

HRinI

www.humanrights.ie



www.pila.ie

Inaugural Workshop, August 20th 2010,
1.15 p.m. -5.30 p.m., Phelan Room, NUI, Merrion
Square, Dublin 2.

Human Rights: Ideology, Activism and Social Media

1.15 p.m. – 2.15 p.m. Panel I: Human Rights and Ideology

This session will attempt to open a discussion on how ideology has or can play a role in protecting, promoting and enhancing human rights. Each of the participants will give a five minute overview of how they feel ideologies and rights mix. The discussion will then be open to the floor. Participants will attempt to broach some of the following issues:

- Are human rights ideologically neutral or inherently political?
- What should be the role of law in protecting human rights?
- To what extent is there public, political and legal acceptance of the very concept of human rights?

Chair: Dr. Fiona de Londras (Human Rights in Ireland)

Participants:

Professor William Binchy (Trinity College Dublin)
Siobhan Cumiskey (Irish Traveller Movement)
Eoin Daly (Human Rights in Ireland)

2.15 p.m. -2.30 p.m.

Tea/Coffee Break

2.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m. Panel II: Rights, Society and Interaction

This session seeks to explore how human rights organisations, activists and academics deal with issues of law and rights and how they engage with those whom they seek to enjoy fuller rights protection. Participants in this session will consider some of the following:

- What are the major challenges with/limitations of using human rights language or argumentation in your work?
- To what extent do you engage with academic debates on human rights law to further your work?
- Are there inherent tensions between academics, practitioners and activists?
- To what extent do you feel that you engage with right-holders, rather than representing them?

Chair: Dr. Aoife Nolan (Queen's University Belfast)

Participants:

Mark Kelly (Irish Council for Civil Liberties)

Dr. Fergus Ryan (Dublin Institute of Technology)

Susan McKay (National Women's Council of Ireland)

Jo Kenny (Public Interest Law Alliance)

Liam Thornton (Human Rights in Ireland)

3.40 p.m. -4.40 p.m. Panel III: Media and Rights Engagement

This session seeks to explore the use of media in highlighting the protection of human rights. Participants from traditional media, social media and bloggers will engage with such issues as:

- Do the media have a positive or negative impact on the protection of human rights?
- What role for blogging and media/social media in:
 - a. Informing the public on issues of human rights?
 - b. Bringing together like-minded individuals and groups to campaign for rights protection?

Chair: Sinead Ring (Human Rights in Ireland)

Participants:

Suzy Byrne (Blogger, www.mamanpoulet.com)

Harry Brown (DIT, Journalist & Blogger)

Emily Aoiheann (RAG Dublin, <http://ragdublin.blogspot.com/>)

Deirdre Duffy (Human Rights in Ireland)

4.45 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Refreshments

About the Participants

William Binchy is Regius Professor of Laws in Trinity College Dublin.

Siobhan Cummiskey is a solicitor in the Irish Traveller Movement.

Eoin Daly is a PhD candidate in the School of Law, University College Cork.

Mark Kelly is director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

Fergus Ryan is a lecturer in law in Dublin Institute of Technology.

Susan McKay is director of the National Women's Council of Ireland.

Jo Kenny is the legal officer in the Public Interest Law Alliance.

Liam Thornton lectures at the School of Law, University of Ulster.

Suzy Byrne is a blogger and human rights activist.

Harry Browne is a journalist and lecturer in journalism in Dublin Institute of Technology.

Emily Aoibheann is a blogger, zine editor and human rights activist.

Deirdre Duffy is a PhD Candidate in the School of Politics and International Relations in University of Nottingham.

Chairs

Fiona de Londras is a lecturer in University College Dublin School of Law where she is also affiliated with the Institute of Criminology.

Aoife Nolan lectures at the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast.

Sinead Ring is reading for a PhD in the School of Law, University College Cork.

Human Rights in Ireland wishes to express its appreciation to the [Public Interest Law Alliance](#) for its generous support.