

Participants

Martin Collins is the Co-Director of Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and has been a Traveller activist for 30 years. He has represented Travellers and Roma at a range of national governmental consultative committees concerned with issues of equality, human rights, access to education, healthcare and accommodation. Martin has also engaged extensively with international human rights bodies, such as CERD, the Framework Convention and various UN Human Rights Committees. He is widely published in journals, newspapers and other media.

Carol Coulter is a former journalist, having worked with The Irish Times for 28 years, the last ten as its Legal Affairs Editor. During her career she won a number of journalism awards, including Campaigning Journalist of the Year, Newspaper Legal Journalist of the Year and Overall Legal Journalist of the Year. In 2012 she left journalism to direct the Child Care Law Reporting Project, which reports on and analyses child care proceedings in the Irish courts.

Anastasia Crickley is Head of the Dept of Applied Social Studies in Maynooth University which plays a key role in education and training for social justice and rights work and is the leading provider in Ireland of professional education for Community Work and Youth Work. She was first Chairperson of the E.U. Fundamental Rights Agency 2007–11, Personal Representative of the Chair in Office of the OSCE on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination 2004 – 08, and is actively involved with Council of Europe and UN initiatives in the fields of Human Rights and Discrimination. In 2010, she was elected to and is currently Vice President of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the ICERD. Anastasia is a founder member of Pavee Point, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism and is current Chairperson of the Community Workers Cooperative.

Sinéad Gibney is Director of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, which was established on November 1st 2014 and which brings together the former Equality Authority and Irish Human Rights Commission. This follows a career in the private sector where Sinéad most recently led Google Ireland's Social Action team. Her flagship programme in this role, *Age Engage*, focused on improving digital literacy for older people. Sinéad is a 2013 graduate of the MSc Equality Studies from the School of Social Justice in UCD, a former non-executive board member of One Family, chairperson of the advisory committee of the EU-funded Responsible Industry project and board member of the Irish Charity Lab.

David Hickey is a leading transplant surgeon in Ireland for over 30 years. As Director of the National Transplant Programme, he advocates a patient centered, accessible process as a priority. He has led initiatives in third world and emergency settings to make medical services widely available. An admirer of Cuba's socialist stance, he contributes as a practitioner to its medical system. David's insights regarding social justice and human rights extend to societies adopting these principles, and the threats posed by rampant capitalism and globalisation. If his name sounds familiar otherwise, it may arise from his involvement with Dublin GAA and "Heffo's Army" with which he won three All-Ireland medals.

Sylvia Mbasinge, from Uganda, sought asylum in Ireland in 2005. Since then she has been living in 'direct provision' for almost 10 years and has a nine year old child. Sylvia holds a BA in Social Science and since coming to Ireland successfully completed the Outreach Certificate Programme in 'Community Work in a Changing Ireland' with the Department of Social Studies, Maynooth University. She has played an active role in advocating for improved protections and freedoms for asylum seekers and refugees.

Susan McKay is an award winning journalist, well known broadcaster and author of several acclaimed books. She specialises in Irish and Northern Irish politics, social issues and the arts. Currently a freelance writer and commentator, she has also worked in the community and voluntary sector. Her work has featured in the Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing and the 2013 Penguin collection, "Great Irish Reportage".

Donal O'Kelly is a writer and actor. His plays include his shows *Catalpa*, *Jimmy Joyced!* and *Bat the Father, Rabbit the Son*. Other plays are *The Cambria*, *The Adventures Of The Wet Señor*, *Vive La*, *Operation Easter*, *Asylum! Asylum!*, *The Dogs*, *Farawayan* and *The Hand*. As an actor, he has appeared in *Translations*, *Juno* and *the Paycock* and *The Tempest* in the Abbey, played *Lucky* in the Gate Theatre's *Waiting For Godot*, and on screen played leading roles in *Kings*, *The Van* and *Spin The Bottle*, as well as RTE's *Paths to Freedom* and *Fair City*.

Dr. Micheline Sheehy Skeffington a recently retired Plant Ecology lecturer, won a case in November 2014 against her employer, NUI Galway, for gender discrimination in failing to promote her to Senior Lecturer. She taught there for 34 years and took the case when only 1 woman (out of 17) was promoted in the 2008/2009 round of promotions to Senior Lecturer. She is Hanna and Francis Sheehy Skeffington's granddaughter and their memory inspired her to keep up the battle against injustice. She is currently engaged, with help from many students, staff and outside supporters, in a campaign to redress the gender imbalance in senior posts in NUI Galway, specifically for five female staff deemed eligible like herself in 2009, but not promoted.

Dr. Margaret Ward was the Director of the Women's Resource and Development Agency, a regional organization for women, based in Belfast, from 2005 to 2013. She is a feminist historian. Her publications include *Unmanageable Revolutionaries: Women and Irish nationalism* and biographies of Maud Gonne and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington. She is Visiting Fellow in Irish History at Queen's University, Belfast.