Ruhama

Fighting Sexual Exploitation, Prostitution and Human Trafficking

Ruhama International Conference

Technology Friend Or Foe?

An International Conversation on Combatting Pornography, Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation

& Launch of Ruhama's Annual Report 2024

9th October 2025
9am-4.30pm

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
No 6 Kildare Street, Dublin, D02 E434.

#RuhamaInternationalConference

About Ruhama

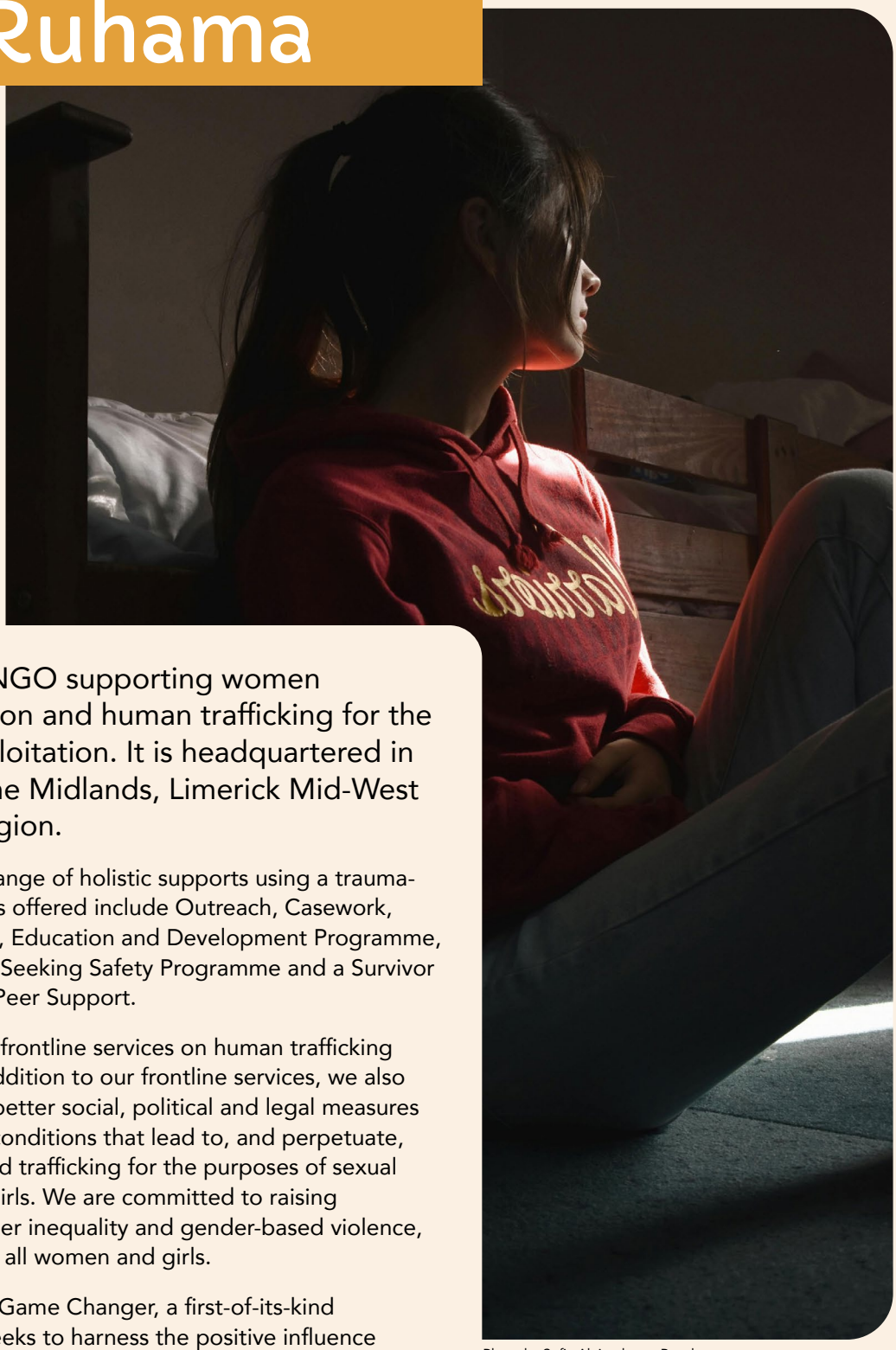


Photo by Sofia Alejandra on Pexels

Ruhama is a national NGO supporting women impacted by prostitution and human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It is headquartered in Dublin, with hubs in the Midlands, Limerick Mid-West and the Cork/Kerry region.

Ruhama provides a diverse range of holistic supports using a trauma-informed approach. Supports offered include Outreach, Casework, Trauma Therapy/Counselling, Education and Development Programme, Bridge to Work Programme, Seeking Safety Programme and a Survivor Voice Programme including Peer Support.

Ruhama provides training to frontline services on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In addition to our frontline services, we also advocate and campaign for better social, political and legal measures to address the systems and conditions that lead to, and perpetuate, the system of prostitution and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation of women and girls. We are committed to raising awareness, challenging gender inequality and gender-based violence, and to improving the lives of all women and girls.

Ruhama is a lead partner on Game Changer, a first-of-its-kind programme in Ireland that seeks to harness the positive influence of Gaelic Games to challenge the social and cultural norms that contribute to domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV). The programme is led by Ruhama, White Ribbon Ireland and the GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association), supported by the LGFA (Ladies Gaelic Football Association) and the Camogie Association.

Ruhama won Charity of the Year 2024 at the Charities Institute Ireland, Charity Excellence Awards.

Foreword
from Frances Fitzgerald

It is both an honour and a solemn responsibility to write this foreword for a gathering dedicated to confronting one of the most urgent challenges of our time – how to tackle an onslaught of pornography, sexual violence and sexual exploitation in Ireland and internationally.

These issues do not exist in isolation. They corrode the fabric of our communities, distort human dignity, and inflict harm – often hidden, but always profound on individuals, families, and society at large. Behind every statistic lies a story of someone whose voice has been silenced, whose rights have been denied, and whose life has been marked by trauma that no one should endure.

As an ambassador for this cause, I have witnessed the determination of survivors, the tireless work of charities like Ruhama, and the growing awareness among governments and communities alike. Yet awareness is not enough. We must match compassion with courage, and conviction with concrete action.

This conference is more than an exchange of knowledge; it is a commitment to shaping a future where exploitation is neither normalised nor tolerated. It is a pledge to ensure that laws are strengthened, support for survivors is amplified, and that the voices of the vulnerable are heard at the very heart of decision-making. Above all, it is a declaration that human dignity is not negotiable.

Let this gathering inspire us not only to confront the harms of pornography, sexual violence and sexual exploitation, but also to champion a vision of respect, resilience, renewal and real change.

Frances Fitzgerald,
Ruhama Ambassador and former Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland), Minister for Justice and MEP

Welcome
from Barbara Condon

Welcome to the Ruhama International Conference. Today, we are joined by survivors, activists, academics, politicians, policymakers, civil society leaders, tech experts and public service providers. Together, we gather for a vital and urgent conversation – one that touches the lives of some of the most vulnerable women and girls both here in Ireland and around the world: how to effectively address pornography, sexual violence, and sexual exploitation.

This is a conversation that cannot wait. Technology is reshaping the landscape of these issues, bringing both new challenges and opportunities. Over the course of this conference, we will explore these emerging dynamics, share knowledge and best practices, and work to develop strategies that protect and empower those most affected.

Our goal is clear: to turn understanding into action, collaboration into meaningful change, and commitment into results. Each voice in this room has a role to play, and together, we have the power to make a tangible difference. Let us approach this work with urgency, determination, and unwavering dedication to the safety, dignity, and well-being of all those impacted.

Despite the appalling realities vulnerable women and girls experience in the face of sexual violence and exploitation, we are hopeful that through shared learning and collaboration today and into the future, we can inspire meaningful action in Ireland and internationally.

At today's conference, I am also launching our latest Annual Report, which highlights the extensive work carried out by Ruhama in 2024, including key milestones in tackling trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, as well as our impact in providing essential services to women and girls.

I would like to extend a special welcome to Mia de Faoite, who is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation and who today works as Ruhama's Training Lead, who is sharing her lived experience with us today to help shape policy and raise awareness.

Barbara Condon,
CEO, Ruhama

Introduction

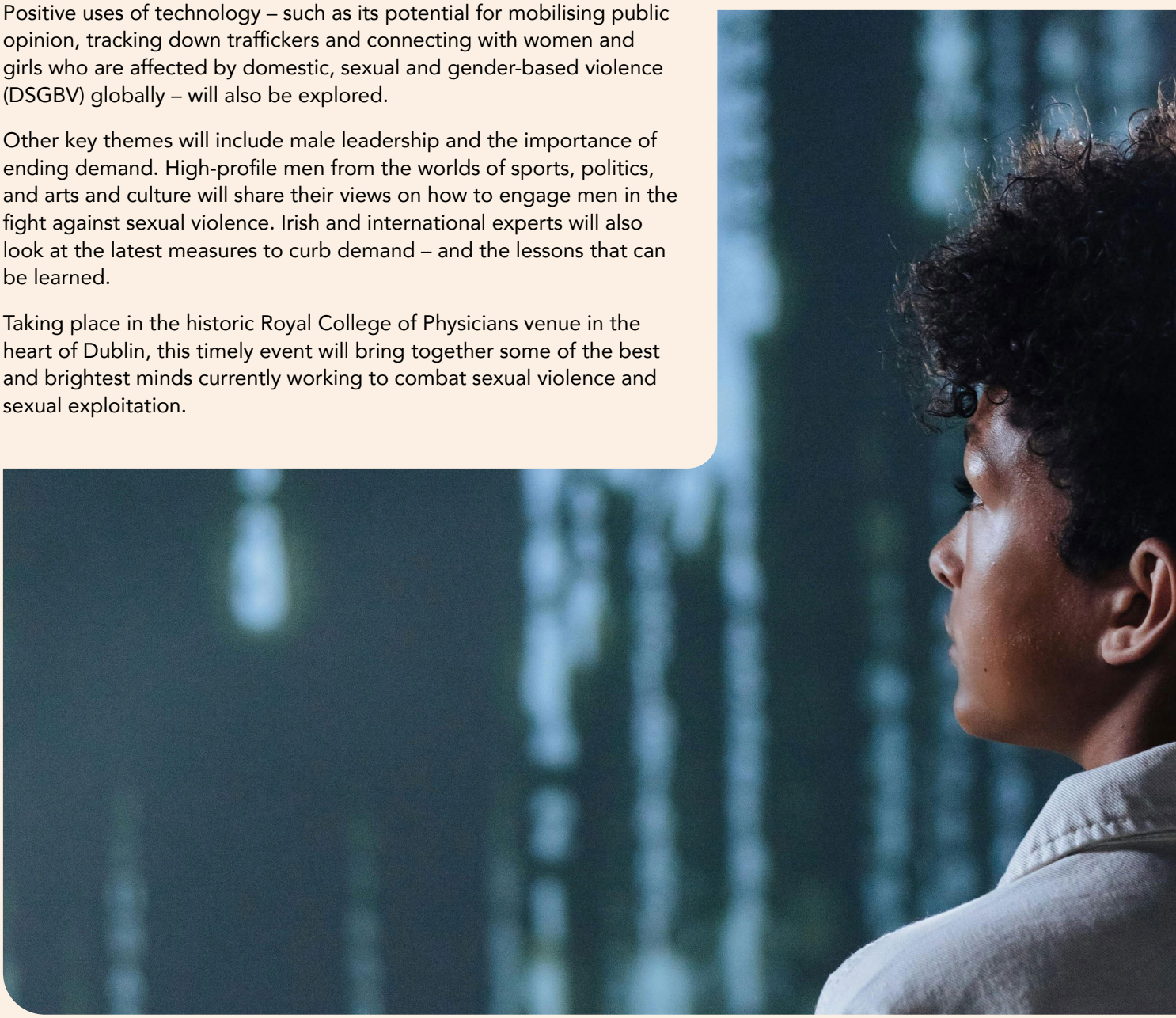
Ruhama's Conference focuses on the role technology plays in facilitating – but also counteracting – pornography, sexual violence and sexual exploitation.

International and national speakers and guests will discuss the urgent need for the law to catch up with the latest technological developments; and will look at how AI is contributing to a devastating rise in incidents of image-based abuse, deepfake porn, and online grooming, along with how messaging apps and social media are being used by traffickers and pimps to recruit and organise victims into the sex trade.

Positive uses of technology – such as its potential for mobilising public opinion, tracking down traffickers and connecting with women and girls who are affected by domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) globally – will also be explored.

Other key themes will include male leadership and the importance of ending demand. High-profile men from the worlds of sports, politics, and arts and culture will share their views on how to engage men in the fight against sexual violence. Irish and international experts will also look at the latest measures to curb demand – and the lessons that can be learned.

Taking place in the historic Royal College of Physicians venue in the heart of Dublin, this timely event will bring together some of the best and brightest minds currently working to combat sexual violence and sexual exploitation.



Conference Themes

1. **The challenge for Ireland – and how we are responding** focuses on the challenge for Ireland and how we are responding to pornography, sexual violence and exploitation.
2. **How technology has changed the nature of sexual exploitation** explores the rapid and relentless advancement of technology – including – AI- and the potential for technology to be harnessed as a force for good.
3. **Measures to prevent sexual violence and sexual exploitation** looks at ways in which the issue is being addressed internationally and in Ireland, what Ireland must do to prevent sexual violence and what our current initiatives are to help tackle demand.
4. **Men's role in ending violence against women and girls** explores the important role of male allyship and the place of positive role modelling in tackling domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV).

Photo by Ron Lach on Pexels

Conference Aims

- Build public awareness about DSGBV.
- Share learning from experts in the field and survivors of sexual violence to develop knowledge, best practice and innovation across sectors to support survivors.
- Inspire and generate action to combat sexual violence in Ireland and internationally.
- Engage more non-traditional actors – including men and representatives of the technology industry itself – in the fight against sexual exploitation.

Conference Agenda

9:00-9:45am	Registration
9.45-9.50am	Welcome – Conference MC Anton Savage, Broadcaster, Journalist and Author
9.50-10.10am	Setting the scene for today – Opening remarks and overview of Ruhama's 2024 annual report, Barbara Condon, CEO, Ruhama
10.10-10.30am	Opening address by Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly, Head of Ireland's National Police Service
10.30-10.45am	Keynote: Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, TD, Minister for Health, Launching the Conference and Ruhama's Annual Report 2024
Session 1: The Challenge for Ireland and How we are Responding	
10.45-10.55am	What We Have Learned from the Past Ruth Breslin, Director, Sexual Exploitation Research and Policy Institute (SERP)
10.55-11.05am	What We Must Do in the Future – the Challenge for Ireland in Tackling Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation Denise Charlton, CEO, Community Foundation Ireland
11.05-11.40am	Panel discussion: How Ireland is Responding to Pornography, Sexual Violence and Exploitation, moderated by Frances Fitzgerald, Ruhama Ambassador and former Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and MEP Seán Cooke, CEO, Men's Development Network Dr Salome Mbugua, Director, AkiDwA Rachel Morrogh, CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, Vice-President of GREVIO Committee, Adjunct Professor at UL Law School
11.40-12.00pm	Coffee Break

Scan the QR code to submit a question during our Q&A

Session 2: How Technology has Changed the Nature of Sexual Exploitation	
12.00-12.20pm	How AI is Ushering in a New Era of Violence Against Women and Girls Keynote: Laura Bates, Author and Campaigner
12.20-1.00pm	Panel discussion: Technology's Role in Driving Sexual Violence, moderated by John Cunningham, Chair of SERP Laura Bates, Author and Campaigner Elaine Burke, Sci-Tech Journalist, Editor and Broadcaster Maria João Faustino, Executive Committee Member, The European Women's Lobby Michael Moran, CEO, Hotline.ie
1.00-1.30pm	Fireside chat: Can Technology be a Force for Good in Ending Violence Against Women?, moderated by Anton Savage Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid Dr. Lollie Mancey, AI Ethicist, Futurist and Programme Director, UCD Innovation Academy Jenny Pattwell, Partner, FS Consulting, EY
1.30-2.30pm	Lunch
2.30-2.40pm	Mia de Faoite, Survivor of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Ruhama Training Lead
Session 3: Measures to Prevent Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation	
2.40-2.55pm	Video and presentation: Fuelling the Fight Against Sexual Violence Janet Jenson, Founder and CEO, The Jensen Project, USA
2.55-3.25pm	Fireside chat: What Ireland is Doing to Prevent Sexual Violence and End Demand, moderated by Anton Savage Colm Noonan, Chief Superintendent, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, An Garda Síochána (Ireland's national police force) Stephanie O'Keefe, CEO, Cuan, State Agency
Session 4: Men's Role in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	
3.25-3.40pm	How Male Leaders Can Tackle Violence Against Women Keynote: Colin Regan, Gaelic Athletic Association, Community and Health Manager
3.40-4.15pm	Panel discussion: Leadership and Male Champions, moderated by Anton Savage Mary Collins, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby Daragh Fleming, Author and Poet Michael Darragh McAuley, Social Impact Leader and Former Gaelic Footballer Richie Sadlier, Former Professional Footballer, Podcaster, Psychotherapist, Author
4.15-4.30pm	Closing remarks Jim O'Callaghan TD, Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Speaker Biographies

Conference MC
Anton Savage

Broadcaster, Journalist and Author

Anton Savage is the presenter of *The Anton Savage Show* on Newstalk and previously hosted the *Anton Savage Show* and *Savage Sunday* on Today FM. Before that, he was host of The Sunday Business Show on the same station and presenter of Ireland AM and *The Six O'Clock Show* on Virgin Media television. Anton is a weekly contributor to *The Today Show* on RTE One television.

He is currently a columnist with the *Business Post*. He was previously a columnist with *The Herald* and *Sunday Independent* and has written for the *Irish Daily Mail*, *Irish Mail on Sunday* and the *Irish Independent*. He has also published a book on political communications, 'Spin and Win.'

Anton has hosted innumerable interviews at public events with guests including the Taoiseach (leader of the Irish Government), Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland), Finnish Prime Minister, Head of MI6, the Communications Director to the UK Government and many more.

Barbara Condon

CEO, Ruhama

Barbara Condon's career spans 30 years in healthcare, with a specific interest in the areas of social justice, mental health, addiction, and domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Barbara is the Chief Executive Officer with Ruhama. Prior to her present role, Barbara was the Chief Executive Officer of Finglas Addiction Support Team (FAST), a community-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation service. In addition, she has 20 years' experience at senior management level and 30 years working in multi-disciplinary teams in healthcare, including in community and prison settings.

Barbara's qualifications include an MSc in Health Services Management from Trinity College Dublin. Barbara is an accredited member of Addiction Counsellors of Ireland, along with being a trained life coach and mediator.

Throughout her career, Barbara's passion for human rights, social justice, recovery and equality – in particular for women – has been a constant feature. She currently champions these issues with an organisation supporting some of the most marginalised women and girls in Ireland today. Under Barbara's leadership, Ruhama won Charity of the Year 2024, Charities Institute Ireland. Barbara won Trailblazer of the Year at the 2024 Goss.ie Women of the Year Awards. Barbara has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Excellence in Leadership category of Charities Institute Ireland's Charities Excellence Awards 2025.

Justin Kelly

Garda Commissioner (Head of Ireland's National Police Service)

Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly has 33 years' policing experience. Commissioner Kelly's appointed by the Irish Government as Garda Commissioner came into effect on 1st September 2025. He was previously Deputy Commissioner of Security, Strategy and Governance. Prior to that, as Assistant Commissioner of Serious and Organised Crime, he was responsible for leading the national policing response in areas of drugs and organised crime, cybercrime, economic crime, immigration and crimes against vulnerable persons. He was the strategic lead for the development of capacity and organisational policy in a number of areas connected with serious crime investigation. Before then, he was Detective Chief Superintendent in the organisation's Operational Counter-Terrorism Unit, the Special Detective Unit. He was previously Detective Superintendent, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, as well as a Detective Inspector, Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, and a frontline Inspector in the Blanchardstown and Clondalkin areas of Dublin.

In 2001, he was seconded to work for the United Nations in Bosnia Herzegovina, where he worked monitoring and building the capacity of local law enforcement.

Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD

Minister for Health

Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD is the Minister for Health.

Appointed by the Taoiseach to this role in January 2025, Carroll MacNeill previously served as Minister of State for European Affairs & Defence across the Departments of the Taoiseach, Foreign Affairs and Defence. Prior to that, she was Minister of State in the Department for Finance with special responsibility for Financial Services, Credit Unions and Insurance.

Minister Carroll MacNeill was re-elected as a TD for the Dún Laoghaire constituency in the 2024 General Election, having first been elected to the Dáil in 2020. She served on a number of Oireachtas Committees including the Public Accounts Committee, the Justice Committee and the Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. She was also a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly.

Before entering elected politics, Minister Carroll MacNeill qualified as a Solicitor and Barrister. She holds a PhD in public policy where her research interest was in political institutions and the judiciary.

Minister Carroll MacNeill has worked as a lawyer in the public service, both within the Oireachtas as Legal Adviser in the Office of the Leader of Fine Gael and within Government as Special Adviser in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, in the Department of Justice and Equality & in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Speaker Biographies

Frances Fitzgerald

Ruhama Ambassador and former Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and MEP

Frances Fitzgerald is an international leader on equality who is proud to serve as the first- ever ambassador for Ruhama. She is currently serving a two-year term on the Gender Equality Advisory Council to the G7 and, earlier this year, was appointed Senior Advisor to Teneo. A parliamentarian for over 20 years, Frances served as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) of Ireland from 2016-17, one of only four women ever to hold this position. She has held several senior ministerial roles, including Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation (2017), Minister for Justice & Equality (2014-17) – where she championed the Marriage Equality Referendum and the Sexual Offences Act 2017 – and was Ireland's first Minister for Children & Youth Affairs (2011-14), leading on the Children's Referendum in 2012. Frances was elected to the European Parliament in 2019. She was a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM), and the Development Committee (DEVE) and the Committee on the Use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA). In July 2019, she was elected EPP Coordinator of the FEMM Committee and in March 2021, she was elected Vice Chair of the EPP Group. As MEP for Dublin, Frances co-led the first EU Directive on Violence Against Women.

Ruth Breslin

Director, Sexual Exploitation Research and Policy Institute (SERP)

Ruth Breslin has over 25 years of research experience in both NGO and academic settings in Dublin, London and New York. She has an MSc in Social Research Methods (Social Policy) from the London School of Economics and Political Science. The focus of Ruth's work has been efforts to tackle and prevent violence against women and girls, and she has developed particular expertise in research and policy development on issues of commercial sexual exploitation. Ruth is regularly called upon to input into the development of evidence-based policy, legislation and practice in this regard, in both Ireland and internationally.

Ruth joined the SERP research programme in University College Dublin in 2018. She is the lead or co-author of all of SERP's studies. Ruth's work strives to bridge the gap between academia and frontline practice in generating new knowledge, insights and solutions on issues of commercial sexual exploitation in Ireland and beyond. Ruth is now leading the development of the newly independent SERP Institute and the delivery of its strategic plan.

Denise Charlton

CEO, Community Foundation Ireland

Denise Charlton is Chief Executive Officer of Community Foundation Ireland, Ireland's philanthropic hub committed to a mission of Equality For All in Thriving Communities. A leading voice in civil society, she has over two decades of impact-driven leadership experience as co-founder of Marriage Equality and as former CEO of the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

Denise has led transformative work on LGBTQ+ rights, gender equality and combatting domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. She also serves on the board Cuan – Ireland's first sexual and gender-based violence statutory agency.

Seán Cooke

CEO Men's Development Network

Seán Cooke is Chief Executive Officer of the Men's Development Network, a pioneering organisation dedicated to ending gender-based violence, and engaging men and boys on health, wellbeing and gender equality. Seán is responsible for the overall strategic and operational management of the Men's Development Network and is also the official spokesperson for the organisation.

Seán primary degree was in Communications Studies and he holds a Master's in Community Development. He has over 30 years' experience working in the community and voluntary sector, both at front line and senior management level. Seán's previous experience includes working in community and youth development, project management of major community-based capital projects and as a local development consultant.

Seán sits on a number of national committees addressing gender-based violence and is also a member of the steering committee of MenEngage Europe. He was recently appointed to the board of Working with Perpetrators European Network (WWPEN).

Dr Salome Mbugua

Director, AkiDwA

UN Mandate Holder, Dr Salome Mbugua is a researcher, gender equality activist, and human rights advocate with over 20 years of experience in civil society. She currently serves as the CEO of AkiDwA – The Migrant Women's Network Ireland, where she leads on operational management, advocacy, policy development, and governance. She is also a Human Rights Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and an alternate member of the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Her work encompasses the development of education, support, and advocacy programmes, as well as collaborations with various organisations to influence policy and drive systemic change. Guided by a strong commitment to equality and justice, Dr Salome has actively engaged with policymakers in Ireland, Europe, and internationally. She also contributes her expertise through participation in numerous advisory committees, expert groups, and boards.

Speaker Biographies

Rachel Morrogh

CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Rachel Morrogh joined Dublin Rape Crisis Centre as Chief Executive in November 2023. She has senior-level experience working in a wide variety of roles and sectors over the last 20 years, including Irish Cancer Society, Pfizer, Board of Trade (Canada) and Oireachtas Eireann. She is a graduate of UCD and holds a bachelor's degree in economics and politics, a master's degree in politics and a diploma in leadership.

Rachel is determined to accelerate actions that bring forward the day when sexual violence is eliminated. Until that day comes, she is focused on implementing a growth strategy for Dublin Rape Crisis Centre so that it can support more people to heal after sexual violence.

Ellen O'Malley Dunlop

Vice-President of GREVIO Committee, Adjunct Professor at UL Law School

Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop is the first Irish elected representative of the Council of Europe's GREVIO Group, which is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). She was its Vice President from 2023-2025.

Ellen served as CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for 10 years and Acting CEO of Saoirse Domestic Violence Services for one year. She was a member of the Board of Gaisce The President's Award, the Legal Aid Board and was chair of the board of the National Women's Council from 2017-2020.

Ellen has a wealth of experience in lobbying government, designing and commissioning research, and overseeing and presenting national publicity awareness raising campaigns on sexual violence. She has also co-delivered two major pieces of research – 'The State's Response to Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence' (2021) and 'The Intersection of the Criminal Justice, Private Family Law and Public Law Child Care processes in Relation to Domestic and Sexual Violence' (2022).

Laura Bates

Author and Campaigner

Laura Bates is a best-selling author, keynote speaker and founder of the Everyday Sexism Project. Her books include *Everyday Sexism*, *Girl Up* and *Fix the System, Not the Women*. Laura writes regularly for the *New York Times*, *The Guardian* and other outlets, and is a frequent media commentator and consultant for TV productions tackling issues around gender inequality.

She works closely with government, schools, businesses, police forces and bodies from the United Nations to the Council of Europe on sexism and inequality.

In recognition of Laura's work surrounding sexism and gender inequality, she was awarded a British Empire Medal in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List and has been named Woman of the Year by Cosmopolitan, Red Magazine and The Sunday Times Magazine. She is also an Honorary Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

John Cunningham

Chair of the Sexual Exploitation Research and Policy Institute (SERP)

John Cunningham is a businessman who has held leadership positions in a number of industries over a 40-year period in Ireland and the UK in organisations such as Irish Permanent, Friends First, Zurich Bank and Alexander Mann Solutions.

John was Chair of the Immigrant Council of Ireland for 12 years and was a leading male voice in the Turn Off The Red Light campaign. He chaired Gaisce, the President's Award for six years and is currently Chair of the SERP (Sexual Exploitation Research and Policy) Institute.

John is also currently Relationship Director with Morgan McKinley, an Irish Head Quartered global recruitment and talent solutions business. He is Chair and Country Director of the Lysis Group, an organisation that deals with regulated entities in the area of tackling financial crime.

He has a long association with the arts in Ireland and founded the IMMA 1000 fundraising initiative. John is currently on the Board of IMMA and is Chair of the Collections & Acquisitions Committee.

Elaine Burke

Sci-Tech Journalist, Editor and Broadcaster

Elaine Burke is a journalist and broadcaster who provides clear, plain-speaking commentary on science and technology developments in print, online, on TV and radio, and in podcasts. She is the resident tech expert for *Ireland AM* on Virgin Media Television and a regular contributor to tech stories for shows across RTÉ TV and radio, Today FM, Newstalk and other media outlets in Ireland. She has also made appearances on international news networks such as BBC, Al Jazeera and CNN.

Elaine hosts both the *For Tech's Sake* and *Connected AI* podcasts and is a regular contributor to *The Business Post* newspaper. Winner of the inaugural Women in Business Journalism Award in 2022, Elaine is passionate about science communication and delivering expert-led content in accessible ways.

Maria João Faustino

Executive Committee Member, The European Women's Lobby

Maria João Faustino holds a PhD in Psychology from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her doctoral research focused on sexual violence and its gendered patterns. She has published extensively on women's experiences of consent and coercion, image-based sexual abuse, and media representations of sexual violence. She co-authored the book *MeToo. A Very Public Secret: Sexual Harassment in Portugal* (Roque, Santos, Faustino, & Garraio, 2024). From 2023 to 2025, she served as a member of the Executive Committee of the European Women's Lobby.

Speaker Biographies

Mick Moran

CEO, Hotline.ie

Mick Moran is the CEO of the Irish Internet Hotline, the Irish national reporting centre where the public can securely, anonymously, and confidentially report concerns in respect of illegal content online, especially child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and Intimate Image Abuse (IIA).

Michael has an extensive background in law enforcement , where he specialised in investigating crimes against children in both national and international contexts, while working with An Garda Síochána, and in international operational, strategic and policy roles.

He is also a teacher in matters relating to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) at University College Dublin.

Sarah Benson

CEO, Women's Aid

Sarah Benson is the current Chief Executive Officer of Women's Aid, Ireland. Previously, Sarah was the Chief Executive Officer with Ruhama. In addition, Sarah has previous experience as Manager of the National Domestic Violence Helpline, and extensive work in the community and voluntary sector both in Ireland and abroad, working particularly with marginalised ethnic minority women and youth.

Sarah is a former Chairperson of C.A.P. International (2014-2019), member and Vice Chairperson of the Board of the National Women's Council of Ireland (2013-2020), and a former member of the Board of The Wheel (2020-2024).

Sarah is currently a Ministerial appointee to the Board of the Courts Service of Ireland and to the Board of Cuan.

Sarah holds a Bachelor of Arts from University College Dublin, a Master of Philosophy (Gender & Women's Studies) from Trinity College Dublin and a Master's Degree in Business Studies (MBS. Business Practice) from University College Cork (via the Irish Management Institute).

Throughout her career, Sarah's passion for human rights, social justice and equality – in particular for women and girls – remains a constant feature.

Dr Lollie Mancey

AI Ethicist, Futurist and Programme Director, University College Dublin (UCD) Innovation Academy

Dr Lollie Mancey is an anthropologist and futurist whose work examines how culture and technology intersect with human dignity, safety, and justice. A leading voice on the societal impact of artificial intelligence, she is co-presenter of RTÉ's *Futureville* and a regular contributor to national conversations on technology, ethics and equality.

As Programme Director at University College Dublin's Innovation Academy, Lollie equips leaders and organisations to navigate complexity and harness AI responsibly. Her work with partners including NASA, Mastercard, and public agencies demonstrates her ability to bridge frontier technologies with pressing human challenges.

Lollie's current focus includes exploring how AI both enables and threatens human wellbeing. Her speaking style is direct, thought-provoking, and rooted in real-world impact, offering audiences practical strategies for building safer, more inclusive futures.

Jenny Pattwell

Partner, FS Consulting, EY

Jenny Pattwell brings more than 24 years' experience in the Financial Services industry. In EY, she leads Financial Services Risk Consulting in Ireland with a focus on Risk & Regulatory-driven transformation and Financial Crime. Prior to joining EY, Jenny was a Partner in another big 4 firm in Singapore specialising in risk management, regulatory advisory, and data and analytics in financial services.

Before her time as a consultant, Jenny spent several years in banking, working across multiple functions and lines of defence in London, Dubai and New York.

A current social focus for Jenny is her role in leading "The Harcourt Programme", a collaborative FS industry effort to combat modern slavery through awareness, collaboration and technology and data.

Mia de Faoite

Survivor of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Ruhama Training Lead

Mia de Faoite was a core partner on the leadership team of the successful Turn Off the Red Light campaign and the coordinator of the Beyond Exploitation Campaign before taking up the position of Training Lead at Ruhama. Mia's advocacy has not been confined to Ireland; she has spoken at the National Assembly in Paris, the UN in New York and at the first ever conference on the sex trade in the middle East in Lebanon in 2024. Mia worked as an advisor to the All-Party Parliamentary Groups in Westminster and the End Demand campaign in the UK. Mia was commissioned to design and deliver a human trafficking training course to 12 UK police forces. Mia is a survivor who has given oral and written testimony in the Dáil, Stormont and Westminster.

Mia holds a BA (Hons) in Philosophy and an LLM (International Criminal Justice) from Maynooth University.

Janet Jensen

CEO and Founder, The Jensen Project, USA

Janet Jensen is the Founder and CEO of The Jensen Project, a U.S.-based NGO, where she leverages her strengths in business, innovation, and creativity to cultivate opportunities for individuals and organisations dedicated to empowering survivors and reducing exploitation. A lifelong advocate against sexual violence and exploitation, and a self-proclaimed human investor, Janet strategically aligns stakeholders. She cultivates impactful partnerships to create cultural and systemic change, improving the outcomes for all victims of sexual violence.

Janet firmly believes in the Survivor (Equality) Model; holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes while providing exit ramps for survivors of trafficking and exploitation.

The Jensen Project's core programme, GrantTank, infuses up to $2 million annually into the anti-trafficking sector. This funding provides fuel for true collaboration and expansion of best practices.

Speaker Biographies

Colm Noonan

Chief Superintendent, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, An Garda Síochána (Ireland's national police force)

Colm Noonan has been Detective Chief Superintendent of An Garda Síochána, Ireland's National Police Service Since November 2021.

Colm is also the head of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) where he has strategic responsibility for the response to and the investigation of crimes involving domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The GNPSB also conduct investigations in other complex cases.

The GNPSB is also the National Bureau responsible for An Garda Síochána's response to Sexual Crime, Online Child Exploitation, Child Protection, Sex Offender Management, Human Trafficking, Missing Persons and Victims.

Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe

CEO, Cuan, Ireland's Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Statutory Agency

Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe was appointed as the first CEO of Cuan, Ireland's Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Statutory Agency, in February 2024. Dr O'Keeffe previously worked in Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) as the National Director of Health and Wellbeing and more recently as National Director of Operations Planning.

She has over 20 years' experience of working in the Irish public service, across a number of organisations and was responsible for delivering Ireland's first 'whole-of-government' population health strategy – Healthy Ireland – while working in Ireland's Department of Health.

In addition to a range of academic qualifications and professional and development achievements, Dr O'Keeffe holds a MSc and PhD in psychology and has diploma and certificate qualifications from the Institute of Directors Ireland.

Colin Regan

GAA Community & Health Manager, Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

Colin Regan worked as a journalist and editor for 10 years before joining the GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) as Community & Health Manager in 2011. As well as leading out on the development and implementation of the award-winning Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs programme, he was the catalyst behind the GAA's partnership with Ruhama and the Men's Development Network, and their collaborative Game Changer programme, designed to harness the power of Gaelic Games to help address the societal issue of sexual, domestic, and gender-based violence.

He is currently on a 12-month sabbatical from the GAA, having won an Atlantic Fellowship for Equity in Brain Health, housed within the Global Brain Health Institute in Trinity College Dublin, where he is working as part of an international team to raise awareness about brain health and dementia.

Mary Collins

European Women's Lobby

Mary Collins is currently Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). Prior to this, she was the Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, focusing on socio-economic issues relating to women's economic independence. In this role, she worked on gender pay, pensions, poverty gaps, work-life balance and the EU2020 Strategy/European Semester/ economic governance framework with a focus on the gender perspective and gender budgeting. She also coordinated the EWL feminist economics working group and published the EWL Purple Pact for a feminist approach to the economy.

Mary has over 25 years' professional experience, including in policy development, capacity building, representation, campaigning and advocacy. Over the past years, Mary has worked on a variety of issues relating to gender equality, including violence against women, EU asylum and human rights policies, the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities.

Daragh Fleming

Author, Poet

Daragh Fleming is an Irish writer and award-winning mental health advocate. Daragh has become a recognised voice in conversations about men's mental health and the urgent need to rethink how society frames masculinity. His writing blends storytelling, poetry and advocacy, often tackling the silent pressures men face and how these can ripple outward into relationships, communities and culture. Through essays, viral poetry and public speaking, he encourages men to embrace openness and care as strengths, challenging outdated narratives that too often perpetuate harm. By fostering dialogue on resilience, empathy, and self-awareness, Daragh's work contributes to a wider cultural shift – one that not only supports men in their mental health journeys but also plays a role in ending gender-based violence.

Michael Darragh Macauley

Social Impact Leader and Former Gaelic Footballer

Michael Darragh Macauley, an eight-time All-Ireland Gaelic Football Championship winner with Dublin, is a social impact leader and former CEO of Sanctuary Runners, who has dedicated his career to community building and integration through sport.

He spent six years in the heart of Dublin 1, working with the Northeast Inner City project, where he established a reputation for bringing people together and fostering inclusivity among young people. His international work in Iraq and Kenya earned him the Concern Worldwide medal for outstanding contribution. He remains deeply committed to social justice and to using sport as a powerful tool to unite diverse communities.

Speaker Biographies

Richie Sadlier

Former Professional Footballer, Podcaster, Psychotherapist, Author

Richie Sadlier is a former Republic of Ireland international footballer turned award-winning author, broadcaster and psychotherapist. Forced into early retirement at 24, he retrained in psychotherapy, earning an MA in Adolescent Psychotherapy in 2019, and now runs a private practice in South Dublin. An Irish Association of Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapists-accredited therapist, Richie works primarily with adolescents and their parents, offering guidance on youth mental health, sexual health, and emotional development.

Alongside his therapy practice, Richie is a respected broadcaster and writer. He has contributed to The Irish Times, the Sunday Independent, and RTÉ, while also creating acclaimed podcasts such as Episode and The Player's Chair. His memoir Recovering (2019) won the An Post Sports Book of the Year, and Let's Talk (2022) won Teen & YA Book of the Year.

Through public talks, documentaries, and partnerships with organisations like Movember, Richie continues to champion open conversations on masculinity, recovery, and mental fitness.

Jim O'Callaghan TD

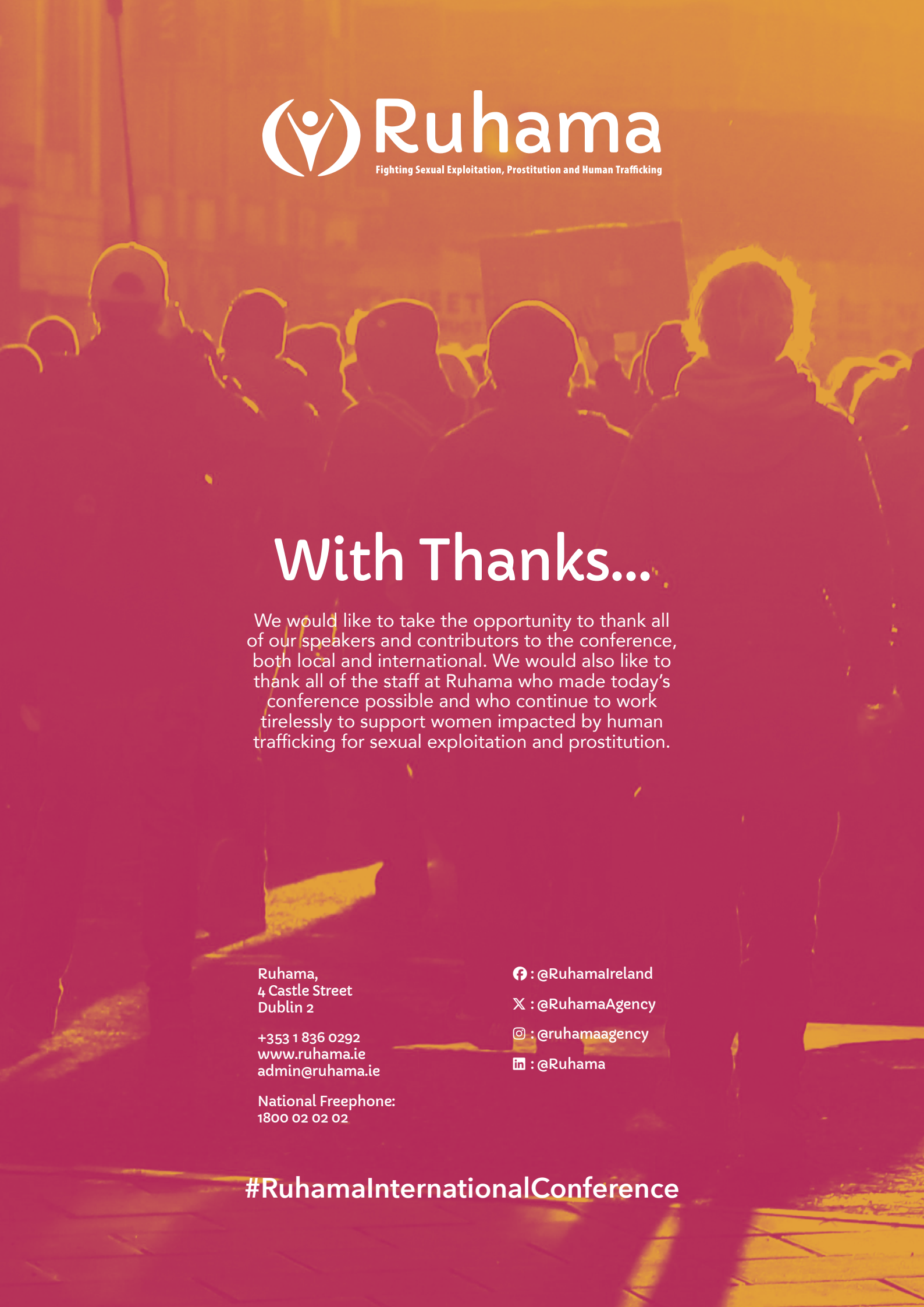
Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Jim O'Callaghan, TD, was appointed Ireland's Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in January 2025. He joined Fianna Fáil in 2003, and his first successful foray into electoral politics came in 2009, when he was elected to Dublin City Council to represent Pembroke-Rathmines. Minister O'Callaghan remained a member of Dublin City Council until his election to Dáil Éireann in 2016, when he regained a seat for Fianna Fáil in the Dublin Bay South (formerly Dublin South East) constituency. He was re-elected in the Dublin Bay South constituency in 2020, and again in 2024.

Among the Bills he has introduced in the Dáil as a TD is the Parole Bill 2016. He drafted and secured cross-party support for the Bill, which was passed by the Dáil and Seanad and became an Act in 2019. It comprehensively reformed the parole system, giving victims of crime and their families the right to be heard during the parole process. The Oireachtas also passed the Minister's proposals to expand the powers of the Criminal Assets Bureau. More recently, he introduced the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Bill to allow women to defer maternity leave in cases of serious illness, and the Sale of Tickets (Amendment) Bill to ban the dynamic pricing of tickets for concerts and cultural events. The Minister lives in Ranelagh with his wife and son.

Minister O'Callaghan has a BCL degree from University College Dublin, a master's degree in law and an M.Phil. in criminology from the University of Cambridge, and a barrister-at-law degree from the King's Inns. He qualified as a barrister in 1993, and was made a Senior Counsel in 2008. Since his appointment, Minister O'Callaghan has prioritised getting more Gardaí on our streets, tackling the scourge of domestic violence and implementing a robust immigration system.

Photo by Andrea Piacquadio on Pexels



Ruhama

Fighting Sexual Exploitation, Prostitution and Human Trafficking

With Thanks...

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our speakers and contributors to the conference, both local and international. We would also like to thank all of the staff at Ruhama who made today's conference possible and who continue to work tirelessly to support women impacted by human trafficking for sexual exploitation and prostitution.

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