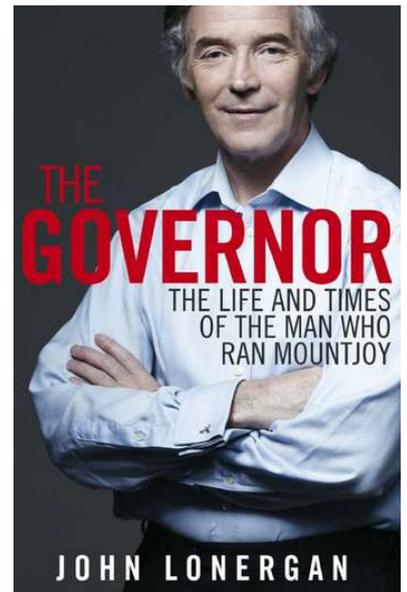


Few people not directly connected to the prison system or prisoners take any interest in prisoners, but a small number of people have done wonderful work for them and their families. One of the most significant of these is a Dominican sister, Sister Caoimhín Ní Uallacháin, a former teacher who, in retirement, started the Matt Talbot Trust in Ballyfermot to support prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. One of my best ever decisions in Mountjoy was allowing her into the prison to visit prisoners from Ballyfermot. She was – and is – a most extraordinary woman.



A tribute to Sr. Caoimhín Ní Uallacháin OP by members of All Together in Dignity



We first met Sr Caoimhín in 2000, early on in our years in Ireland. We were very struck by her deep and lasting relationship with men she had known in prison, and with their families. We discovered that once she committed herself to supporting someone, she would not abandon them. She was in with them for the long haul.

Sr. Caoimhin was an extraordinary fighter, a tough one and a tender one. She was strong on the question of the dignity of people, of their rights. Over generations, she was a dependable long term friend to them and their families.

She worked hard to create places that could be stepping stones for people's future and to help them free themselves from the injustices weighing them down.

Her deep faith in human beings and in respecting people's need to be free meant that she became a strong reference for us and for ATD Fourth World. At the 17 October 2002 commemoration in Dublin at the Famine Memorial on Custom House Quay, she gave her voice, in Irish and in a powerful and moving way, to Father Joseph Wresinski's words that had launched this UN international day.

In December last, we visited her in Cabra. Her health was fragile but she was very present. We were able to quietly thank her for her precious friendship and for all we have learnt from her.

Yes, thank you Sr Caoimhin! We will continue to draw inspiration from your profound engagement with people, and from your enduring fighting spirit.

Stuart and Isabelle Williams
From ATD Fourth World – Appalachia, USA.

Dear ATD team,

I was very saddened to hear your news of the passing of Sr. Caoimhin. She was a great defender of the rights of young people to education which inspired me in my own work in the inner city. Along with Ballymun and the inner city, Ballyfermot where Sr Caoimhin launched the Candle and the Matt Talbot Trust was one of the first "community hubs" of ATD in Ireland during those early formative years with Stuart and Isabelle Williams.

She was always supportive of the work of ATD and I have fond memories of her attending many 17 October commemorations over the years. I also recall from your photos when she joined us for the welcoming event to mark the visit of the International 17 October Committee to Ireland in Manresa centre, Clontarf. My last memory of her was at the meeting of friends in Mountjoy Square in 2016 to start the process of an extended membership for the formal ATD Ireland registered company.

She was truly a woman of great spirit and courage.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Mark Hogan
International Policy and Advocacy Department
ATD International Headquarters - France

Dear Friends,

We are saddened to learn you lost a good friend, so committed with a very deep compassion. We lost a friend.

Glad to have an relationship with so beautiful soul. David and I are convey our deepest condolences to her family and friends, included you of course.

Jacqueline Plaisir
ATD Coordination for Africa, **Dakar**
former member of ATD International
Leadership team
met Sister Sr Caoimhin in May 2014

Dear friends,

Many thanks for these photos and your comments about Sr. Caoimhin Ni Uallachain.

We shall keep the memory of all what she has achieved when she was among us and will may be achieve from where she is now.

Hugues de Courtivron - France
Secretariat of the International Committee for October 17
met Sister Caoimhin in May 2014

Dear Friends,

I was deeply saddened to learn our beloved Sr. Caoimhín Ní Uallacháin had passed away.

She was an example and an inspiration to us all, and her legacy will live on with the countless people she touched and influenced over the years. Her gracious participation in the meeting of the International Committee for October 17 in Dublin in 2014 is well

remembered, and helped strengthen the ties between the Irish people and the International Committee.

On behalf of the International Committee for October 17, I convey our deepest condolences to her loved ones.

Donald L Lee – President – New York
International Committee for October 17
met Sister Sr Caoimhin in May 2014



Dear All,

I really enjoyed watching Sister Caoimhin speaking on video of 2013 17th Oct and also meeting her in person twice via ATD. Truly inspiring woman. May she Rest in Peace. If she isn't I'm not sure there is much hope for everyone else.

Elaine Phelan
ATD volunteer

Dear friends,

ATD Ireland, the ATD International Volunteer Corps and the 17 October Committee lost an important friend: Sr. Caoimhín Ní Uallacháin. She passed away last night in Cabra.

I must say that whatever my beliefs are, her beliefs will make her even more active today, tomorrow and as far as the fight goes on.

As she did it with other members of the ATD International Volunteer Corps, Sr. Caoimhín Ní Uallacháin was the first Irish person who invited Fabienne and me at her home to share with us an Irish meal, and to bring us on a journey when she was a child and when Irish families were torn apart because of the Civil War. Something you can't forget.

She had a great admiration of the Volunteer Corps she discovered with Isabelle and Stuart. And we felt very "small" in front of this strong and inspired fighting women.

Difficult to say as impressive she was in the year 2016 with the massive deaths toll of migrants in the mediterranean sea. Sr. Caoimhín Ní Uallacháin pushed many of us to come together to imagine ways to accelerate the possibilities to welcome people here in Dublin.

The health of Sr Caoimhin Ni Uallachain OP worsen early in December 2017 and each time ATD members saw her in Cabra since that time, she told us she was waiting to go. But she still was active, asking for the address of Isabelle and Stuart in the Appalachia to write to them or being ready to sign the 17 October Committee to the Archbishop about the Pope's visit.

This woman of so many fights is now walking with us all.

You can watch her from 7m25sec in this video from 17 October 2013:

<https://vimeo.com/80834211>



More about her: <https://www.dominicansisters.com/2014/sr-caimhin-ni-uallachain-speaks-of-her-ministry-in-candle-community-trust-and-matt-talbot-community-trust/>

I add below 2 pictures of her at the welcoming event of the "International Committee meeting" in May 2014.,

Pierre with Fabienne KLEIN

ATD Dublin

www.atdireland.ie

