

**Wednesday 09 December****18.30 Conference Opening****Chair: David White****18: 40 In Conversation with Darragh Mackin.**

Darragh Mackin is a solicitor with Phoneix Law, a Belfast based firm which specialises in human rights and accountability related issues. Darragh has worked on a number of significant human rights cases. He represented Ibrahim Halawa, the Irish Prisoner of Conscience who was detained for more than three years in Egypt. He also represented Sara Ewart and Amnesty International in the seminal judicial review challenge brought against the abortion laws in Northern Ireland. Darragh acted for a number of the Hooded Men in the application for revision of the Ireland v United Kingdom 1978 decision by the European Court of Human Rights on torture. Most recently Darragh has acted for the families of the victims of The Stardust fire, successfully advocating for a new inquest into their deaths.

Colm O’Gorman will explore with Darragh his experience in working on these cases and others, discussing how lawyers and activists can work together to defend human rights.

Followed by Q & A

19:45: Presentation of Annual Awards**20:00: Close of Session 1****Thursday 10 December****18:30: Opening of Session 2****Chair: David White****18:40: Fáilte Mid-Winter**

As part of the annual Write for Rights Campaign, Annual Conference partners with Fáilte Amnesty, to highlight the case of Idris Khattac

Journalist and National Board member Razan Ibraheem, will be speaking to Talia Khattack, the daughter of Idris, about Talia’s campaign to get justice for her father.

Talia describes her father as selfless, loving and generous. The 55-year-old was often found in his backyard, tending to his garden and talking to his chickens. But he is also a dedicated human rights researcher, investigating enforced disappearances in Pakistan for organisations like Amnesty International.

In a cruel twist of fate, he too was disappeared in November 2019. A witness describes his car being intercepted, and a black sack being thrown over his face.

His daughter, Talia, decided to campaign for his whereabouts. Backed by Amnesty International, and supporters like you, public pressure worked. In June 2020, Pakistan authorities did something very rare – admitting that Idris was in their custody.

They still won’t reveal where – Talia still hasn’t seen her father, nor has lawyer. The authorities say they are charging him under the Official Secrets Act. If convicted, he could face a lengthy prison term or even a death sentence.

“My father is not a casefile. He is a human being. We deserve answers and he deserves the protection of the law.” Talia Khattak

Followed by Q & A

19:30 Write for Rights Action**19:40 Presentation of Annual Awards****20:00 Close of Session 2**



Friday 11 December

18:30: Opening of Final Session

Chair: Mary Quinn

Adoption of the Report of the Conference Agenda Committee /Election of the National Board & CAC

18:40 A Year in Review – report back to membership.

A look back at 2019 with our National Board.

Followed by Q&A

19:05 Treasurers Report and presentation of Budget 2020 & Headline Budget 2021

Followed by Q&A

19:30 Motions

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

20:00 Awards Presentation

20:15 Final Closing of Conference