

# 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**

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**WOMEN IN POWER AND  
DECISION-MAKING**

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**THE GIRL CHILD**

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**WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY**

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**WOMEN AND POVERTY**

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**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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**HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN**

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**EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
OF WOMEN**

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**INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

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**WOMEN AND HEALTH**

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**WOMEN AND THE MEDIA**

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**WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

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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, NWC*

## **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 (NESC)*

## **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

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Twitter @\_IHREC



## **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.

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Council of Ireland

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Facebook: /NationalWomensCouncilofIreland

