

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

16th Annual Civil Society Forum

31 March 2017, Dublin Castle



Making a difference **The positive role of women in advancing human rights**

08.30 *Registration and Coffee*

09.00 **Opening Remarks** **Minister Leo Varadkar T.D.**

Minister for Social Protection

09.15 **Key Note Address** **Mary Robinson**

President, Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice; former President and the first woman President of Ireland (1990-1997); former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002); and founder and President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative (2002-2010). From 2013 to 2016 Mrs Robinson also served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region of Africa; on Climate Change; and on El Niño and Climate

09.45 **Panel One** **Gender, Women and Democracy**

Moderator **Tim O'Connor**

Irish Government's nominee to the Independent Reporting Commission; Former diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs (1979-2007); Former Secretary General to the President of Ireland (2007-2010)

Maureen O'Brien

Director of Communications and Information Services - first woman promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Irish Defence Forces; Extensive overseas service (deployments to Lebanon, Western Sahara, East Timor, OSCE-Sarajevo, and Chad)

Josephine Feehily

Chairperson of the Policing Authority; first woman Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners (2008-2015); Chair of the World Customs Organisation (2011-2014) and Chair of the OECD Forum for Tax Administration (2012-2014)

Ann Bernes

Sweden's Ambassador for Gender Equality and Coordinator of Sweden's Feminist foreign Policy

11.15 *Coffee Break*

11.30 **Panel Two** **Women as agents of change in communities**

Moderator **Carol Coulter**

Director of the Child Care Law Reporting Project and Adjunct Professor of Law at NUIG School of Law

Wendi Momen

Governor at the London School of Economics, specializing in ethics; Trustee of the National Alliance of Women's Organizations; co-founder and president of Ethical Business Building the Future; Director, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom

Jestina Mukoko

Human Rights Activist and Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project; One of ten human rights defenders honoured in the US State Department's International Women of Courage Awards in 2010

Sindy Joyce

Researcher on direct and indirect forms of racism, ethnicity/identity, and social/political constructions of Irish Travellers; module coordinator and lecturer in 'Travellers, Rights and Nomadism' and 'Travellers, Ethnicity and Rights' in University College Dublin

Catherine Heaney

Chairperson of the Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum and Founder and Managing Director of DHR Communications; Chair of the Board of the National Museum of Ireland; Chair of the Liberties Business Forum

13.00 ***Lunch (Castle Hall)***

14.15 **Panel Three** **Women as global activists**

Moderator **Niall Burgess**

Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dunja Mijatovic

Former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2010-2017); founder of the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; President of the European Platform of Regulatory Agencies in 2007

Mary Lawlor

Founder and Board member of Front Line Defenders; currently Adjunct Professor in the School of Business, TCD (Centre for Social Engagement) and Member of the steering committee to develop an ethics policy for the School of Business

Mary Rusimbi

Executive Director and co-founder of Women Fund Tanzania, a women's rights fund focused on empowering local women; founding member and former Executive Director of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme

Áine Duggan

CEO of GLEN – LGBTI Equality Network; Co-Chair of OutRight Action International; former President and CEO of Re:Gender; former Vice President for Research, Policy and Education at the Food Bank For New York City

15.45 **Closing Remarks**