



## **Saturday 23 March**

- 9:00** Registration
- 10.00** Conference Opening  
**Chair: Mary Quinn**
- Adoption of the Report of the Conference  
Agenda Committee /Election of the National  
Board & CAC
- 10:15** A Year in Review – report back to membership.
- A look back at 2018 with our National Board  
including the Treasurers Report and  
presentation of Budget 2019 & Headline  
Budget 2020
- Followed by Q&A
- Presentation of the 'I Am Amnesty' Award
- 11:30** Break
- 11:45** Community Sponsorship: a new way to  
welcome refugees
- With Razan Ibraheem, Colm O'Gorman, Tim  
Hanley
- Followed by Q&A
- 1:00** Lunch – onsite. Will incorporate a  
mobilisation/activism moment
- 2:15** Awards presentation
- 2:30** AI's new global policy on Drug Control and  
Human Rights
- 3:00** Never give up – a human rights defender  
speaks
- With Vitalina Koval in conversation with Una  
Mullally
- Followed by a Q&A
- 4:30** Awards presentation
- 5:00** Conference Adjourns

## **Sunday 24 March**

- 9.30** Registration (new attendees)
- 10.00** Conference Resumes  
**Chair: Fergal Kilkenny**
- 10:15** Presentation of Group Impact – Local, Youth &  
Student
- 10.30** 'You Don't Have Any Rights Here' – AI Mission  
to the US/Mexico Border with Colm O'Gorman
- 11:00** Break
- 11:15** Fighting Fascism and in Europe
- With Izabela Mozdrzen, Beata Geppert, &  
Catrinel Motoc
- Followed by Q&A
- 12:45** 'Stories of Refuge, Stories of Welcome'
- 1:00** Lunch – on-site
- 2:00** **Conference Business**
- Conference Delegates discuss and vote on the  
motions and constitutional amendments put  
forward by membership.
- 2:30** From violation to celebration- a time to reflect  
and refocus
- With Amy Walsh, Tara Flynn, Sorcha Tunney
- 4:00** Award Presentation – Outstanding Contribution  
to Human Rights in 2018
- 4:15** Keynote Address with Kumi Naidoo – Secretary  
General Amnesty International
- Followed by Q&A
- 5:30/6:00** Conference closing remarks

## Annual Conference 2019 Sessions Programme

### Saturday 23 March

#### **10: 15 Our Year in Review: a Report to Membership.**

A look back at 2018 with our National Board, including Treasurers Report and presentation of Budget for 2019 & Headline Budget 2020

#### **11:45 Community Sponsorship: A New Way to Welcome Refugees**

Community Sponsorship offers ordinary people an extraordinary opportunity to welcome refugees into their communities and to support them in their successful integration. Amnesty International began to advocate for the introduction of such a programme in May 2017. Following the Irish Government's commitment to establishing a community sponsorship programme in late 2017, we have continued to work with partners on its development and are now moving into the implementation of the programme. This Plenary Session will explore this innovative new programme which opens the door for more refugees to rebuild their lives in safety. Delegates will learn more about Community Sponsorship, and how it differs from our current resettlement programme by empowering people in Ireland to take the lead in directly helping refugees to settle in their communities.

**Colm O'Gorman, Executive Director, Amnesty International Ireland**

**Tim Hanley, Campaigns Officer, Amnesty International Ireland.**

**Razan Ibraheem** is a Syrian born journalist and a member of AI Ireland's National Board. Her deep sorrow for the tragic situation and the mass displacement in her homeland has led her volunteer in Greece to help refugees. The people she met and the stories she heard from Syrian refugees there changed her perspective on life.

#### **2:30 AI's New Global Policy on Drug Control and Human Rights**

**Fiona Crowley, Research & Legal Manager**, will give a brief overview of the new policy soon to be adopted by the International Board, as requested at the 2017 ICM. Fiona will also outline the section's support for the Ana Liffey Drug Project's 'Safer From Harm' campaign seeking decriminalisation of possession of drugs for personal use in Ireland.

#### **3:00 Never Give Up – a Human Rights Defender Speaks**

Vitalina Koval is an LGBTI activist in her hometown of Uzhgorod in Ukraine. After becoming an activist, she

co-founded an LGBTI community centre that offers peer-to-peer support. She is an organiser of the International Women's Day march in Uzhgorod.

Una and Vitalina will explore her campaigning for LGBTI rights in Ukraine. Despite the violent attacks at Women's Day marches, Vitalina Koval is not giving up!

**Una Mullally** is a writer and journalist with The Irish Times, contributes opinion columns to The Guardian, and her writing has also appeared in the New York Times and Granta. She is the author of *In The Name Of Love*, an oral history of the movement for marriage equality in Ireland, and editor of the best-selling anthology *Repeal The 8<sup>th</sup>*.

### Sunday 24 March

#### **10:30 You Don't Have any Rights Here**

A report back from our Executive Director on a recent Amnesty mission to the US/Mexico border to investigate the impact of US policies on migrants and refugees.

#### **11:15 Fighting Fascism in Europe**

**Izabela Moźdrzeń** and **Beata Geppert** are two of a group of fourteen women who are protesting against the rise of fascism in Poland. On 11 November 2017, during the Independence Day march in Warsaw, hundreds of far-right protestors gathered calling for a "*white Poland*". Determined to counter-protest and make their voices heard against racism, fascism and hate, they stood peacefully with a banner saying *Fascism Stop*. They were met with violence and intimidation.

Izabela and Beata will share their brave story of standing up for human rights, despite an increasingly hostile environment for human rights. In the past two years, the government of Poland has undertaken significant legal and policy changes that have undermined the rule of law and threatened human rights in the country. There are restrictions on the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, and the government has attempted to restrict women's rights.

**Catrinel Motoc** is Amnesty International's Senior Campaigner based in the Europe Regional Office. She is working on projects related to shrinking civil society space and Human Rights Defenders at risk in Europe. Catrinel will speak about the increasing threats to human rights posed by a rise in populism across Europe, and our work to counter it.

#### **12:45 'Stories of Refuge, Stories of Welcome'**

**Mavis Ramazani**, a migrant Activist, is a WorldWide Global Schools Facilitator, will speak about her motivation to become a facilitator on this programme, her experience, the outcomes for the students, and how such an education programme can contribute to creating 'welcoming communities'.

## 2:00 Conference Business

Conference delegates discuss and vote on the motions put forward by membership.

### 2:30 From Violation to Celebration - A Time to Reflect and Refocus

At our 2013 Annual Conference, Amnesty Ireland membership mandated the section to campaign to ensure that Irish law on access to abortion is fully compliant with international human rights law and AI's global policy. In the intervening years, AI at the national and global level mounted a strong and enormously successful campaign. Here in Ireland, our work has contributed enormously to the repeal of the Eighth Amendment and the introduction of abortion services in Ireland on January 1, 2019. From a global perspective, these huge gains for women's rights in Ireland have given hope to millions of women around the world that change is possible for them too. In a time of global rollback on women's sexual and reproductive rights, Ireland has moved in the other direction. The campaign win sends a message to Northern Ireland, El Salvador, Poland and other places where the struggle continues, that change is possible.

AI campaign coordinator Sorcha Tunney will share her reflection on the campaign and look forward to where we go from here. We are delighted that Amy Walsh from Termination for Medical Reasons and Tara Flynn will share with Amnesty members the highs and lows they encountered while campaigning for sexual and reproductive rights.

**Amy Walsh** is an artist and lecturer in Fine Art at TU Dublin. Amy is also a Director of Termination for Medical Reasons (TFMR) Ireland which is a pro-choice organisation made up of women and couples who received a diagnosis of a severe or fatal anomaly in pregnancy in Ireland. Together with her co-directors and members of TFMR Ireland, Amy shared the story of her first pregnancy and the loss of her daughter Rose to a fatal anomaly called Triploidy to Repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution in the hope that women and pregnant people would have access to abortion healthcare in Ireland.

Amy is also a trustee of the charity *Leanbh Mo Chroi* and provides in person and on-line information and support to people who receive a diagnosis of a severe or fatal anomaly in pregnancy.

**Tara Flynn** is an actor and writer in theatre, radio and TV. She campaigned for the repeal of Ireland's Eighth Amendment and in 2018, her one woman show *Not A Funny Word* played to sold-out crowds. She came to international attention for satirical videos *Racist B&B* and *Armagayddon*. TV includes *Irish Pictorial Weekly*, *Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle* and *Line of Duty*. She's the author of *You're Grand* and *Giving Out*

*Yards* (Hachette Books Ireland) and *Rage-In* (Mercier Press). She hosts the *Taranoia* podcast on the Headstuff Podcast Network and has long been a vocal campaigner for equality and women's reproductive rights.

**Sorcha Tunney**, Its Time Campaign Coordinator, Amnesty International Ireland.

### 4:15 Keynote address with Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International Secretary General

An opportunity for members and activists to meet our new Global Secretary General, and to hear about his vision for Amnesty International and our work across the globe.

**Kumi Naidoo** is a life-long social justice and environmental campaigner hailing from South Africa. Born in Durban in 1965, Kumi's first taste of activism came at age 15 when he organised and took part in an anti-apartheid protest that saw him expelled from his school.

As a result of his continued anti-apartheid activism, he was forced to live in exile in the UK in 1986. He returned to South Africa in 1990 to work with the African National Congress. He went on to hold multiple leadership roles in civil society and global organisations, including as the Executive Director of Greenpeace.