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of sexual violence. She has previously worked as a solicitor in private practice and as Director General of access to justice organisation FLAC.

Noeline has been a member of several statutory and NGO boards. She currently chairs the Independent Patient Safety Council and the Child Law Project . She sits on the Department of Foreign Affairs' Women Peace & Security Oversight Group and is a member of the Governing Authority of University College Dublin. She was appointed a member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in July 2023.

Tatiana Kotlyarenko,

Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues at OSCE/ODIHR

Tatiana Kotlyarenko is the Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues at OSCE/ODIHR since 2016. She worked on the 2nd edition of the National Referral Mechanisms - Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: A Practical Handbook, and Addressing Emerging Human Trafficking Trends and Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the launch and coordination of the OSCE/ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council, as well as providing technical support and capacity building to combat trafficking in human beings to OSCE participating states. In response to the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine, which especially impacts women and children, Tatiana is conducting rapid assessment missions and providing recommendations to countries on how to prevent and address trafficking of Ukrainian women and children. She also provided testimony at a US Congressional hearing on Protecting Ukrainian Refugees from Trafficking. She was the founder and Executive Director of the Enslavement Prevention Alliance – West Africa in Ghana. In its first three months of its existence, EPAWA was responsible for a national anti-human trafficking Red Card campaign in partnership with ILO during Cup of African Nations 2008, and rescue of 60 girls from a child brothel. As the Executive Director of EPAWA, she has built dynamic relationships with international and local media, and development partners to raise awareness, generate visibility, and ensure assistance to vulnerable populations. Tatiana holds a MA in Human Rights and Economic Development with Honors from Columbia University and a BA from Brandeis University. Her MA thesis focused on “Supply and Demand Dynamics of Sex Trafficking in Russia. Tatiana is also the 2022 recipient of the Last Girl Award.

Tatiana holds a MA in Human Rights and Economic Development with Honors from Columbia University and a BA from Brandeis University. Her MA thesis focused on “Supply and Demand Dynamics of Sex Trafficking in Russia.” Tatiana has taken part in a CNN documentary titled “Innocence for Sale” in Cambodia, released in 2010.

Sunniva McDonagh SC,

Commissioner Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Sunniva McDonagh is a graduate in law from UCD and Kings Inns. She is Senior Counsel who practices mainly in the areas of fundamental rights, administrative and constitutional law. She has acted in many leading cases including in the area of immigration and fair trial rights in historical abuse cases. She is the Vice President of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency.

She is a former Chair of the Refugee Appeals Tribunal and a current Chair of the Mental Health Commission. She is a Member of the Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee of An Garda Síochána, and a Member of the Press Council of Ireland. She has a particular interest in human rights and the Rule of Law. She is also a Member of the Irish Committee seeking formal state recognition for the Armenian Genocide.

Ann Mara,

Education Manager MECPATHS

Ann Mara has a qualified background in Education and holds a master's degree in both International Development and most recently, Social Justice and Public Policy. Prior to moving back to Ireland in 2016, she worked for two decades in several capacities including the delivery of education and strategic training programmes across Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States. Since 2017, Ann has worked as Education Manager for MECPATHS to raise awareness around Child Trafficking in Ireland by educating frontline and emerging professionals to help prevent the trafficking of children.

Isabel Toolan,

Anti- Trafficking Lead Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

Isabel advocates for victims of trafficking for labour exploitation and provides strategic casework supports. She joined MRCI in 2019. Previously, she worked with asylum seekers and refugees in the USA. Isabel holds a juris doctor (law) degree from the University of the District of Columbia.

Kathryn McGrath,

Manager HSE Anti-Human Trafficking Team

Kathryn Mc Grath is Manager of HSE Women’s Health Service and Anti-Human Trafficking Team, since 2022. The service provides assessment and care planning for persons trafficked in the state and provides a sexual health and support service for women and transgender women involved in the sex trade.

Kathryn has over thirty years’ experience working in the health care sector. Prior to joining Women’s Health Service Kathryn worked in the area of addiction and homelessness in HSE and NGO/ voluntary sector. Kathryn has represented HSE on various working groups including drug task force.

Kathryn has a Bachelor Degree of Social Science Degree Honours University College Dublin, a Higher Postgraduate Diploma in Community Work, National University of Ireland Maynooth and Postgraduate Certificate in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling, National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Brian Killoran,

CEO Immigrant Council of Ireland

Brian Killoran is the CEO of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. Brian studied at NUI Galway, where he read a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Sociology and Politics. He attained his Master of Arts in Globalisation from Dublin City University. Brian joined the Immigrant Council as an Information Officer in 2004, working directly with people from a migrant background and their families to assist them in navigating the Irish immigration system and having their rights realised. Brian has managed key areas within the Immigrant Council, including its Information and Referral Services and Integration related work, before becoming CEO in March 2015. As part of its work as an Independent Law Centre, the Immigrant Council provide legal support to survivors of human trafficking and advocate at national level for improved responses to meet their needs. Brian has responsibility for all aspects of the Immigrant Council's operations and priorities.

Mia De Faoite,

Lead on Training Ruhama

Mia has over 10 years experience working as a campaigner and policy advisor on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation. She was a core member of the leadership team of the successful Turn off the Red Light campaign which led to Ireland adopting end-demand legislation in 2017 and was the Campaign Coordinator of the Beyond Exploitation campaign until moving to work as the lead on training with Ruhama, Ireland's only NGO dedicated to supporting those affected by the sex trade.

Mr Andrea Salvoni,

Acting Co-ordinator, Office of the OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Andrea Salvoni is the Deputy Co-ordinator at the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB). He manages the OSR/CTHB daily operations and supports its political engagement and programmatic activities, including on research and policy development, capacity building and technical assistance to OSCE States in the field of combating trafficking. Before joining the OSR/CTHB, Andrea worked for over three years in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General (SG), supporting two different OSCE SGs in their political engagement with OSCE States.

Prior to joining the OSCE, he worked in Jerusalem as project manager on mediation programmes for the Centre for Democracy and Community Development, and in Moscow in a variety of roles, including in the Italian Embassy. He also had extensive professional experience in the private sector working for the Pavan Group in Central Asia. Andrea holds Masters' Degrees in Diplomacy, Economics, and Political Science.

Daniel Kelly,

Detective Inspector, An Garda Síochána

Over 30 years experience as a member of An Garda Síochána. Currently attached to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau with National responsibility for both the Human Trafficking Investigation Unit and the Organised Prostitution Investigation Unit. Extensive experience in protecting victims in compliance with international standards. Currently a member of Interpol's Human Trafficking Expert Group and the Garda representative on a number of Europol's Action Plans in combatting human trafficking transnationally.

Niamh Hodnett,

Online Safety Commissioner Coimisiún na Meán

Niamh Hodnett has extensive experience in designing, enforcing and managing compliance with regulatory obligations in the online and communications fields. Her experience includes measures to block access to child sex abuse material and to protect people at risk of gambling addiction, as well as regulation related to data protection, cybersecurity, competition and consumer protection in the communications sector.

Niamh's most recent role was Chief Legal and Regulatory officer at Premier Lotteries, the operator of the National Lottery. She was previously Head of Regulatory Affairs at the mobile phone company, Three Ireland, a senior legal advisor with the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg), a regulatory lawyer with An Post and a member of the EU, competition & regulatory law teams at Mayer Brown in Brussels and Matheson in Dublin.

Niamh qualified as a solicitor in 1998 and is an expert in regulatory law with extensive knowledge and experience of both Irish and European law. She studied Law and German at UCC and has a master's in law from Universität Passau in Germany. She has co-authored European Law published by Oxford University Press and Regulatory Law in Ireland published by Tottel. She is also a qualified mediator.

Patricia Brazil BL,

Lecturer Trinity College Dublin

Patricia Brazil LL.B., M.Litt, Ph.D. is the Averil Deverell Lecturer in Law at Trinity College Dublin where she lectures in refugee and immigration law, family law and child law. She also has 20 years experience practising at the Bar during which time she has acted on behalf of many victims of trafficking.

Ray Genoe,

Director of the UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation

Ray Genoe is the Director of the UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation. His main expertise is in digital forensics, network investigations, cybercrime, cybersecurity, the financial sector and software validation. Over the past decade he has led numerous LEA capacity building projects throughout Europe, authored a globally distributed manual for senior police officers, and published numerous peer-reviewed publications in the fields of digital forensics, pattern recognition, cybersecurity, software validation and pedagogy. He is the coordinator of the UNDERSERVED project (DGHOME), a partner on the CYCLOPES project (H2020) and works on various projects on behalf of EACTDA and ECTEG for the development of tools and training for law enforcement officers. He has previously coordinated the INSPECTr project (H2020) and multiple FREETOOL projects (DGHOME)

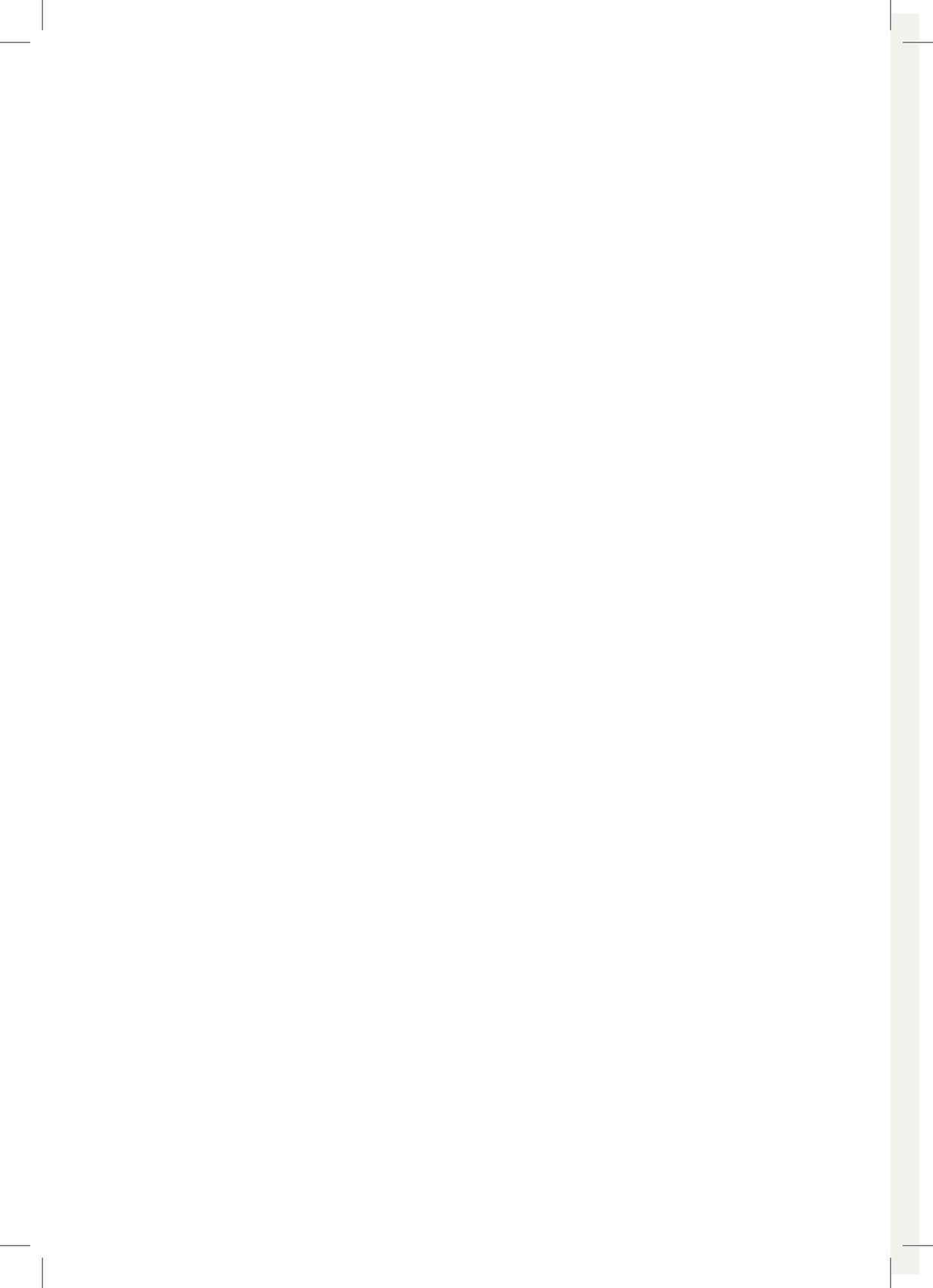
Ruth Breslin,

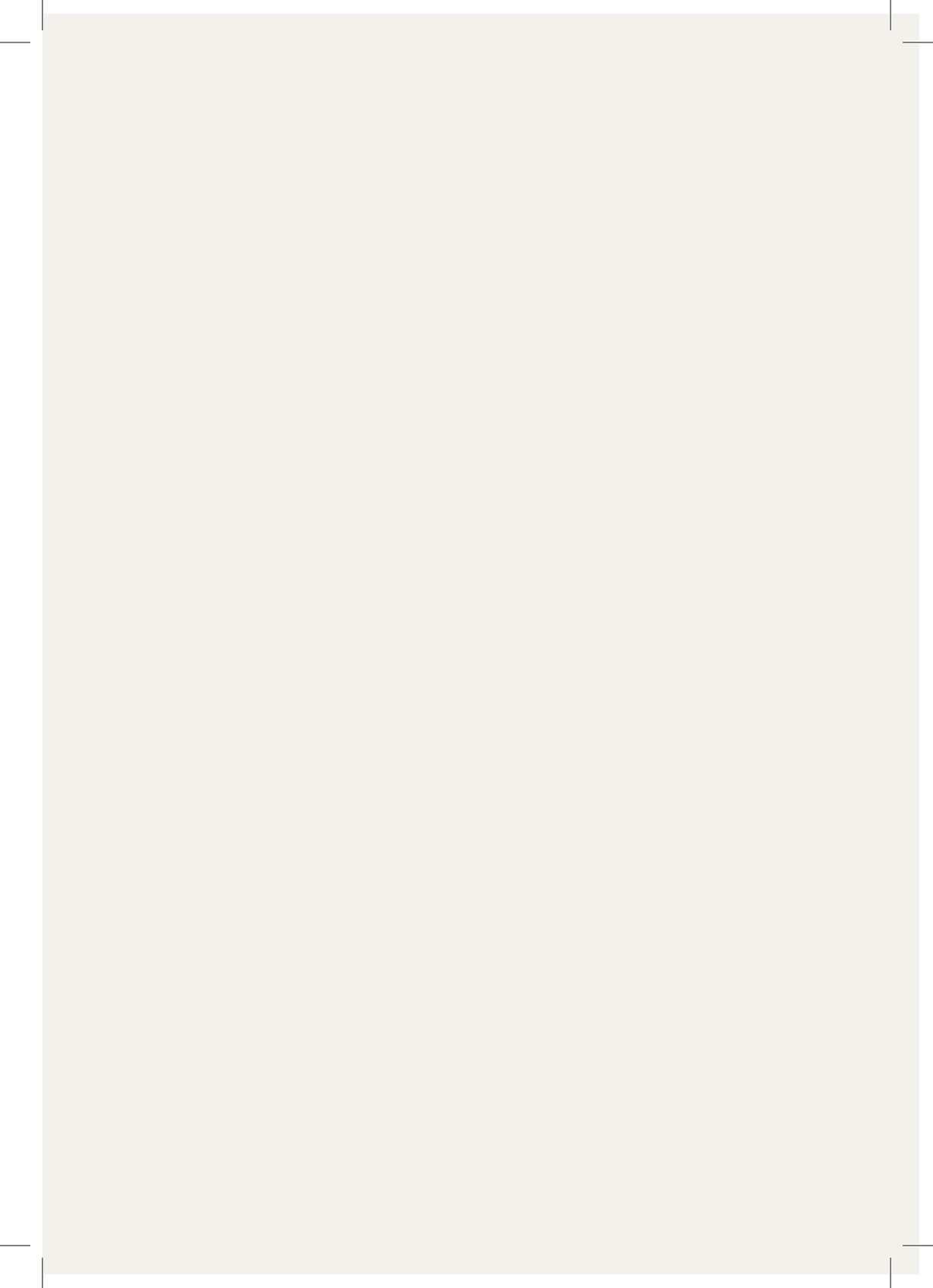
Researcher, Sexual Exploitation Research Programme (SERP)

Ruth Breslin has an MSc in Social Research Methods (Social Policy) from the London School and Economics and Political Science and over twenty years of research experience in both NGO and academic settings in Ireland, the UK and the USA. The focus of Ruth's work has been efforts to tackle violence against women and girls. Over the last fifteen years, Ruth has developed particular expertise in research and policy development on prostitution and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Since 2018, Ruth has been a core member of the research team at SERP – the Sexual Exploitation Research Programme in the Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin. Ruth is the lead author of SERP's studies on the health impacts of prostitution and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on Ireland's sex trade. Ruth is co-author (with Dr Monica O'Connor) of SERP's comprehensive study on the commercial sex trade in Ireland with regard to the application of current prostitution legislation.











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