

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

SESSION	SPEAKER	BIOGRAPHY
	Emily Logan, Chief Commission of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	Emily Logan is the first Chief Commission of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. Previously, Ms Logan served as Ireland's first Ombudsman for Children. Since her first year in Office Ms Logan has championed for an amendment to the Irish Constitution to further enhance the rights of children. In 2008, she was appointed by her peers to the position of President of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children.
	Orla O'Connor, Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland	Orla O'Connor is Director of NWCI. She holds a Masters degree in European Social Policy from UIM and a degree in Social Science from UCD. Orla has worked in senior management in non-governmental organisations in Ireland for over 15 years. She was previously the Head of Policy of NWCI, and has led campaigns on a wide range of issues on women's rights, including social welfare reform and for the introduction of quality and affordable childcare.
Opening Address	President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins	On 11 November 2011, Michael D. Higgins was inaugurated as the ninth President of Ireland. A passionate political voice, a poet and writer, academic and statesman, human rights advocate, promoter of inclusive citizenship and champion of creativity within Irish society, Michael D. Higgins previously served at almost every level of public life in Ireland, including as Ireland's first Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht.
Key note address	Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director UN Women	Ms Lakshmi Puri is Assistant Secretary – General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. She is directly responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships. Puri joined UN Women in March 2011 and steered its engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Rio+20 conference and the Commission on the Status of Women. From 2007 – 2009, she served as UNCTAD's Acting Deputy Secretary-General. Puri had a distinguished 28 year career with the Indian Foreign Service, where she held the rank of Permanent Secretary of the Government of India. She has a Bachelor of Arts (honours) from Delhi University and a postgraduate degree from Punjab University, as well as professional diplomas.
Key note address	Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice	Mary Robinson is President of the <i>Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice</i> . She served as President of Ireland from 1990-1997 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002. In August 2014 she was appointed the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change. Mary Robinson serves as Patron of the Board of the <i>Institute of Human Rights and Business</i> , and is a board member of several other organisations.
Key note address	Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Justice & Equality	Frances Fitzgerald TD is the Minister for Justice and Equality and was appointed to this role on 8 th May 2014. She is an experienced national politician and previously served as Minister for Children and Youth Affairs from March 2011 as leader of Fine Gael in the Seanad. She represents the constituency of Dublin Mid-West. Frances is former chair of the National Women's Council of Ireland and was motivated to go into politics chairing NWCI and the Women's Political Association. She continues to be a strong advocate for women's equality and very supportive of the work of NWCI. Frances lists John Hume as her political hero. She also admires Hilary Clinton for her tenacity, political determination and success. Frances believes the recent civil partnership

		legislation was yet another milestone for this country.
Plenary 1: Women, Power & Decision Making	Chair: Prof Monica McWilliams, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster	Monica McWilliams is Professor of Women's Studies, based in the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster. Monica was the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission from 2005 – 2011 and responsible for delivering the advice on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. She was the co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party and was elected to a seat at the Multi-Party Peace Negotiations, which led to the Belfast (Good Friday) Peace Agreement in 1998. She served as a member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly from 1998 – 2003 and the Northern Ireland Forum for Dialogue and Understanding from 1996 – 1998. Her published work focuses on domestic violence, human security and the role of women in peace processes. She was the Distinguished Lecturer at the 2010 Women PeaceMakers Conference at the University of San Diego's Institute for Peace and Justice. She is the recipient of two honorary doctorates and a special Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. She is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
	Nóirín O'Sullivan, Commissioner of An Garda Síochána	Appointed Commissioner in 2014 , Nóirín O'Sullivan joined An Garda Síochána in 1981 and has more than 30 years of professional policing experience across a wide range of both operational and administrative function areas and has worked in a broad range of police disciplines at both national and international level.
	Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington has recently retired as lecturer in Plant Ecology in the Botany Department, NUI Galway, where she taught for 34 years. She is Hanna and Francis Sheehy Skeffington's granddaughter and recently won a case against NUI Galway for gender discrimination in failing to promote her to Senior Lecturer. She is currently engaged in a campaign to redress the gender imbalance in senior posts in NUIG.
	Prof Siobhán Mullally, Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice & Human Rights, School of Law, University College Cork and Member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	Siobhán Mullally is Professor of Law at University College Cork (UCC) and is Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights at the University. Siobhán is also a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, the Council of Europe Group of Experts Against Trafficking in Human Beings, the High Council of the European University Institute as well as acting as Ireland Country Expert of EU Network of Experts on Free Movement of Workers and Ireland County representative on the EU Odysseus Network of Experts on Asylum and Immigration Law. Previously she acted as a legal expert for the UNDP and chaired the Board of the Irish Refugee Council. Siobhán has published extensively on gender equality, asylum and refugee law, migrant rights, human trafficking, and forced labour. She graduated from the René Cassin Institute with a Certificate in Teaching Human Rights Law, UCC with a Bachelor of Civil Law, the London School of Economics with a LLM and from the European University Institute with a PhD.
	Laura Harmon, President of the Union of Students of Ireland	Laura Harmon is the President of the Union of Students in Ireland. USI represents over 300,000 students across the island - north and south. Laura happens to be the first woman President of USI in 20 years. Laura was previously a two term Equality and Citizenship Officer with USI. Laura is from Ballyvourney, a Gaeltacht area in Co: Cork. She is a graduate of University College Cork.
Plenary 2: Overcoming Women's Poverty & Achieving Economic	Chair: Dr Ursula Barry, School of Social Justice, Direct of MA in Women, Gender and Society, Univeristy College Dublin	Ursula Barry is a Senior Lecturer with the School of Social Justice, University College Dublin, Ireland specialising in gender, equality and public policy and long-time activist on reproductive injustice in Ireland. Irish representative on EU Research Network on Gender Equality and Employment (ENEGE.eu). Editor of, and contributor to <i>'Where are we</i>

Independence		<i>now – new feminist perspectives on women in contemporary Ireland'</i> New Island Publishers 2008.
	Finola Brennan, National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks – Donegal	Finola Brennan is a qualified nurse and worked as a midwife in England and Ireland. In Donegal she worked in Care of the Older Person for twenty-one years. For the past 13 years she has worked as Co-ordinator with Donegal Women's Network. Finola is a member on the board of Donegal Women's Domestic Violence Service and is a member of the Donegal Anti-Human Trafficking Group and the 5050 group, North West and National.
	Dr Mary P. Murphy, Lecturer in Irish Politics and Society, Maynooth University and Member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	Mary P. Murphy is a lecturer in Irish Politics and Society in the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University. She has research interests in welfare states, gender, social security, globalization, the politics of redistribution and power and civil society. She has published widely. A lead investigator in the H2020 Euro 3 research project Re-InVest, she is also a part time member of the Irish Human Right and Equality Commission.
	Jane Xavier, Domestic Workers Action Group, Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland	Jane Xavier is a member of the Domestic Workers Action Group (DWAG), a group of over 350 migrant women employed as childminders carers, au pairs and cleaners in private homes in Ireland. DWAG empowers workers to assert their rights and to campaign for new laws and better enforcement of existing laws for workers in the sector. Jane is also the Chairperson of Au Pair Rights Ireland (ARAI).
	Esther Lynch, Legislation and Social Affairs Officer of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions	Esther Lynch is Legal and Legislative Officer at the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). Esther has worked with ICTU for almost two decades. She has participated at senior level in negotiations on a succession of national agreements and is a member of the board of the Health and Safety Authority. At EU level, she is a member of the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) NETLEX labour law experts group and the EU Commission's High Level Advisory Group on the Free Movement of Workers. Esther is also the worker representative for Ireland at the International Labour Organisation (ILO). She holds a BSc in Management and Law from the DIT.
Parallel Sessions:		
1. Women's Health	Chair: Dr Shari McDaid, Director of Mental Health Reform	Shari McDaid is the Director of Mental Health Reform, the national coalition promoting improved mental health services and social inclusion of people with mental health difficulties. Shari joined Mental Health Reform as Policy Officer in August 2011. Prior to that, Shari worked with Amnesty International Ireland, the National Disability Authority and Schizophrenia Ireland. Shari received her doctorate in 2008 from the Equality Studies Centre at UCD.
	Dr Margaret Fitzgerald, Director of Public Health, Health Service Executive	Dr Margaret Fitzgerald is a medical doctor and currently the Director of Public Health for Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare. She works in the Division of Health and Wellbeing with the Health Service Executive. After training in general practice and child health she spent several years working in East and Southern Africa with GOAL and UN. From 2005 – 2006 she worked in Malawi in HIV care with MSF and worked in an advisory capacity for Irish Aid from 2007 – 2013 on health and HIV issues.
	Jacqueline Healy, Women's Health and Human Rights Worker, NWC	Jacqueline Healy is Women's Health and Human Rights Worker with the National Women's Council of Ireland. Her work with NWC focuses on advancing women's health rights and co-ordinating a gender mainstreaming project with the Health Service Executive with the aim of creating a gender sensitive healthcare system for Ireland.
2. Stereotyping (Young Women) incl. Media & Sexism	Chair: Una Mullally, Journalist, The Irish Times	Una Mullally is a journalist, broadcaster and author from Ireland. She writes a weekly column for the Irish Times, as well as features, and runs their popular culture blog, PopLife. Her first book, <i>In The Name Of Love</i> , an oral history of the movement for marriage equality in Ireland, was

		published in December 2014 by The History Press. She presents the music show <i>Ceol ar an Imeall</i> on TG4, currently in its sixth series.
	Sophie Bennett, Co-Director, UK Feminista	Sophie Bennett is Co-Director of UK Feminista, - an organisation which supports and promotes grassroots feminist activism. She was previously Campaigns and Policy Officer at Object and Welfare and Equality Officer at the University of Bristol Students' Union. She has taught at the Uganda Martyrs University in Uganda and founded the University of Bristol Feminist Society in 2009.
	Áine Ryan, Journalist	Áine Ryan is an award-winning journalist, sociologist and writer based in Westport, County Mayo. Brought up in Dublin, she lived for over a decade on Clare Island, the reputed burial place of 16 th century feminist, Granuaile. She writes part-time for The Mayo News and also contributes to The Irish Times, Sunday Times and to RTE's Sunday Miscellany.
3. Care Work	Chair: Edel McGinley, Director of Migrant Rights Centre Ireland	Edel McGinley has been with the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland for over 8 years. In her time there she has co-ordinated the Justice for the Undocumented Campaign and held responsibility for MECI's communications. She is a board member of Platform for the International Co-operation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and UPLIFT, a multi-issue campaigning organisation. Edel previously co-ordinated two Equality for Women initiatives, including developing the Domestic Workers Action Group, and work with migrant women in rural Ireland. Before joining MRCI, Edel worked in various social care and youth work positions. She has a BA in Applied Social Studies, an MA in Globalisation, and Diplomas in Youth and Community Work and Digital Media Technology.
	Prof. Kathleen Lynch, School of Social Justice, University College Dublin	Kathleen Lynch is a Professor of Equality Studies at UCD School of Social Justice. Best known for her research equality and education, she has also co-authored a number of major texts on equality and on care and justice. Professor Lynch supervises PhD students in a range of topics relating to social justice and serves as an editor on a number of major journals. She has been a visiting scholar at a number of leading universities.
	Toby Wolfe, Policy & Research Officer, Start Strong	Toby Wolfe is the Policy and Research Officer at Start Strong, a national advocacy organisation campaigning for children's early care and education. He was a member of the Expert Advisory Group on Ireland's National Early Years Strategy and also the Co-Chair of Eurochild's thematic working group on early years education. Prior to joining Start Strong in 2009, he worked at Pobal. His background is in economics and social policy analysis.
4. Violence Against Women	Chair: Judge Rosemary Horgan, President of the District Court	Justice Rosemary Horgan is the President of the District Court
	Tom Meagher, White Ribbon Campaign Advocate, The Men's Development Network	Tom Meagher is the husband of the late Jill Meagher who was murdered in Australia in 2012. During the trial, it was revealed that her murderer had an extensive history of rape and violence against women for which he was not held fully accountable. Tom led a successful campaign to hold the parole board accountable in Victoria. Tom has a unique insight into the world of men's violence against women; he is now national advocate for White Ribbon Ireland.
	Ursula Regan, Solicitor and Chair of Women's Aid	Ursula Regan is a solicitor in private practice in Blackrock, County Dublin, practicing solely in the area of family law. Ursula is currently the chair of Women's Aid, a leading national organisation that has been working in Ireland to stop domestic violence against women and children since 1974.
5. Reproductive	Chair: Fiona de Londras, Durham Law School	Fiona de Londras is Professor of Law at Durham University and, for 2014-15, a visiting fellow at Oxford Human Rights Hub and the Human

Health & Rights		Rights for Future Generations Programme of the Oxford Martin School. She holds visiting professorships at University College Dublin and the University of New South Wales, In 2009 she founded Human Rights in Ireland a collaborative human rights blog with contributions from academics, NGOs and politicians.
	Dr Rhona Mahony, Master of the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street	Dr. Rhona Mahony is currently Master of the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, where she oversees over 9,000 deliveries a year, a busy gynaecological unit and approximately 800 staff. Dr. Mahony is a Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist and Specialist in Foetal and Maternal Medicine. She has a doctorate in anal sphincter injury following childbirth and has researched in such topics as pelvic floor injury, maternal weight gain, foetal macrosomia and has been published in international academic journals. She was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship 2014.
	Catherine Forde, Lawyer	Chaired the Irish Family Planning Association for many years Was Hon Legal Counsel to International Planned Parenthood Federation Co-drafted International Planned Parenthood Federation Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Was chair of the Irish Family Lawyers Association. Currently member and volunteer with Irish Family Planning Association. On the Court Services Family Law Development Committee Work as a family lawyer.
	Ailbhe Smyth, Convener of the Coalition to Repeal the Eighth Amendment	Ailbhe Smyth is an activist and former academic who has been involved in feminist, LGBT, and radical politics for a long time. The founding director of the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERRC), she was head of Women's Studies at UCD from 1990 until 2006 when she left UCD to work independently. She has lectured and written extensively on feminist issues. She is Convenor of the Coalition to Repeal the Eighth Amendment.
6. 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	Anastasia Crickley is Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University. She is Vice President of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, previously Chair of the EU Fundamental Rights agency and currently Chairperson of the Community Workers Cooperative. As a founder member of Pavee Point, the Migrant Rights Centre she has been particularly active in promoting the rights of women from Minorities.
	Maria Joyce, National Traveller Women's Forum	Maria Joyce is the co-ordinator of the National Traveller Women's Forum. She is a Traveller activist who has worked in the Traveller movement and human rights field for the past 20 or so years. She is a graduate of NUI Maynooth with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Social Studies. Maria is committed to the achievement of full gender equality for Traveller women and the recognition of Traveller ethnic status. Maria represents the NTWF in a number of National Traveller policy committees within various government departments and has also represented the NTWF at national and European levels in the area of equality and human rights.
	Gabi Muntean, Community Worker for the Roma Project, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre	Gabi Muntean is a community development worker with the Roma project in Pavee Point. She works to promote the human rights of Roma in Ireland. She works closely with the TRIP/ SafetyNet Roma GP service in Tallaght. She played an integral part developing the exhibition to challenge stereotypes about Roma -Roma , One People: Many Lives. She has been a long- time volunteer working with schools and services to promote Roma inclusion.
	Amel Yacef, Chairperson AkiDwA Migrant Women Network in Ireland	Amel Yacef is the Chairperson of AkiDwA, Originally from Algeria, She has been working in the youth and the community sector in Ireland for the last 15 years. Her main fields of expertise are in youth health, youth

		participation, child protection and integration. Amel has been in a professional as well as personal capacity very active in regards to issues of equality, equity and justice.
7. Institutional Mechanisms for Change	Chair: Carole Sullivan, Head of Mainstreaming, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	Carole Sullivan joined the Equality Authority in March 2000 as a Development Officer with responsibility for the area of equality proofing. In 2007 she was appointed the Campaign Director of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. Carole now works with the Public Engagement Team of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission with a specific focus on the area of equality mainstreaming. She holds a degree in Social Science and a Masters in Women's Studies.
	Roisin Mallon, Senior Policy Officer, Equality Commission Northern Ireland	Roisin Mallon is currently employed as a Senior Policy Officer in the Legal, Policy and Research Division of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Prior to joining the Equality Commission, she worked as a Solicitor in private practice. She has also worked in a wide variety of posts within the Equality Commission, including in the post of Director of Equality Legislation. She is currently managing the gender equality policy work in the Equality Commission.
	Dr Anne-Marie McGauran, National Economic and Social Council (NESC)	Anne-Marie is a policy analyst at the National Economic and Social Council; a board member of One Family and a visiting research fellow with the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies in Trinity College Dublin. She previously worked as Head of the NDP Gender Equality Unit in the Dept of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Her PhD compared women's employment in France and Ireland, and the impact of government policies on this.
8. Women's Issues in the LGBT Community	Chair: Dil Wickremasinghe, Social Justice and Mental Health Broadcaster, Co-Founder of Insight Matters	Dil is a Social Justice and Mental Health broadcaster and journalist with Newstalk 106 – 108. Dil is an activist and campaigns for equal rights and has served voluntarily on the boards of numerous NGOs. She is an social entrepreneur and set up Diversity & Equality Works in 2006 and since then they have provided equality training in the Irish workplace. In 2011 Dil co-founded the mental health support service Insight Matters with her partner Anne Marie Toole to provide low cost, inclusive and culturally sensitive personal development, psychotherapy and counselling.
	Lesley Fitzpatrick, The LadyBirds Group, BeLong to Youth Services	Lesley is a member of BeLongTo Youth Service which is based in Dublin. She primarily engages in peer education within The Ladybirds group, which is an LBT women's group. She's represented The Ladybirds and BeLongTo in multiple media opportunities so as to raise awareness of issues facing LGBT youth.
	Moninne Griffith, Chair NWCI and Co-Director of Marriage Equality	Moninne has worked as Director of Marriage Equality, a single-issue organisation working for equality for same-sex couples, their families and their children in Ireland since it launched in February 2008. She now shares this position with a Co-Director. Her work involves managing the Political, Mobilisation, Communications, Legal and Fundraised Strategies of the organisation. Before this Moninne worked as a solicitor in general practice for almost ten years and volunteered with FLAC, the Free Legal Advice Centres, and Women's Aid. She has an MSA in Women's Studies from UCD and has been on the Board of the National Women's Council for Ireland for four years.
9. Women & Disability Rights	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	Eilionóir is Deputy Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy and Senior Lecturer with the School of Law. Eilionóir is a graduate of University College Cork and has been working at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy since 2009. She is a member of the National Advocacy Service working group to develop a non instructed advocacy plan and a member of the Academic Network of European Disability expert Working Group to develop a monitoring tool for the European Union Disability Strategy.

	June Best, N.I. Ambassador, Office For Disability Issues, (ODI) UK Strengthening Disabled Peoples User-Led Organisations Programme	June Best was selected in June 2013 as the Northern Ireland Ambassador, ODI (Office of Disability Issues), UK, to facilitate and develop the Disabled Peoples User Led Organisation Programme (DPULO), throughout N.Ireland. Since her early retirement from her career within education, June has been an educational advisor and equality training consultant. She is a Guide Dog owner, a dedicated volunteer and Service User Representative within Guide Dogs.
	Suzy Byrne, Disability Activist	Suzy Byrne has worked and campaigned in the area of LGBT and disability equality and community development in paid and unpaid roles over the past twenty five years and is currently employed as a senior personal advocate for people with disabilities with the National Advocacy Service. Suzy blogged about news and current affairs at Mamanpoulet.com and has won a number of awards for her work.
	Frieda Finlay, Parent and Advocate for People with Intellectual Disabilities	Frieda Finlay has advocated for her daughter and has campaigned for many years for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities. She was instrumental in the establishment of the National Institute for Intellectual Disability in TCD. She served on the Commission for the Status of People. She has been a board member, PRO and Chair of Inclusion Ireland and many other boards and government working groups.
10. Women & Institutional Abuse	Chair: Judge Catherine McGuinness	Catherine McGuinness was educated in Northern Ireland and in Alexandra College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and the King's Inns. She served as a member of Seanad Eireann 1979-1987. In 1994 she was appointed as the first woman judge of the Circuit Court. She subsequently served as a judge of the High Court and of the Supreme Court and was also President of the Law Reform Commission. In 2012 she was appointed to the Council of State by President Michael D. Higgins.
	Claire McGettrick, Justice for Magdalenes Research	Claire McGettrick is an activist, researcher and survivors' rights advocate and is co-founder of Justice for Magdalenes (now JFM Research) and the Adoption Rights Alliance. She also worked as Research Assistant on the project Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Archival and Oral History, which collected the oral histories of 79 interviewees, including 35 Magdalene survivors.
	Louise O'Keeffe, Campaigner for victims of sexual abuse in national schools	Louise O'Keeffe was sexually abused as an eight year old girl in 1973 by her school principal Leo Hickey, who was sentenced to three years prison in 1998. Louise also commenced legal proceedings in the Civil Courts against him and the Department of Education/the State. After the High Court and the Supreme Court ruled the State was not liable, she appealed to the European Court of Human Rights which ruled in January 2014 that Ireland had failed to protect her from sexual abuse in school.
Plenary 3: Address	Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD	Aodhán Ó Ríordáin is a TD for Dublin Bay North and the Minister of State with special responsibility for New Communities, Culture and Equality. First elected to the Dáil in 2011 he previously served on Dublin City Council from 2004 – 2011 and was Deputy Lord Mayor in 2006. Prior to becoming a Minister of State he served as the Vice-Chair of the Education and Social Protection Committee. He is a graduate of University College Dublin and the Marino Institute of Education. Before working full time in politics he worked as a teacher and was Principal in St. Lawrence O'Toole's Girls School in Sheriff Street in Dublin's North Inner City.
Reflections	Senator Katherine Zappone	Independent Senator Katherine Zappone has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice. In the Seanad she has championed human rights,

		<p>gender equality, equality in education, financial justice and political reform. She is proud to be a former Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission (2002 – 2012) and a former CEO of the National Women’s Council of Ireland. Senator Zappone is co-founder of An Cosán, Ireland’s largest community education organisation with her spouse Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan. She hold a PhD from Boston College, an MBA from the Smurfit Business School and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from UCD School of Law.</p>
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