

**Statement by Samantha O'Brien O'Reilly, UN Youth Delegate for Ireland**

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***Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All***

Dia dhuit Madame Chair [Translation: Hello]

Poverty exists in many forms. It is not exclusive to far away countries, cities or communities - it is omnipresent. It exists in our own communities, our own cities, our own countries.

Inequality, both between and within countries is higher than ever before. Yet, we often refuse to recognise the links between our own behaviour and the dire circumstances in which many people are forced to live.

Climate change disproportionately affects the poorest in the world. The choices that we make as consumers impact people all across the globe. It is essential that we stand firm in our commitment to the principles espoused in the Paris agreement and that we challenge those who would seek to deny the existence of climate change for their own benefit.

Peace, justice and a strong rule of law are essential to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals but they are especially relevant in eradicating poverty. Without access to justice and a transparent and accountable legal system, eradicating poverty will be nothing more than an aspiration, worthy but unfilled.

Many people who live below the poverty line are actually in work, evidence that the mere fact of having a job is not sufficient to eradicate poverty. Young people are the most vulnerable workers in our society. They are least likely to have job security and are at greater risk of exploitation. Proper regulation is needed to ensure that this does not happen and that all workers receive a fair wage for a fair day's work.

Exploitative trade practices and discriminatory property laws further entrench poverty. Essential to women's economic empowerment is protecting their property rights. Far too often women undertake the majority of unpaid work in both developed and developing societies. Extending paid jobs in the care economy is vital to fostering economic growth for all. Access to finance, to education, to support for entrepreneurial endeavours should not depend on one's gender, but on one's capability. Recognising the feminisation of poverty is an important step in ensuring sustainable development for all.

We urge each and every member of the United Nations to ensure that no child ever has to go to bed hungry, that no person ever has to experience homelessness or illness due to a lack of affordable healthcare. We urge you to ensure that poverty is part of the history of humanity, not its future.

Go raibh maith agaibh [Translation: Thank you]

*\*\*As delivered by Samantha O'Brien O'Reilly in her personal capacity as a UN Youth Delegate.*