

Women's Aid 50th Anniversary Conference



**MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY
WITH A ZERO TOLERANCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The Clayton Hotel, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2

Thursday 21st November 2024

9am – 9.45am **Registration and Networking**

9.45am – 10am **Welcome**

Ailbhe Smyth, Chair, Women's Aid
'Think' Spoken Word Performance by Poet Natalya O'Flaherty

10am – 11am **Plenary Session 1: Panel Discussion**

Domestic Abuse and Gender Inequality - advancements in Irish society over five decades, prevailing challenges and opportunities for change

Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid
Denise Charlton, CEO, Community Foundation Ireland
Sean Cooke, CEO, Men's Development Network
Stephanie O'Keefe, CEO, CUAN, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

Panel discussion and Q&A
Moderated by Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, Vice President of GREVIO

11am – 11.30am **Coffee Break**

11.30am – 1pm **Breakaway Parallel Sessions 1-3**

Session 1: Disabled Women's Experience of Intimate Partner Abuse

Susan Flynn, Assistant Professor in Social Studies, Trinity College Dublin
Gladys O'Neill, Disabled Women's Experience of Intimate Partner Abuse Research Team
Nem Kearns, Disability Advocate and Policy Advisor
Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid
Liz Pena, Head of Services Development, CUAN, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

Panel discussion and Q&A
Moderated by Ailbhe Smyth, Chair, Women's Aid

Session 2: Facing Reality: Addressing pornography and the role it plays in violence against women and children, including image based sexual abuse

Ruth Breslin, Director, The SERP Institute
Mary Hayes, Too Into You Project Co-ordinator, Women's Aid
Alex Cooney, CEO, CyberSafeKids
Mick Moran, CEO, Hotline.ie

Panel discussion and Q&A
Moderated by Ali Ryan, Founder and CEO, Goss.ie

Session 3: The cost of domestic abuse to women and families, the barriers to safety and the importance of an intersectional approach to zero tolerance of gender-based violence

Eavan Ward, Head of Regional Services, Women's Aid
Louise Bayliss, Campaign Co-ordinator, Focus Ireland
Dr. Rosaleen McDonagh, Activist, Playwright, Author, and Traveller
Megan Connors, Traveller Women's Awareness Worker
Dr. Salome Mbugua Henry, CEO, AkiDWA

Panel discussion and Q&A
Moderated by Suzanna Knight, Head of Training and Development, Women's Aid

1pm – 2.15pm

Lunch at Stir Restaurant

2.15pm – 3.45pm

Breakaway Parallel Sessions 4-6

Session 4: Understanding and addressing coercive control and its impact on women and children.

Dr. Emma Katz, Academic, author and researcher
Professor Stephanie Holt, Professor in Social Studies, Trinity College Dublin
Cliona Golden, Associate, Arthur Cox LLP
Stephanie Whyte, Head of Services, Barnardos
Mary-Louise Lynch, Founder, SiSi

Panel discussion and Q&A

Moderated by Margaret Martin, former CEO Women's Aid and current member of the Board of the National Women's Council

Session 5: Eradicating domestic abuse and gender inequality through partnerships and whole of society action.

Orla O'Connor, Chair, Irish Observatory on Violence against Women
Hannah Wayte, Employer Engagement Project Leader, Women's Aid
Dr. Michelle Walsh, CEO, MOVE
Colm Noonan, Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána
Marisa Ryan, Head of Strategic Engagement/Principal Officer – CUAN, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

Panel discussion and Q&A

Moderated by Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, Vice President of GREVIO

Session 6: The importance of men's leadership in pursuit of zero tolerance of violence against women and for gender equality.

Finian Murphy, Marketing Director, Core
Sean Cooke, CEO, Men's Development Network
Ivan Cooper, CEO, The Wheel
Eoghan Cleary, Assistant Principal, Teacher, Social Activist and Campaigner
Robert Hanly, Head of People & Culture, Allianz Ireland

Panel discussion and Q&A

Moderated by Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid

3.45pm – 4pm

Coffee Break & Exhibitions

4pm

Plenary Session 2

Insights and reflections from breakaway parallel sessions 1-6 by rapporteurs.

Chaired by Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid

4.30pm

Keynote Address

Norah Casey, Broadcaster, entrepreneur and philanthropist with a specialty in women's empowerment and gender equality

4.50pm

Closing Session

Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid
'Not Like Other Girls' Spoken Word Performance by Poet Natalya O'Flaherty

5pm – 7pm

Reception



**Download the Full
Conference Programme**
#MaintainingMomentum
#WomensAidat50

**This conference is generously
supported by ARTHUR COX**