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INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to welcome you to Equality 17, Youth Work Ireland's 2017 Consensus Conference.

This is a day for all young people, youth workers, volunteers and supporters of young people to celebrate how far we have come to achieve a more equal Ireland and to be inspired to take further steps towards addressing the many inequalities in Irish society.

I would like to take a moment to be clear about what I mean by equality. Our concern as an organisation is solidarity with and support for anybody who faces inequalities in accessing services, achieving in education, living healthy lives, having a sense of well-being and making a full contribution to society because of who they are. The engagement of equality is comprehensive of the nine grounds, but also includes other emerging equality issues in Ireland such as homelessness and social exclusion and poverty.

I think that all of us who work with young people, probably share the view that our work on Equality is a continuation of our work as champions for all young people to realise their potential and to be their true selves, unlimited by discrimination or prejudice. And I'm sure that most people reading this would agree with me that equality is not about treating everyone the same, sometimes equality is about providing extra support to people who need it, and making provision to ensure there is equal access for all.

We know from our research that young people want to get involved in equality initiatives. So, if you are a young person, if you work with young people, this day should offer you opportunities to find things you can do to become involved. Through this event:

- We provide connections and inspiration from our Equality 17 partners and our members.
- We provide a new equality resource providing information and suggested actions for young people, youth clubs and projects to become involved in working towards equality.
- We provide training and information on new programmes and projects that support young people's equality.
- We bring together officials, experts and young people with real experience who can help to inform and inspire you.

Finally, today sees the launch of a new initiative to support the further implementation of the Youth Work Ireland Monaghan Detached Model of Practice. This model of practice reaches the most isolated and marginalised young people. Given the impact this model has in relation to social inclusion, it is an ideal initiative to feature at an Equality focused event.

I want to thank you for taking the time to be with us and hope you enjoy the day as much as I will.





















EQUALITY CREW 17

Equality 17 is Youth Work Ireland's year of work to provide opportunities for young people to become involved in supporting initiatives that promote equality in Ireland for all. We know from our work with young people, that they are some of the tolerance in the world, Equality 17 sought to support young people who embraces equality, progress and change, to become involved and active through events, activities and workshops across the country.

The theme of Equality was chosen by a year-long consultation and consensus campaign with young people, staff and volunteers, at last year's National Consensus Conference. In focus groups and discussions leading up to this vote, young people told us that they were concerned about issues such as Black Lives Matter, the backlash against feminism in media, the rise of populist and far right political movements and Brexit. They felt that young people had a role in challenging these trends, and becoming more active and involved, to support a fundamental belief in the value of all people. Through the Equality 17 campaign we have sought to support young people to tell their stories of what being young and equal in Ireland in 2017 really means to them.

Throughout 2017 the work of Equality 17 has been youth led by a group of young people – the Equality Crew, made up of young people from across Youth Work Ireland's Member Youth Services. These young people have been involved in the planning and delivery of today's event and we would like to thank them for their input, energy and work on Equality 17:

Rachel Daly, Clare Youth Service
Meaghan McCarthy, Kildare Youth Services
Megan Sunni, Youth Work Ireland Meath
Shania Cahill, Youth Work Ireland Meath
Chris Keating, Waterford & South Tipperary Regional Youth Service
Andrius Sirvys, Youth Work Ireland Galway
Ayrton Kelly, Donegal Youth Service
Finn O'Farrell, Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan
Conan O'Neill, Youth Work Cavan Ireland Monaghan
Conor Horgan, KDYS
Joe Howlin, FDYS Youth Work Ireland
Emily Shaughnesey,, Limerick Youth Service
Matthew Cronin, Limerick Youth Service













EQUALITY 17 CONTRIBUTORS



DR. KATHERINE ZAPPONE

Dr. Katherine Zappone was appointed Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in May 2016. Dr. Zappone has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice. She is co-founder of An Cosán and she holds a PhD from Boston College, an MBA from the Smurfit Business School and an Honorary Doctorate of Law from UCD School of Law.



SENATOR DAVID NORRIS

David Norris is a scholar, independent senator and a dedicated gay and civil rights activist. During the 1970's, Senator Norris founded the Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform. In 1987, he became the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in Ireland. Senator Norris' advocacy work currently includes addressing human rights issues, immigration matters, Seanad reforms and Gay and Civil Rights issues.



COMMISSIONER EMILY LOGAN

Emily Logan was appointed the Chief Commissioner in 2014 for the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. She has worked tirelessly to enhance the rights of all children in Ireland. Prior to her appointment of Commissioner, Emily served as Ireland's first Ombudsman for Children, in which she conducted a multi-agency review of child death and an investigation into state compliance with child protection policy.



SENATOR AODHÁN Ó'RÍORDÁN

Former teacher and principal at St Laurence O'Toole's, Senator Aodhán Ó Ríordán' is a former teacher, Principle and equality advocate. His involvement in politics was inspired by the disadvantaged and the voiceless within the Irish Society. He has held a number of positions including Minister of State with responsibility for New Communities, Culture, and Equality. He was elected to Seanad Eireann in 2016.



SENATOR FINTAN WARFIELD

Senator Warfield has served as a Senator for the Cultural and Educational Panel since April 2016. Since a young age, he has been actively involved in local politics. He served as Mayor of South Dublin from June 2014-June 2015 where he prioritized issues of homelessness, civil marriage equality, and youth unemployment. He believes that every young person has the right to explore their creative potential.



DR. SINEAD KANE

Sinead is registered as legally blind but she doesn't let this stop her from achieving her goals. Growing up she faced constant bullying and discrimination as a result of her disability, and was told she would not be able to achieve the same accomplishments as full sighted people, but she did not let this discourage her. She graduated from UCC with a Law degree, and a Masters in 2005. She also completed the world marathon challenge, completing 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days. She has recent received got an honorary doctorate in law from NUI.

DANIELLE GAYSON

Danielle Gayson is from Cashel, Co. Tipperary and has been involved in Youth Work Ireland Tipperary for over 10 years now. Danielle has been part of Youth Work Ireland's National Youth Action Group for over 4 years. Her favourite color is blue and her bucket list consists of a sky dive, a bungee jump and travelling the world.



VANESSA LACEY

Vanessa has worked for the Transgender Equality Network for over 6 years. She is currently the Health and Education Manager and is working towards creating a holistic service for Transgender people and their families. She has a BA Honors in Psychology and is currently completing an MA in research in the loss and grief department at the Limerick Institute of Technology.



MIKE ALLEN

Mike is Director of Advocacy at Focus Ireland. Through research, policy work, communication and public advocacy, Mike strives to challenge the causes of homelessness and change the lives of others. Prior to his career with FOCUS Ireland, Mike spent 12 years as the General Secretary of the Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed and 8 years as the General Secretary for the Labour Party.



DEBORAH FAKEYE

Deborah is 16 and from Athlone,. She is part of Youth Work Ireland Midlands and Comhairle na nÓg. She loves all things beauty - makeup, hair, nails. As well as that, she is extremely passionate about social justice, and wants to see the world become a better, safer more fair place for Black people, people of colour, women, people with disabilities and the LGBTQ+community. Her goal is to be part of that change!



MEAGHAN MCCARTHY

Meaghan is from Kildare and is currently studying Community and Youth Work in NUI Maynooth, she is now in her final year. She has been involved with Kildare Youth Services, Comhairle na nÓg and the National Youth Action Group. She has been on the National Board of Directors of Youth Work Ireland since 2016 and is part of the Equality Crew.



CONOR HORGAN

Conor is from Ardfert, Kerry. He is currently studying 'rigorously' for his Leaving Cert and he hopes to go on to study Politics in UCD afterwards. He has a love for surfing, fillét steak and joining committees, for which he doesn't have the time! He is part of both KDYS and Youth Work Ireland's Equality Crew. P.S. He doesn't like pizza or tomatoes!!





AYRTON KELLY

Dr. Katherine Zappone was appointed Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in May 2016. Dr. Zappone has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice. She is co-founder of An Cosán and she holds a PhD from Boston College, an MBA from the Smurfit Business School and an Honorary Doctorate of Law from UCD School of Law.



MICHAEL MCLOUGHLIN

Michael Mc Lougihlin is Head of Advocacy and Communications with Youth Work Ireland. He is responsible for youth advocacy, communications, policy submissions and media relations. He is Chairperson of Leargas, the National Agency for ERASMUS+ In 2015 he was appointed a member of the European Economic and Social Committee, the EU's Consultative Body for Civil Society.



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LIQUID SPACE



In April this year, Galway band Liquid Space were the proud recipients of the Irish Youth Music Awards 2017. The band represented Youth Work Ireland Galway and are featured on IYMAs Vol 10 album which was released early this month and charted at an amazing No. 3 in the Irish charts.



PROGRAMMES

- CIT LEVEL 9 ACCREDITED AWARD-18 DAY PROGRAMME, SEPT - MAY FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO DIG DEEPER
- CREATIVE FAIRS/SYMPOSIUMS POP-UP INTERACTIVE SPACES TO GATHER TOOLS AND IDEAS
- YOUTH ENGAGEMENT L, ABS -INTERCULTURAL RESIDENTIAL LEARNING

 MASTER CLASSES -SPECIALIST WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

IF YOU ANSWER 'YES' TO THESE QUESTIONS... ...CREATIVITY & CHANGE IS FOR YOU!

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- · Do you believe that you can make a difference in the world?
- · Do you believe that creativity can help us think in new ways about the challenges that face the world?
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- · Do you want to gain ideas, skills and tools to support people to engage as active global citizens with the world around them?

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CREATIVITY & CHANGE IS FOR

community workers, educators in formal or non-formal learning settings, youthworkers, activists, volunteers or anyone who has an interest in initiating projects to engage people in transformative learning and active global

- www.creativityandchange.ie
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CIT Crawford College of Art and Design Sharman Crawford Street

The programme is based in CIT Crawford College of Art and Design and is supported by Irish





CONSENSUS PROCESS

EQUALITY 17

Youth Work Ireland is a federation of 21 Local Member Youth Services and a national office. Local Member Services work with 116,000 young people every week through their 1,088 staff and 6,721 volunteers. As a federation, we support our members to deliver an Integrated Youth Services Model to young people in their communities. This means that young people around Ireland can avail of a whole range of services and supports if and when they need them.

EQUALITY 17
OFFERS THE
OPPORTUNITY
FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE, YOUTH
WORKERS AND
VOLUNTEERS
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

As part of Youth Work Ireland's Consensus Process we engage in a deliberate way with all sections of our membership, including young people, staff and volunteers to combine their views and opinions with our practice. Through this process we promote our work, develop our practice, improve our services, campaign for young people and strengthen our Federation.

The stories that young people in our services tell us demonstrate the need for support to achieve equality and the value of the contributions that progressive youth work can make to bringing about equality in the lives of young people and in Irish society.

It is through young people that we are telling the story of what our services do to bring about this outcome. In fact, Youth Work Ireland member services are full of stories of how they support Equality. This year, our services participated in Learning and Sharing workshops across the country, which saw hundreds of young people took part in telling their stories of what it means to be young and equal in Ireland in 2017. From these events seven young people were invited to share their stories on stage today.









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DAY SCHEDULE

SESSION ONE

9.00am - 10.00am Registration, Tea & Coffee

10.00am - 10.15am Welcome & Introductions with the Equality Crew

10.15am - 10.25am Acting President of Youth Work Ireland,

Geraldine Lacey

10.25am - 10.45am Minister for Children & Youth Affairs,

Dr. Katherine Zappone

10.45am - 11.15am 'Stories of Equality'

Aloisa, Youth Work Ireland North Connaught

Matthew, Canal Communities Regional Youth Service

Finn, Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan

Daniel, Irish Wheelchair Association

Deborah, Youth Work Ireland Midlands

Detached Youth Project Youth Work Ireland Monaghan

11.15am - 11.25am Equality in a Word!

11.25am - 11.40am Tea / Coffee Break

SESSION TWO

11.40am - 11.45am Welcome Back

11.45am - 12.05pm Chief Commissioner Emily Logan, IHREC

12.05pm - 12.25pm Senator David Norris

12.25pm - 12.30pm Close of Morning Session

12.30pm - 1.15pm Lunch

SESSION THREE

1.15pm - 1.25pm

Liquid Space, IYMAs Recipient 2017

1.25pm - 1.45pm

Forum Discussion & Q&A Chaired by Conor Horgan

Senator Aodhán Ó'Riordán Commissioner Emily Logan Olive McGovern, Dept. of Children & Youth Affairs Michael McLoughlin, Youth Work Ireland Ayrton Kelly, Donegal Youth Service Deborah Fakeye, Youth Work Ireland Midlands

SESSION FOUR

1.45pm - 3.15pm

Workshops, 'TED'Style Talks, Exhibition Space & Creative Fair

Workshops

Disability Awareness
STATUS Toolkit - Working with Young Travellers
Work To Learn - Work Experience Programme
Influencing Social Change - Young Paperless & Powerful

'TED' Style Stage

Senator Aodhán Ó'Ríordán Nengi Benstowe & Emmanuel Samuel – No Hate Speech Dr. Sinead Kane (Disability & Motivational Speaker) Senator Fintan Warfield (Votes @ 16) Mike Allen (Focus Ireland - Youth Homelessness) Vanessa Lacey (Transgender Equality Network Ireland) Joanna Siewierska

Exhibition Space

The exhibtion space will allow delegates to meet Equality 17 partners and learn about how they can get involved in different equality campaigns.

'Craftivist' - Make Creative Fair!

This creative and interactive space will provide delegates with the chance to try out arts based tools for social action campaigns.

3.15pm - 3.25pm

Vote on Youth Work Ireland Theme 2018/19

3.25pm - 3.30pm

Rapporteur Input: Danielle Gayson, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

3.30pm - 3.40pm

Close of Equality 17: Dr. Patrick Burke, CEO Youth Work Ireland



DETACHED PROGRAMME

YOUTH WORK IRELAND CAVAN / MONAGHAN

The Detached Youth Work Programme in Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan is an outreach programme that engages with vulnerable and socially excluded young people, and helps them connect with supports that will aid them in addressing their needs and achieve successful outcomes. While the target population for this programme may have needs in relation to issues as diverse as mental health, sexual health and homelessness, most young people engaged struggle with substance misuse.

The Detached Youth Worker's goal is to improve the outcomes of youth lives in the short term as well as the long term by focusing on their individual well-being and their social interactions in the community in which they reside. This includes working to improve the youth's self-esteem, self- awareness, and empowerment. Building individual confidence in the youth helps the youth in the future because they will then be more independent, less inclined to engage in high risk behaviour, and have better overall health. The social implications for the youth include more stable family life, improved well-being, and increased community cohesion. In the long term, the youth are more likely to stay in school, so they are more likely to have better jobs and the community overall will be safer.

SINCE THE PROGRAMMES LAUNCH IN MONAGHAN IN 2015, A RURAL AREA, IT HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY.

The evidence proving the effectiveness of youth work are found in the case studies investigated by researchers and there are five main factors contributing to a positive impact. First, youth workers act as a bridge between the youths and their families which helps youths build trust with adults. Second, youth workers let the youths make decisions, so the youths feel as though they still have some independence. Next, youth workers have holistic approaches to problem solving rather than focusing only on one problem at a time. Fourth, youth workers can act as an advocate for the youth to prevent the youth from being marginalized. Finally, youth workers have sustained contact with the youths which makes their long term goals achievable.











OUR VISION..."THAT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR AREAS OF WORK ARE EMPOWERED AND SUPPORTED TO BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES, WHERE THEY ARE HAPPY, LISTENED TO, RESPECTED AND VALUED AS INDIVIDUALS, TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL."

EQUALITY 17 PARTNERS

Throughout 2017 we partnered with organisations who have expertise in supporting equality for young people. Together we seek to build national awareness of equality issues across the nine grounds and beyond. You can meet these organisations in the Exhibition Hall.



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND

National Youth Council of Ireland [NYCI] is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. It uses collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. They are a membership-led umbrella organisation. Their vision is of an Ireland where all young people are empowered to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to realise their potential and to actively participate in an inclusive society that values and respects them.

www.youth.ie



NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT

The No Hate Speech Movement is a youth campaign of the Council of Europe for human rights online, to reduce the levels of acceptance of hate speech and develop online youth participation and citizenship, including in Internet governance processes. Today we are joined by Emmanuel and Nengi Emmanuel was born and raised in Uganda but is originally from South Sudan. He is currently living in Kilkenny and studying Social Science at Waterford Institute of technology. He runs an intercultural youth group called Kilkenny Eurobug Youth.

Nengi is an MBA graduate from Dublin Business School. She is a writer. She is currently working on her first book on youth and mental health. She is also a public speaker. She loves singing, reading and she is driven to create positive change where ever she finds herself.

www.nohatespeech movement.org



BELONG TO

BeLonG To is the national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender [LGBT] young people, aged between 14 and 23. Their vision is a world where LGBT+ young people are equal, safe and valued in the diversity of their identities and experiences. The organisation achieves this through youth work, changing attitudes and conducting research to ensure a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive community for youth.

www.belongto.org



INCLUSION IRELAND

Inclusion Ireland is the National Association for People with Intellectual Disability. Inclusion Ireland campaigns for changes in services and legislation that will improve the quality of life and participation of people with an intellectual disability in Irish Society. This is accomplished by promoting advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities, particularly self-advocacy; organising seminars and conferences on intellectual disability; and by representing the intellectual disability sector in Ireland at an international level by its membership of Inclusion International & Inclusion Europe.

www.inclusionireland.ie



MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE OF IRELAND (MRCI)

Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland [MRCI] is a national organisation working to promote justice, empowerment and equality for migrants and their families. The organisation uses a community work approach with a focus on participation, leadership and empowerment, and have a strong track record in securing policy changes, including the criminalisation of forced labour, among others. MRCI operates a Resource Centre and has a national remit.

www.mrci.ie



YOUNG PAPERLESS AND POWERFUL

The YPP youth group is made up of young people aged 16 to 21 who came to Ireland from outside Europe with their parents before they turned 18, and who do not have 'legal' permission or papers to live in Ireland. The YPP uses art, film and fun to tell it as it is growing up without papers in Ireland. Through its Campaign for Change, the YPP lobby and advocate for rights for the undocumented in Ireland.



IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION

Irish Wheelchair Association [IWA] is Ireland's leading representative organisation and service providers for people with physical disabilities. Today, IWA advocates for and provides services to over 20,000 members in their homes and communities throughout Ireland every year.

www.iwa.ie



INVOLVE

Involve: National Association of Travellers' Centres is a membership organisation that represents Youth Work Projects and Centres of Education and Training [CET] nationally. It is the largest provider of Youth Services to young Travellers in Ireland and works from a community development and partnership approach, in which Traveller and settled communities work together in responding to the needs of Travellers.

www.involve.ie



EQUATE IRELAND

Equate Ireland is a children and family rights organisation which works for greater equality in primary and secondary school education in Ireland. Education is a fundamental cornerstone of Irish culture, but the country's education system must be fit for purpose in the 21st century. Equate Ireland is fighting to ensure that all children experience equality in their local school and to protect children from isolation because of their identity, family background, religion or nonreligion.

www.equateireland.ie



EDUCATE TOGETHER IRELAND

Educate Together Ireland is an independent NGO that runs schools that guarantee equality of access and esteem of children. The schools are run according to the Educate Together Charter, are learner centred in their approach to education and are run as participatory democracies, creating a respectful partnership between parents, pupils, and staff. Today, Educate Together operates in 81 primary schools around Ireland and have successfully campaigned for a new model of second-level education, the first of which opened in 2014.

www.educatetogether.ie



YOUTH ACTION NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Action Northern Ireland [YANI] is a regional voluntary youth organisation that has been striving to make a significant difference to the lives of young people and communities in Northern Ireland for the past 70 years. The organisation is able to achieve their goals by recruiting young people in nonformal education programmes to maximise skills, qualifications and potential; by supporting their membership base of over 200 youth by providing an array of support services; and by contributing to youth work development by drawing on their experiences and relationships with young people.

www.youthaction.org

YOUTH WORK IRELAND

Youth Work Ireland is a federation of 21 Local Member Youth Services and a national office. We support our members to deliver an Integrated Youth Services Model to young people in their communities. This means that young people around Ireland can avail of a whole range of services and supports if and when they need them.

Our vision is of a world full of possibilities for all young people.

Member Youth Services

Canal Communities Regional Youth Service www.ccrys.org

Carlow Regional Youth Service www.facebook.com/carlowrys

CDYS Youth Work Ireland www.cdys.ie

Clare Youth Service www.clareyouthservice.org

Donegal Youth Service www.donegalyouthservice.ie

FDYS Youth Work Ireland www.fdys.ie

KDYS www.kdys.ie

Kildare Youth Services www.kys.ie

Limerick Youth Service www.limerickyouthservice.com

Ossory Youth www.ossoryyouth.com

Waterford & Sth Tipperary Regional Youth Service www.wstcys.ie

Youth Work Ireland Cork www.ywicork.com

Youth Work Ireland Galway www.youthworkgalway.ie

Youth Work Ireland Laois www.ywilaois.com

Youth Work Ireland Longford www.lcrl.ie

Youth Work Ireland Louth www.facebook.com/YouthWorkIrelandLouth

Youth Work Ireland Meath www.youthworkirelandmeath.ie

Youth Work Ireland Midlands www.youthworkmidlands.ie

Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan www.ywimonaghan.ie

Youth Work Ireland North Connaught www.ncycs.ie

Youth Work Ireland Tipperary www.youthworktipperary.ie











