

# HumanRights.ie

## Human Rights: Ideology, Activism & Social Media

### Inaugural Workshop

20 August 2010 | NUI Phelan Room, 49 Merrion Square, D2

### Agenda

- 1.15pm: Panel I: Human Rights and Ideology
- 2.15 pm: Tea/Coffee Break
- 2.30 pm: Panel II: Rights, Society and Interaction
- 3.40 pm: Panel III: Media & Rights Engagement
- 4.45 pm: Refreshments

### Speakers & Chairs

**Emily Aoibheann** is a blogger, zine editor and human rights activist.  
**William Binchy** is Regius Professor of Laws at Trinity College Dublin.  
**Harry Browne** is a journalist and lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology.  
**Suzy Byrne** is a blogger and human rights activist.  
**Siobhan Cummiskey** is a solicitor at the Irish Traveller Movement.  
**Eoin Daly** is a PhD Candidate at University College Cork.  
**Fiona de Londras** is Lecturer in Law in University College Dublin.  
**Deirdre Duffy** is a PhD Candidate at University of Nottingham.  
**Mark Kelly** is Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.  
**Jo Kenny** is Legal Officer at the Public Interest Law Alliance.  
**Susan McKay** is Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland.  
**Aoife Nolan** is Lecturer in Law at Queen's University Belfast.  
**Sinead Ring** is a PhD Candidate at University College Cork.  
**Fergus Ryan** is Lecturer in Law at Dublin Institute of Technology.  
**Liam Thornton** is Lecturer in Law at University of Ulster.



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## Panels

### 1.15pm – 2.15pm: Panel I: Human Rights and Ideology

This session will 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 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)

### 2.15pm - 2.30pm: Tea/Coffee Break

### 2.30pm - 3.30pm: Panel II: Rights, Society and Interaction

This session will 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)

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### **3.40pm - 4.40pm: Panel III: Media & 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](http://www.mamanpoulet.com))

Harry Brown (DIT, Journalist & Blogger)

Emily Aoibheann (RAG Dublin, [ragdublin.blogspot.com](http://ragdublin.blogspot.com))

Deirdre Duffy (Human Rights in Ireland)

### **4.45 pm – 5.30pm: Refreshments**

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