

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE WORLD!

Dublin Castle
20/02/2015

#Beijing20



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



National Women's
Council of Ireland
Comhairle Náisiúnta
na mBán in Éirinn



A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE WORLD!

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the National Women's Council of Ireland have organised this conference to highlight women's rights and equality in Ireland and globally. It coincides with the United Nations Beijing +20 process, reviewing progress in achieving the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action since 1995.

The conference will explore key Government commitments and examine progress in advance of the Beijing +20 review process in March 2015. It is an opportunity to recognise improvements in women's rights and equality, set out the challenges that remain and propose ways to overcome them.

We see this conference as an important opportunity for cross-sectoral engagement, discussion, and reflection. We hope it will provide a legacy for future action to progress women's rights and equality in Ireland and globally.

BEIJING+20 PROCESS

In 1995, 189 countries including Ireland came together in China for the 4th UN World Conference on Women. The Conference adopted the United Nations Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which has 12 areas of critical concern.

The Platform for Action is a visionary roadmap for the achievement of women's human rights and empowerment throughout the world. Beijing+20 marks the 20th anniversary of the Platform. In March 2015, the UN Commission on the Status of Women will meet in New York to review progress on the Platform and the global achievement of women's rights and equality. Ireland will be represented there.

12 AREAS OF CRITICAL CONCERN

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**WOMEN IN POWER AND
DECISION-MAKING**

THE GIRL CHILD

WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

WOMEN AND POVERTY

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING
OF WOMEN**

**INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

WOMEN AND HEALTH

WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

09:00 **PARTICIPANTS SEATED FOR ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, MICHAEL D. HIGGINS**

09:30 **WELCOME**

Emily Logan

Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Orla O'Connor

Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi)

09:40 **WOMEN'S RIGHTS: ONE OF THE GREAT ETHICAL ISSUES OF OUR TIME**
President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins

10:05 **BEIJING+20: A GAME CHANGER FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY**

Lakshmi Puri

Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

10:25 **POETRY READING**

Rita Ann Higgins

10:35 **BREAK**

11:00 **BEIJING+20: THE CLIMATE JUSTICE WAY**

Mary Robinson

Former President of Ireland and President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

11:15 **PLENARY SESSION 1**
WOMEN, POWER AND DECISION MAKING

Chair: Prof. Monica McWilliams

Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster

Nóirín O Sullivan

Commissioner of An Garda Síochána

Dr. Micheline Sheehy

Skeffington

National University of Ireland Galway

Prof. Siobhán Mullally

Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice & Human Rights, School of Law, University College Cork and Member of Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Laura Harmon

President of the Union of Students of Ireland (USI)

12:20 **PLENARY SESSION 2**
OVERCOMING WOMEN'S POVERTY AND ACHIEVING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Chair: Dr. Ursula Barry

School of Social Justice, Director of MA in Women, Gender and Society, University College Dublin

Finola Brennan

National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks - Donegal

Dr. Mary P. Murphy

Lecturer in Irish Politics and Society, Maynooth University and Member of Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Jane Xavier

Domestic Workers Action Group, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

Esther Lynch

Legislation and Social Affairs Officer of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Justice and Equality will give a morning address.

13:30 - 14:30 **LUNCH** followed by **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Chair: Dr. Shari McDaid

Director of Mental Health Reform

Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald

*Director of Public Health,
Health Service Executive*

Jacqueline Healy

*Women's Health and Human
Rights Worker, NWCJ*

STEREOTYPING (YOUNG WOMEN) INCLUDING MEDIA & SEXISM

Chair: Una Mullally

Journalist, The Irish Times

Sophie Bennett

Co-Director of UK Feminista

Áine Ryan

Journalist

CARE WORK

Chair: Edel McGinley

Director of Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

Prof. Kathleen Lynch

*School of Social Justice,
University College Dublin*

Toby Wolfe

Policy and Research Officer, Start Strong

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Chair: Her Honour Judge

Rosemary Horgan

President of the District Court

Tom Meagher

*White Ribbon Campaign Advocate,
The Men's Development Network*

Ursula Regan BL

Solicitor and Chair of Women's Aid

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Chair: Prof. Fiona de Londras

Durham Law School, Durham University

Dr. Rhona Mahony

*Master of the National Maternity
Hospital Holles Street*

Catherine Forde

Lawyer

Ailbhe Smyth

*Convener of the Coalition to
Repeal the Eighth Amendment*

WOMEN, RACISM, MIGRATION & INTEGRATION

Chair: Anastasia Crickley

*Head of Department of Applied
Social Studies, Maynooth University,
Vice President UN Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination*

Maria Joyce

*Coordinator of the National
Traveller Women's Forum*

Gabi Muntean

*Community Worker for the Roma Project,
Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre*

Amel Yacef

*Chairperson of AkiDwA
Migrant Women Network of Ireland*

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR CHANGE

Chair: Carole Sullivan

*Head of Equality Mainstreaming, Irish
Human Rights and Equality Commission*

Roisin Mallon

*Senior Policy Officer, Equality
Commission for Northern Ireland*

Dr. Anne-Marie McGauran

*National Economic and Social
Council (NESO)*

WOMEN'S ISSUES IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Chair: Dil Wickremasinghe

Social Justice and Mental

Health Broadcaster,

Co-Founder of Insight Matters

Lesley Fitzpatrick

The LadyBirds Group,

BeLong To Youth Services

Moninne Griffith

Chair of NWCI and Co-Director

of Marriage Equality

WOMEN AND DISABILITY

Chair: Dr. Eilionóir Flynn

Acting Director of the Centre for Disability,

Law and Policy, and Senior Lecturer with

the School of Law, National University of

Ireland Galway

June Best

N.I. Ambassador, Office For Disability

Issues, (ODI) UK Strengthening

Disabled Peoples User-Led

Organisations Programme

Suzy Byrne

Disability Activist

Frieda Finlay

Parent and Advocate for People

with Intellectual Disabilities

WOMEN & INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE

Chair: The Honourable Justice

Catherine McGuinness

Claire McGettrick

Justice for Magdalenes Research

Louise O'Keeffe

Campaigner for victims of sexual

abuse in national schools

PLENARY SESSION 3

Co-Chairs: Emily Logan

Chief Commissioner of the

Irish Human Rights and

Equality Commission

and Orla O'Connor

Director of the NWCI

15:45 NEW PLACES

DIFFERENT SPACES

Maynooth University

Community and Youth

Work Students

16:00 ADDRESS

Aodhán O Ríordáin TD

Minister of State at the Department

of Justice and Equality with special

responsibility for Equality, New

Communities and Culture

16:15 REFLECTIONS

Senator Katherine Zappone

General rapporteur of conference

16:30 CONFERENCE CLOSING

IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY COMMISSION:

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) was established under law on 1 November 2014. Our purpose as an independent national human rights and equality institution is to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland. We aim to build a welcoming organisation that nurtures a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding in society.

Irish Human Rights
& Equality Commission

*4th Floor, Jervis House
Jervis Street, Dublin 1*

Lo-call: 1 890 245545

Tel: + 353 (0) 1 8589601

Fax: + 353 (0) 1 8589609

Email: info@ihrec.ie

Web: www.ihrec.ie

Twitter @_IHREC



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NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF IRELAND:

The National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) is the leading national women's membership organisation seeking equality between women and men, founded in 1973. Our mission is to lead and to be a catalyst for change in the achievement of equality between women and men. We articulate the views and experiences of our members and make sure their voices are heard wherever decisions are made which affect the lives of women.

National Women's
Council of Ireland

*100 North King Street,
Dublin 7*

Tel: + 353 (0) 1 6790 100

Fax: + 353 (0) 1 604 0345

Email: reception@nwci.ie

Web: www.nwci.ie

Twitter: @NWCI

Facebook: /NationalWomensCouncilofIreland

