



# Campaigning Summer Series 2020

Friday 26th June to Friday 31st July 2020

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# Campaigning Summer Series: Where next after COVID-19?

*The Campaigning Summer School has established itself as an integral event in the Fórsa calendar. Following the first iteration of the event as an IMPACT initiative in June 2017, it has grown from strength to strength since, with the inaugural Fórsa Campaigning Summer School held in June 2018 in DCU All Hallows, before returning to Nerney's Court last June 2019.*

*It is designed to equip the union's senior activists with the skills and tools to lead local campaigns at a workplace and branch level. In addition, it offers an opportunity for discussion and debate on some of the pressing issues of interest to Fórsa activists, across a range of economic, social, equality and environmental topics. Finally, it seeks to inspire and motivate our activists to get involved in the union's national campaigning efforts.*

*In light of the current COVID-19 situation and the associated restrictions, we have decided to go with a series of online lunchtime webinar events in place of the regular summer school event, titled the Fórsa 'Campaigning Summer Series'. These will take place over a series of weeks beginning on Friday June 26th at 1pm.*

*These moderated sessions will involve a series panel discussions, followed by Q&A which will be managed through the chat box of the video conferencing software. We hope as many Fórsa branches and activists as possible can join us for these sessions, as we explore 6 key topics relevant to our union as we hopefully begin to emerge from the pandemic.*

Yours,

*Joe O'Connor, Director of Campaigning and  
Kevin Donoghue, Lead Organiser*

# Table of events

**Friday 26th June 2020 from 1.00pm**

## NEW SOCIAL & ECONOMIC MODEL

*The pandemic has challenged many common perceptions and preconceptions about our economic and social model. As we eventually emerge from COVID-19, we have an opportunity to articulate a new model.*

**SPEAKERS:** Aidan Regan (Associate Professor, University College Dublin)  
Kevin Callinan (General Secretary, Fórsa)  
Stephen Kinsella (Associate Professor, University of Limerick)  
Alice Martin (Labour Specialist, PIRC)

**Friday 3rd July 2020 from 1.00pm**

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

*The constitution includes a right to join a union, but the law in Ireland means that your employer does not need to recognise that union for collective bargaining. Considering that research shows the vital role played by unions in developing better societies, should employees have the right to choose who can represent them in the workplace?*

**SPEAKERS:** Michael Taft (Researcher, SIPTU)  
Kevin Duffy (Former chair of Labour Court)  
Edel McGinley (Director, Migrants Rights Centre Ireland)

**Friday 10th July 2020 from 1.00pm**

## CAMPAIGNING

*This session explores some of the practical elements of campaigning and how to be effective with limited resources. Similarly, it will discuss how to make campaigning inclusive so that all activists feel empowered to contribute to and participate in.*

- i) Practical tips and tricks
- ii) Ensuring your campaign is open, inclusive, and participative

**SPEAKERS:** Dr Gráinne Healy (Consultant)  
Kevin Donoghue (Lead Organiser, Fórsa)  
Salome Mbugua (Head of Operations and Strategy, AkiDWA)





# Table of events

**Thursday 16th July 2020** from 1.00pm

## UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

*The current COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the necessity of quality public healthcare which is accessible to all citizens, and has seen a temporary end to the two-tier healthcare system. How can we work towards fully universal healthcare and a community health led model post COVID 19?*

**SPEAKERS:** Éamonn Donnelly (Head of Health & Welfare Division, Fórsa)  
Dr. Mark Murphy (Lecturer, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland)  
Dr. Sara Burke (Research Assistant Professor, Trinity College Dublin)

**Friday 24th July 2020** from 1.00pm

## CLIMATE & AUTOMATION – TRANSITIONS OR THREATS?

*We are faced with two major economic and social transitions which are likely to accelerate in the coming decade – the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the transition brought about by the ‘fourth industrial revolution’ of digital technology. Taking action on climate, and increased digitalisation and automation, pose many challenges for workers, but they also offer opportunities. They will likely bring about the need for greater retraining and upskilling of workers, due to the disruption and displacement they will cause to the jobs we are familiar with today. How can we manage these twin transitions in a way that benefits workers?*

**SPEAKERS:** Sinead Mercier (Consultant on climate change law)  
John Barry (Professor of Green Political Economy & Co-Director of the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action, Queens University Belfast)  
Dr. Mary Murphy (Associate Professor, Maynooth University)  
Bernard Harbor (Head of Communications, Fórsa)

**Friday 31st July 2020** from 1.00pm

## FUTURE OF WORK

*COVID-19 has brought with it an extensive social experiment on working from home. The debate this has brought about is also relevant to other campaigns the union is actively engaged in, such as the four day week, flexible working, and the right to disconnect. It has also provoked discussion on what value we place on essential professions and sectors for the public good e.g. caring work, healthcare staff, municipal workers. What impact has the pandemic had on our perception of the future of work, and how can we ensure the new world of work is a better one for all workers?*

**SPEAKERS:** Antonia Bance (Head of Campaigns, Communications and Digital, Trades Union Congress (TUC))  
Orla O'Connor (Director, National Women's Council of Ireland)  
Joe O'Connor (Director of Campaigning, Fórsa)  
Andrew Barnes (Founder, Perpetual Guardian)

# About our speakers



**ANTONIA BANCE, Head of Campaigns, Communications and Digital, Trades Union Congress (TUC)**

Antonia has been head of campaigns, communications and digital at the TUC since 2015. She ran the successful campaign against new trade union restrictions in 2015-16, and has led TUC campaigning against Brexit and no deal, and

about the safety and economic issues arising from coronavirus. She also led the TUC's innovation programme to get under-30s into unions.

Antonia is an expert in campaigns strategy and issue communications. She was previously policy director for a domestic abuse charity and head of campaigns for Shelter. She is a trustee of the Nationwide Foundation, and is a former councillor and parliamentary candidate.



**ANDREW BARNES, Founder, Perpetual Guardian**

Innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Andrew has made a career of market-changing innovation and industry digitisation. Most recently, in New Zealand, Andrew triggered a revolution of the entire fiduciary and legal services industries, and the transformation he has led as the

founder of Perpetual Guardian has positive implications both locally and globally (as evidenced by his announcement of the four-day week, which made headlines around the world).



**JOHN BARRY, Professor of Green political Economy & Co-Director of the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action, Queens University Belfast**

John's areas of research include post-growth and heterodox political economy; climate breakdown and just energy transitions; climate justice and energy democracy.

His latest book is *The Politics of Actually Existing Unsustainability: Human Flourishing in a Climate-Changed, Carbon-Constrained World* (2012, Oxford University Press). He is co-chair of the Belfast Climate Commission and was a Green Party councillor from 2011-2018.



**DR SARA BURKE, Research Assistant Professor, Trinity College Dublin**

Sara is a Research Assistant Professor in the Centre for Health Policy and Management, School of Medicine in Trinity College Dublin. Her research interests are health policy, health systems, inequities in health and access to healthcare as well as the politics of health reform. She is

currently PI on a HRB-funded project which is researching the potential of COVID-19 responses for the effective implementation of Sláintecare.

She previously co-ordinated the research project 'Mapping the pathways to universal healthcare'. For six months in 2016 and 2017, Sara and her team worked directly with the all-party parliamentary Committee (the Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare), whose remit was to develop 'Sláintecare', a ten year plan for healthcare reform which includes a commitment to deliver a universal health system for Ireland.

Prior to that, Sara worked as part of Irish, European and WHO research team on what happened the Irish health system during the economic and financial crisis. Her PhD was an in-depth analysis of the politics of health policy making in Ireland in the early 2000s.

Sara has worked for over 20 years as a health policy and systems researcher. She is the module lead on Health Policy for the SPHeRE PhD programme and Trinity's MSc in Health Services Management. Her book entitled '*Irish Apartheid, Healthcare Inequality in Ireland*' was published in 2009.



**KEVIN CALLINAN, General Secretary, Fórsa**

A vice-president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions since 2015, Kevin has recently been elected as chair of its influential Public Services Committee.

After several years as a branch activist and leader, Kevin worked as an official representing members in the health, local government, civil service, education and voluntary sectors. While National Secretary for Health, he led many successful negotiations and disputes in pursuit of pay improvements.

Since 2010, Kevin has been leading a change programme aimed at developing union strategic organising, training and campaigning capacity. In addition, until earlier this year, he had responsibility for the union's growing education membership overseeing the creation of an education division in 2012.

Kevin is a trade union nominee to the National Competitiveness Council. He has served as the Irish Executive Committee member of the European Federation of Public Service Unions and is the current Irish member of the executive board of the global trade union federation Public Services International. He is also a member of the governing body of Justice for Colombia.



**ÉAMONN DONNELLY, Head of Health & Welfare Division, Fórsa**

Éamonn is the Head of Fórsa's Health and Welfare Division with overall responsibility for 30,000 health and childcare workers, largely comprising of Health and Social Care Professionals and Clerical and Administrative Grades. Born, raised and educated in Finglas in North Dublin, Éamonn

joined the public service in 1983 following the Leaving Certificate. He worked as a clerical worker in Dublin City Council for 16 years. Most of that time he was a voluntary trade union activist.

Éamonn took up full time employment with Fórsa (then IMPACT) in 1999. He worked as a regional union official in the mid West region before returning to Dublin to work in the health sector area for a number of years. He was appointed as National Secretary to the Civil Service Division in 2010 and returned to the health sector in 2015 as Head of Health and Welfare Division, his current role.

Éamonn is an experienced negotiator and a strong advocate of social justice not least in the pursuit of a fair, equal and accessible healthcare system in Ireland

worker protection in cases of insolvency (2016). He also chaired a commission established by the Minister for Education and Skills that conducted a major overhaul of the Irish apprenticeship system (2013).

Before being appointed to the Labour Court, Kevin was Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, with responsibility for industrial relations, trade union organisation and manpower policy.

He represented ICTU on a number of ETUC and EU Policy Committees. He was appointed Chairman of the Commission on Public Service Pay in November 2016.

In 2016, he was also appointed to chair a Commission of International Experts to advise the Irish Government on the future funding of water services

Kevin is Adjunct Professor of Law at National University Ireland, Maynooth and is an Honorary Fellow of the National College of Ireland. In 2019, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Law by UCD (LLD). He lectures in employment equality law at the Academy of European Law in Trier.

Kevin studied law at Kings Inns Dublin, from which he holds the degree of Barrister-at-Law and he has been called to the Irish Bar.



**KEVIN DONOGHUE, Lead organiser, Fórsa**

Kevin is a lead organiser with Fórsa trade union and has been working for the union since 2017. Kevin has been involved in a number of campaigns in the union including efforts to expand union density in the airline industry as well as housing and education campaigns. He is a former President of the Union of Students in Ireland and is Chair of

the Education Futures coalition, a campaign for full publicly funded higher education in Ireland.

Kevin is Councillor for Dublin City Council, having been elected in 2019. He serves on the housing SPC for the city and is actively involved in the campaign to municipalise waste services in Dublin.



**BERNARD HARBOR, Head of Communications, Fórsa**

Bernard is head of communications/national secretary with Fórsa, a position he previously held in IMPACT. Prior to that he worked as a researcher and advisor in the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) in London. Earlier, he researched innovation and industrial policy at the

Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University. He has worked as a special ministerial advisor, and was director of communications in the 2018 campaign to re-elect Michael D Higgins as president of Ireland.



**KEVIN DUFFY, Former chair of Labour Court**

Kevin was chairman of the Labour Court from December 2003 until his retirement in June 2016. Prior to his appointment as Chairman of the Court, he was Deputy Chairman from 1997. He was a member of the European Association of Labour Court Judges from 2003 until his retirement in

2016.

He co-authored reports for the Irish Government on mandatory wage settling mechanisms (2010) and on



**DR GRÁINNE HEALY, Consultant**

Gráinne was Chairwoman of Marriage Equality (2004-2018). She was Co-Director of the Yes Equality campaign which led and won the marriage equality referendum campaign in Ireland in May 2015. She is the co-author of *'Ireland Says Yes - How the referendum was won'* (Healy, Sheehan, Whelan 2016), editor of *'Crossing the*

*Threshold - The Story of the Marriage Equality Movement in Ireland'* (Merrion Press, 2017) and numerous other articles on LGBTI and gender equality. Gráinne has scooped many awards including the prestigious 'People of the Year Award' (2015).

Gráinne was awarded for her social justice and movement building by Dublin City University (President's Award for Engagement), by Irish Gay and Lesbian Awards in 2014 as 'Volunteer of the Year' and as a Tatler Woman of the Year in November 2015. She was also awarded a DCU Alumni Outstanding Contribution to Society Award (2016) and the National Women's Council of Ireland presented her with 'Outstanding Feminist Leadership Award' in June 2017 and UCD gave her a prestigious UCD Alumni Award in 2018.

**STEPHEN KINSELLA, Associate Professor, University of Limerick**

Stephen is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Limerick, Ireland, Senior Fellow at the Melbourne School of Government, University of Melbourne, Australia, and Research Associate at the Rhodes Centre for International Finance at Brown University.

His research uses national accounting data to make better models. He is also interested in the economics of small open economies like Ireland, and health systems research.

He is Chief Economics Writer for *The Currency.news*, and was for four years a columnist with the *Sunday Business Post*. He has written for the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, and the *Irish Independent*. He has twice won Economic Commentator of the Year for his columns.

**ALICE MARTIN, Labour Specialist, PIRC**

Alice is a labour specialist at PIRC, a London-based shareholder advisory firm. She was formerly Head of Work and Pay at the New Economics Foundation and has a book out with Polity and NEF later this year on trade unionism in the modern economy. Alice is also an advisor to Autonomy UK, an independent think tank focussed on the

future of work.

**SALOME MBUGUA, Head of Operations and Strategy, AkiDwA**

Salome is a researcher, gender equality activist and human right advocate. She is the founder and former CEO of AkiDwA - The Migrant Women's Network and has over 20 years' experience of working with under-represented groups in particular women, children, and the youth, in Europe, Africa

and internationally.

Since 2015, she has been supporting the development of Wezesha, an African Diaspora led-development organisation supporting women and children who are affected, or are likely to be affected by conflicts, violence, war and poverty, with piloting projects in Kenya and the DRC. Through this organisation, Salome has been working with members of the African Diaspora in Ireland and has conducted research with women from armed conflict countries living in Ireland and the African Diaspora in Ireland to inform policy and the work of the organisation in general.

**EDEL MCGINLEY, Director, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland**

Edel has worked with the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland since 2006. In her time there, she has coordinated the Justice for the Undocumented Campaign and held responsibility for MRCI's communications. She is the current chair of PICUM (the Platform for the International Cooperation

on Undocumented Migrants) and a board member of Uplift, a multi-issue campaigning organisation.

Edel previously coordinated two Equality for Women initiatives, including developing the Domestic Workers Action Group, and work with migrant women in rural Ireland. Before joining MRCI, Edel worked in various social care and youth work positions. She has a BA in Applied Social Studies, an MA in Globalisation, and Diplomas in Youth and Community Work and Digital Media Technology..

**SINÉAD MERCIER, Consultant on climate change law**

Sinéad is a consultant on climate change law and policy with a special focus on just transition and human rights approaches. She is currently working with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and has previously worked for the National Economic and Social Council, the Green

Party of Ireland and Philip Lee law firm. Her new book is *'Men Who Eat Ringforts'* written with Michael Holly and Eddie Lenihan and published with Askeaton Public Arts.

**DR MARK MURPHY PhD, Lecturer, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**

Mark works as a GP in Dublin City. He is a Lecturer in General Practice in the Royal College of Surgeons and is a strong advocate for #Sláintecare.



**DR MARY P. MURPHY, Associate Professor, Maynooth University**

Mary is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology in Maynooth University. Her research interests include public policy, labour market and social security, power and civil society, and gender.

A contributor to national debate, Mary was a member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission 2013-2017 and is currently a member of the Council of State. Recent co-edited books include *The Irish Welfare state in the 21st Century: Challenges and Changes* Basingstoke: Palgrave (2016) and *Policy Analysis in Ireland* (Policy Press, 2021).



**JOE O'CONNOR, Director of Campaigning, Fórsa**

Joe is an activist and campaigner. He is an advocate for progressive change and social justice in Ireland. Joe has extensive leadership experience across a range of professional and voluntary roles.

He is currently the Director of Campaigning with Ireland's largest public service trade union, Fórsa. He is the chairperson of the new 'Four Day Week Ireland' campaign steering group, and has recently led the design and development of the 'Support our Secretaries' and 'More Power to You' campaigns.

Joe is a former President of the Union of Students in Ireland (2013-14), has considerable governance experience including at the Higher Education Authority and SpunOut.ie, and has been involved at a senior level in several recent electoral campaigns. He also recently co-founded the virtual marketplace, The Doorstep Market.

He holds an MBS in Strategy and Innovation Management and a BBS (Honours) in Accounting from GMIT, as well as an Advanced Diploma in Employment Law from the King's Inns.



**ORLA O'CONNOR, Director, National Women's Council of Ireland**

Orla is Director of National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC), the leading national women's membership organisation in Ireland, with over 190-member groups.

She was Co-Director of Together For Yes, the national Civil Society Campaign to remove the 8th Amendment in the referendum. For her role in Together for Yes, Orla was recognised as one of the 100 Most Influential People by TIME magazine in 2019.

Orla holds an MA in European Social Policy, and after starting out in local community-based projects, has worked in senior management in non-governmental organisations for over 25 years. Orla represents NWC in a wide range of national and international fora. Orla is a feminist, and an expert in the policies needed to progress women's equality in Ireland. She is an accomplished public speaker, with a strong analysis of public policy.

Orla has led numerous high level, successful campaigns on a wide range of issues on women's rights, including social welfare reform, pension reform and for the introduction of quality and affordable childcare.

Orla is passionate about ensuring access to women's reproductive rights; about ensuring more women are in leadership positions; about ending violence against women; and increasing women's economic equality.



**AIDAN REGAN, Associate Professor, University College Dublin**

Aidan is an Associate Professor at University College Dublin (UCD), and Director of the Dublin European Institute (DEI), a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Political Economy, and Director of Graduate Studies at UCD's School of Politics and International Relations.

Prior to UCD, Aidan was a postdoctoral fellow at the European University Institute (Italy) and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (Germany). Aidan's research is focused on comparative public policy, international political economy, and the relationship between business and politics.

His research has been published in *Perspectives on Politics*, the *Review of International Political Economy*, *Politics & Society*, *West European Politics*, *New Political Economy*, *Journal for Common Market Studies*, *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Comparative European Politics* and *Socio-Economic Review*, among other outlets. Aidan is also a weekly columnist with the *Business Post*.



**MICHAEL TAFT, Researcher, SIPTU**

Michael is a researcher for SIPTU and author of the political economy blog, 'Notes on the Front'.

His research interests include fiscal policy, employee compensation and enterprise policy. Michael has presented at a range of conferences in Ireland and abroad.





TWITTER: #FórsaSummerSeries

Joe O'Connor,  
Director of Campaigning,  
Fórsa Trade Union.  
e [joconnor@forsa.ie](mailto:joconnor@forsa.ie)  
t [@Jocser99](https://twitter.com/Jocser99)

Kevin Donoghue,  
Lead Organiser,  
Fórsa Trade Union.  
e [kdonoghue@forsa.ie](mailto:kdonoghue@forsa.ie)  
t [@KevinDonoghue](https://twitter.com/KevinDonoghue)



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