

PROGRAMME

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| 9:30 | Registration |
| 10:00 | Welcome address Joanna McMinn, Chair, Equality & Rights Alliance |
| 10:10 | Fair enough: equality & rights at the heart of recovery Karen Chouhan, Director, Equanomics |
| 10:40 | Protecting equality and human rights - Institutional choices Colm O’Cinneide, University College London |
| 11:00 | Questions and Comment |
| 11:30 | Break |
| 11:50 | The reality of inequality in Ireland: personal reflections Alwiye Xusyn Sharon Prendergast Ciara Quinn Donal Toolan |
| 12:20 | ERA Research: Findings and recommendations Dr Kathy Walsh & Brian Harvey |
| 12:40 | Questions and Comment |
| 1:00 | Lunch |
| 2:00 | Workshops 1. Improving the legislative and policy response to equality and human rights Tanya Ward, ICCL and Eilis Barry BL 2. Strengthening the role of civil society groups Patricia Prendiville, equality expert 3. Strengthening the independence of specialist equality and human rights bodies Michael Farrell, FLAC 4. Challenging the backlash against equality and rights Justine McCarthy, Journalist & broadcaster |
| 3:00 | Political vision: An invitation to the main political parties to outline their vision for equality and human rights John Bowman, Panel Moderator |
| 4:00 | Concluding commentary Niall Crowley, equality expert |
| 4:30 | Conference close |

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Karen Chouhan

Selected from 1600 applicants by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in 2005 to be one of seven ‘Visionaries’ with ideas to change the world, Karen has over three decades of leadership in social movements to eradicate poverty and inspire race equality and economic justice. She is the founder and Director of Equanomics - UK, an initiative to build a UK community led alliance that re-shapes race related policy through an economic lens. Equanomics has strong links with Rev Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Push Alliance in the United States.

Colm O’Cinneide

Colm is a law lecturer with the University College London since 2001. He previously worked as Legal Officer to Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC (1999-2001), providing legal advice to parliamentarians, NGOs and the media on domestic and international human rights law, discrimination law and public policy. He is currently a member of the European Committee of Social Rights, the EU Network of Legal Experts in the Non-discrimination Field and the Blackstone Chambers Academic Panel.

Alwiye Xusyn

Alwiye is a native of Tanzania living in Ireland since 1997. She is the Majira health officer with AkiDWA. Majira focuses on sexual and reproductive health for asylum seekers and refugee women living in direct provision.

Sharon Prendergast

Sharon is a lone mother of one child. She is a board member of OPEN and a graduate of OPEN’s Advocating for Policy Change programme.

Ciara Quinn

Ciara is a campaigner for equal rights for LGBT young people in Ireland. She has been active in BeLonGTo’s Sunday group and Ladybird for 2 years.

Donal Toolan

Donal has worked as a disability rights activist, actor and award-winning journalist. He was founder and coordinator of the Forum of People with Disabilities. He is Chair of International Service Ireland and a board member of European Anti-Poverty Network.

Tanya Ward

Tanya is deputy Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and a lecturer in human rights at the UCD School of Social Justice where she is pursuing a PhD on Race and Law in Ireland.

Eilis Barry

Eilis is a barrister who specialises in anti-discrimination and employment law. She was legal adviser to the Equality Authority and head of its legal section for nine years and has recently resumed practice at the bar.

Patricia Prendiville

Patricia works as a consultant to organisations supporting strategic development for equality outcomes. She has worked in the area of equality and social change for over 25 years at both national and European level.

Michael Farrell

Michael is a solicitor working for Free Legal Advice Centres Ltd (FLAC) and is a Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission. He has campaigned on civil rights and human rights issues over the last 30 years and is Vice Chairperson of the Law Society’s Human Rights Committee.

Justine McCarthy

Justine is a journalist, author and columnist with The Sunday Times. She has also worked for the Irish Independent, the Sunday Tribune and was deputy editor of Village magazine. Justine has also contributed to the Guardian, the Observer, the European and the Washington Post.

Niall Crowley

Niall is an independent equality and diversity expert. He was chief executive officer of the Equality Authority from its establishment in 1999 until 2009. He worked in with the Travellers’ rights organisation Pavee Point for twelve years. He is author of ‘An Ambition for Equality’, published in 2006.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Leaders in NGOs working to address inequality, poverty and human rights
- Trade unions
- Business interests
- Officials in Government Departments and State bodies working on equality, poverty, anti-discrimination and human rights
- Public representatives
- Academics and educators in the area of equality social policy and human rights

Register online at:

www.eracampaign.org/registration.html

Or

Return this completed form to:

ERA , c/o OPEN, 7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7.

Please RSVP before **Monday, November 16th.**

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| Name: | |
| Organisation: | |
| Email: | |
| Tel: | |
| Please indicate any special requirements: | |
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| Workshop preferences (indicate title): | |
| My first preference is: | |
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| My second preference is: | |
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For more information contact Rachel at ERA:

Email: rachel@eracampaign.org

Tel: (01) 814 8860

ABOUT ERA

Equality & Rights Alliance (ERA) is a coalition of over 130 civil society groups and activists (NGOs, trades union, academics and individual activists). ERA was initially established to oppose the dismantling of the statutory equality and human rights infrastructure by the present government.

Our Mission is to defend and strengthen equality and human rights in Ireland by building a strong alliance of civil society groups that will hold the government and state bodies accountable for the Irish equality and human rights infrastructure.

Equality & Rights Alliance, c/o OPEN,
7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7
Tel: (01) 814 88 60



A FAIRER IRELAND EQUALITY & RIGHTS

at the heart of recovery

A **CONFERENCE** exploring the need for a statutory equality and human rights culture and infrastructure that works

Conference hosted by the:
EQUALITY & RIGHTS ALLIANCE

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| Date | Tuesday November 24th 2009 |
| Venue | The Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. |
| Time | 9:30 to 4:30 |

**EQUALITY
& RIGHTS
ALLIANCE**

Ireland Can't Afford Cutbacks
in Equality & Rights.

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