



SIGN LANGUAGES ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND: Recognition and Human Rights

24 FEBRUARY 2023

10:00AM - 10:30AM

Registration, Coffee and Mingle

10:30AM - 11:00AM

Dr Mary CANNING

A warm welcome from the Royal Irish Academy President

Prof Lorraine LEESON

Opening from the conference chair

Associate Vice-Provost for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion.

ADAPT Centre/Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin and former LLCC Committee Member, RIA.

Morning session moderated by Teresa Lynch, Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin

11:00AM - 11:30AM

Dr Markku JOKINEN

The importance of sign language recognition to deaf and SL communities

Former President of the World Federation of the Deaf; President of the Finnish Association of the Deaf.

11:30AM - 12:00PM

Tommy McAULEY

Sign Languages in Northern Ireland

Acting Head Sign Language Policy and Legislation, Engaged Communities Group, Department for Communities.

12:00PM - 12:30PM

Dr John Bosco CONAMA

The ISL Act (2017) - Setting the scene. The Act & subsequent implementation measures

Director, Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin (and co-lead on ISL Recognition/ Former Chair, Irish Deaf Society.

12:30PM - 13:00PM

Geraldine McGAHEY

Chief Commissioner, ECNI

Ensuring Human Rights for deaf signers on the island of Ireland

Sinéad GIBNEY

Chief Commissioner, IHRCE

THEMATIC SESSIONS

14:15PM - 14:50PM

EDUCATION

Moderator: Joanne Chester - National Deaf Women of Ireland

*Dr. Noel O'Connell (UCC/TCD), Dr Elizabeth Mathews (DCU),
Madeline Hickey (National Council for Special Education), Dr Bronagh Byrne (QUB).*

14:50PM - 15:50PM

LEGAL, HEALTH, & PUBLIC SECTOR

Moderator: Prof. Andy Way - Dublin City University

1. Sign Language Interpreting provision in Ireland – challenges for the next 3-5 years
2. Policing and deaf communities: where we are and where we wish to go.
3. Access to healthcare: recent developments and remaining barriers
4. The NI landscape: key developments and challenges for the next 3-5 years
5. Looking to the future: Machine Translation and Sign Languages – opportunities and limitations

John Stewart, Manager, Sign Language Interpreting Service

*Superintendent Sean Fallon, Community Engagement Bureau
An Garda Síochána*

Dr Gill Harold & Dr Noel O'Connell, UCC

Mr Tommy McAuley, Department of Communities, NI

*Mark Wheatley, Executive Director, European Union of the
Deaf/ SignON project consortium*

LITTLE BREAK



LITTLE BREAK

16:10PM - 16:30PM

CULTURAL & POLITICAL LIFE

Moderator: Prof. Patrick Lonergan, MRIA. University of Galway. Chair of the LLCC

1. From law to implementation – engaging deaf people in political life
2. Creative and Cultural Life

Senator Mark Daly

Lianne Quigley & Dr Amanda Coogan

16:40PM - 17:00PM

Prof David LITTLE, TCD - Some concluding thoughts

17:00PM - 17.30PM

Dublin Theatre for the Deaf/ SignON Project performance

- Film cameras are in place to record the sessions.
- ISL/BSL/IS/English/ interpretation and captioning is provided.
- Please follow the guidance of student assistants so that you are seated for the most accessible viewing of the interpreters.
- We ask you kindly to refrain from bringing food into the main hall.



#RIASignLanguages2023