



National Conference

September 22nd 2011, Meyrick Hotel Galway



Challenge or Opportunity?



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SCHEDULE



**OFFICIAL OPENING
OF CONFERENCE
AND MC FOR THE DAY
MRS FIONNUALA KENNY**

10.00am: Registration opens & photo-call

10.30am: Conference to open – Official launch and welcome

11.00am: Pat Dolan (Sociology/constitution/bail out help)

11.30am: Robin Webster (Growing Older in Ireland)

12 noon: Jennifer O'Connell (Changing roles within the family)

12.30pm: Q&A Session

1-2pm: Lunch

2.00pm: Geoffrey Shannon (Law & the family)

2.30pm: Bernard Sherdian (Consumer Protection and Financial Distress)

3.00pm: Colm O'Gorman (Human Rights/Immigrant issues)

3.30pm: Q&A Session

4.00pm: Closing Statements

4.15pm: Conference concludes

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Never has the family been under such pressure – although enshrined in our Constitution we should ask ourselves is the support really there for the family?

How does the Constitution support the family in its many varied forms in the 21st century?

What is the changing nature of family in Ireland to-day? What are the challenges facing us as children, as parents and as we grow older? Many families are under great financial pressure due to current economic factors. Who will bail-out the Irish family?

The aim of this Conference is to examine these questions and many more as the dynamics of family life in Ireland change and provide greater challenges and greater opportunities.

The Conference will be of interest to parents, older people, prospective adoptive parents, families under financial and other strain, immigrant families and professionals engaged with any of these groups.

Guest Speakers

Professor Pat Dolan

Professor Pat Dolan is based at the Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC) within the School of Political Science and Sociology at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The main objective of the CFRC is to improve outcomes for children and their families, advance family support practice and advance policy both in Ireland and internationally. The centre is internationally recognised as a leader in these areas. Dr Dolan has also been appointed Chairholder for the prestigious UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement at NUI, Galway. He has completed an extensive body of research on family issues including longitudinal research on adolescents, their perceived mental health and social support networks.



Mr Robin Webster

Robin Webster has been the Chief Executive of Age Action Ireland since its establishment in 1992 as the independent national network on ageing and older people. Its main aim is to improve the quality of life of all older people, especially those who are most frail and vulnerable, by combating discrimination and promoting equality and diversity. He is a social science graduate, with post-graduate qualifications in education, social work and gerontology. He has wide experience of adult education, community development, social planning and social work through his professional and voluntary work.



Ms Jennifer O'Connell

Jennifer O'Connell is a freelance journalist and was founding editor of TheJournal.ie. Jennifer writes a weekly column for The Sunday Business Post and contributes to a variety of radio and TV shows including the Ray D'arcy Show on Today FM, the Eamon Dunphy Show on Newstalk, and the Daily Show on RTE Television. Otherwise, Jennifer says " I can usually be found lurking in auction houses or inflicting sandpaper wounds on perfectly blameless furniture".



Mr Geoffrey Shannon

Mr Geoffrey Shannon is Chairman of The Adoption Authority and a Special Rapporteur to the Government on child protection. He is a regular commentator on the law relating to children on the national media. Geoffrey is a solicitor and Senior Lecturer in family and child law at the Law Society of Ireland. He is editor of the Irish Journal of Family Law and has written extensively on family and law issues. His latest book, entitled Child Law, was presented to President Mary McAleese earlier this year.



Mr Bernard Sheridan

As Director for Consumer Protection at the Central Bank of Ireland, Bernard Sheridan has responsibility for the Consumer Protection Framework for consumers of financial services, the development of the Consumer Protection Codes and the monitoring and enforcement of these Codes and Standards. During Bernard's career with the Central Bank, he has played a lead role in establishing the unit tasked with supervising the domestic banks covered by the Government Guarantee in response to the financial crisis as well as heading up the Consumer Information Division from its inception in 2003. Bernard also represented the Financial Regulator at the International Forum for Financial Consumer Regulators.



Mr Colm O'Gorman

Mr Colm O'Gorman is Executive Director of Amnesty International in Ireland. He first came to public attention by speaking out against perpetrators of clerical sexual abuse and he subsequently founded One in Four, an organisation to support men and women who had been sexually abused and / or suffered sexual violence. He himself is a survivor of such abuse. He has contributed extensively to public debate and discussion on issues of Human Rights.



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BOOKING FORM

Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	Mobile:
COST €25 - CONCESSION €15 (Students, Seniors & Unwaged) Includes Lunch	
Company: <input type="checkbox"/>	Individual: <input type="checkbox"/>
Number Attending: <input type="text"/>	
Company Name:	
METHOD OF PAYMENT	
Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/>	Laser Card <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>
Name on Credit Card:	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Signature of Holder	
Last 3 digits of security code* <input type="text"/>	
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