

## Contributor Biographies:

**Carol Coulter:** Carol Coulter is a former journalist, having worked with The Irish Times for 28 years, the last twelve as its Legal Affairs Correspondent and then 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. In February 2016 she was appointed Adjunct Professor of Law in NUI Galway, supervising a PhD on child protection law.

**Lynn Ruane:** Senator Lynn Ruane is an independent senator serving in Seanad Éireann, a former President of Trinity College Dublin's Students' Union and a long-time activist and campaigner on social justice and equality. Lynn grew up in Tallaght and left school early as a single mother at the age of fifteen. Lynn returned to education through a programme for young mothers in An Cosán, a community education project in Jobstown. She subsequently undertook a diploma in addiction studies and at the age of 18, started developing addiction programmes in west Dublin. After a further fifteen years of community and addiction work, Lynn joined Trinity College through the Access programme for people from disadvantaged and minority groups. While studying, Lynn ran for the presidency of the college's students' union on a platform of equality, access and inclusion and was elected the first female president in a decade before being elected to the Seanad. Lynn is the co-founder and whip of the Civil Engagement Group, is an active member of the Education Committee, was a member of the committee on the 8th Amendment of the Constitution and has been successful in amending several pieces of Government Legislation.

**Michael Farrell:** Michael Farrell was a prominent activist in the Civil Rights movement in Northern Ireland in 1968 and afterwards, and is the author of several books about the political history of Northern Ireland. He worked as a journalist in the 1980s and was involved in the Miscarriage of Justice campaigns on behalf of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and Judith Ward. He became a solicitor in the early 1990s and took cases to the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee and the Council of Europe Committee on Social Rights. He represented transgender woman Lydia Foy in her case which led to the recognition of transgender persons in the Republic of Ireland in 2015. He is a former Co-Chairperson of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. He is currently a member of the Council of Europe Commission Against Racism and a member of the Council of State.

**Micheline Sheehy Skeffington:** Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington is the granddaughter of Hanna and Francis Sheehy Skeffington. She is currently engaged 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 (see <https://michelinesthreeconditions.wordpress.com/the-three-conditions/>). In 2017 Micheline undertook a tour of US cities to mark and mirror the centenary of her grandmother's tour in 1917, when Hanna sought support for a public inquiry into the murder of Francis by the British Army in 1916. Micheline's US tour also promoted gender equality and justice issues and was filmed for the making of a documentary due to be released in 2018 (see <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/hanna-and-me-passing-on-the-flame#/>)

**Margaret Ward:** From 2005 until her retirement in December 2013 Margaret Ward was the Director of the Women's Resource and Development Agency, a regional organization for women, based in Belfast. She has a D. Phil from the University of the West of England and in 2014 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by Ulster University for her contribution to advancing women's equality. Her latest book is 'Hanna Sheehy Skeffington: suffragette and Sinn Féin, her memoirs and political writings', UCD Press, 2017. Margaret is currently Visiting Fellow in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University, Belfast.

**Claire McGing:** Claire McGing is Athena SWAN Project Officer at Maynooth University, where she also lectures and researches in the Department of Geography. She has published research widely on gender representation in Irish politics.

**Mary Dorcey:** Mary Dorcey is a critically acclaimed Irish poet, short story writer and novelist and a lifelong activist for gay and women's rights. She won the Rooney Prize for Irish literature in 1990 for her short story collection, *A Noise from the Woodshed*. Her poetry has been the subject of countless academic critiques and theses, and has been anthologised in more than one hundred collections. She is a member

of Aodána and a Research Associate at Trinity College, Dublin, where she taught for many years at the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies. Her latest collection of poetry, *To Air the Soul, Throw All the Windows Wide*, was published in 2016.