



# FORSA

# The future of working time

Thursday 22nd November 2018

Fórsa trade union,  
Nerney's Court,  
Dublin.

[forsa\\_union\\_ie](https://www.forsaunion.ie)

[forsaunionie](https://www.forsaunionie.com)

[Fórsa Trade Union](#)

[Fórsa trade union](#)

[forsa\\_union](#)

[forsa.ie](https://www.forsa.ie)



# TIMETABLE

8.30am REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST BUFFET

9.30am WELCOME  
Joe O'Connor, Fórsa Lead Organiser

9.40am OPENING ADDRESS  
Kevin Callinan, Fórsa Deputy General Secretary

## PANEL DISCUSSION: THE BENEFITS OF REDUCED WORKING TIME

10.00am THE FUTURE OF WORK AND WORKING TIME  
Will Stronge, co-director, Autonomy

10.20am PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKING TIME  
Professor John Ashton, former chairman of the UK Public Health Association and an independent Public Health Consultant

10.40am WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND WORKING TIME  
Jennifer McCarthy-Flynn, Head of Policy, National Women's Council of Ireland

11.00am SHARING WORK, SPARING THE PLANET - THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING TIME  
Anne Ryan, Maynooth University/Feasta

11.20am BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY AND WORKING TIME  
Mark Hooper, Founder, Indycube Ltd.

11.40am Q & A

12.00pm BREAK FOR TEA, COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

12.20pm WORKING TIMES WHICH FIT FOR LIFE  
Conny Schoenhardt, Trade Union Officer, IG Metall Collective Bargaining Department

12.40pm THE 4-DAY WEEK CAMPAIGN IN THE UK  
Aidan Harper, 4-Day Week Campaign Director and Researcher, New Economics Foundation

1.00pm WORKING TIME IN IRELAND: MOVING FROM PRESENT REALITY TO FUTURE DEMANDS  
Dr. Aileen O'Carroll, Researcher, Maynooth University Social Science Institute

1.20pm KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Kate Bell, Head of Economic and Social Affairs, TUC

1.45pm PANEL DISCUSSION/Q&A: HOW TRADE UNIONS CAN WIN REDUCTIONS IN WORKING TIME  
Kevin Callinan, Conny Schoenhardt, Aidan Harper, Dr. Aileen O'Carroll, Kate Bell

2.10pm CLOSING WORDS  
Joe O'Connor, Fórsa Lead Organiser

2.15pm LIGHT LUNCH

3.00pm CLOSE

# About our speakers



**JOE O'CONNOR**  
**Lead Organiser for Campaigning & Profile Building, Fórsa**

Joe is 29 years old from County Roscommon, and currently works as a Lead Organiser with Fórsa trade union, with responsibility for Campaigning and Profile Building. In this role Joe plans and co-ordinates the union's national campaigns, advocates on union issues and for union members in the public and political spheres, and runs initiatives to build the profile of the union both internally within our membership. Prior to that, he worked as an organiser assigned to national projects in Fórsa, and also with the union's Boards and Voluntary Agencies Branch, which has over 1,000 members based mostly in the community and voluntary sector in Dublin. Joe previously served a term as President of the Union of Students in Ireland, the national representative organisation for 354,000 students across the island of Ireland. This followed two terms as President of GMIT Students' Union. Joe is the current Chairperson of the Social Democrats, and was a central member of their General Election 2016 campaign team, where his role included event co-ordination, candidate support, volunteer management, supporter engagement and youth development. He has also served as a Board Director with the Higher Education Authority and SpunOut.ie, the youth information website, as well as a member of the Expert Group on the Future Funding of Higher Education. Joe holds an Advanced Diploma in Employment Law from the King's Inns, and studied an MBS in Strategy and Innovation Management and a BBS in Accounting during his time in GMIT.



**KEVIN CALLINAN**  
**Deputy General Secretary, Fórsa**

Kevin is the Deputy General Secretary of the new union Fórsa and, under the merger terms, he is to succeed to the role of Senior General Secretary when that position becomes vacant.

A Vice-President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions since 2015, he has recently assumed the role of Secretary to its 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. As 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 within the union aimed at developing its strategic organising, training and campaigning capacity. In addition, he has had responsibility for the union's growing education membership overseeing the creation of the education division in 2012.

Kevin is a trade union nominee to the National Competitiveness Council. He serves as the Irish Executive Committee member of the European Federation of Public Service Unions and he is a member of the governing body of Justice for Colombia.



**WILL STRONGE**  
**Co-director, Autonomy**

Will is co-director of Autonomy, a leading, independent UK think-tank focusing on issues relating to the future of work.

He is also a researcher in Politics and Philosophy at the University of Brighton.

Along with Helen Hester, he is the co-author of the forthcoming primer - *'Post-Work: what it is, why it matters and how we get there'* (Bloomsbury, 2019).



**PROFESSOR JOHN ASHTON**  
**Former chairman of the UK Public Health Association and an independent Public Health Consultant**

John is well known in the north west of the UK for his advocacy on public health issues during his 13 years as the Region's

Director of Public Health and Regional Medical Officer, as well as his support for the Hillsborough families in their fight for truth and justice after the 1989 Sheffield Stadium Disaster.

After a clinical background in psychiatry, general practice and sexual health, John trained in public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the mid-1970s before returning to his home town of Liverpool after the Toxteth riots. His work on teenage pregnancy, syringe exchange and developing 'The New Public Health' especially through place-based work, including healthy cities, prisons, stadia and nightclubs, has had global influence.

Awarded the C.B.E. for services to the NHS in the Millennium Honours list, John left the regional role in 2006. He subsequently spent six years as County Medical Officer and Director of Public Health in Cumbria, before being elected President of the UK Faculty of Public Health in 2013. He is currently putting the final touches to a textbook of Public Health Practise, and working with the World Health Organisation as Senior Consultant Adviser to the European Healthy Cities Network.

John is currently the Interim Director of Public Health for Westminster and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.



**JENNIFER McCARTHY-FLYNN**  
**Head of Policy, National Women's Council of Ireland**

Jennifer is Head of Policy with the National Women's Council of Ireland, leading the development of NWCI policy and advocacy work. Jennifer has a background in women's transformative community education and development, including international development and has been a senior manager in the NGO sector for over 25 years.



**ANNE RYAN**  
**Maynooth University/Feasta**

Anne is active in Feasta, The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, and in Basic Income Ireland. Through her writing and other activities, she promotes a philosophy and practice of sufficiency in economy and society.

She has recently taken early retirement from a post as lecturer in Adult and Community Education at Maynooth University.



**MARK HOOPER**  
**Founder, Indycube Ltd.**

Mark founded the cooperative, Indycube, eight years ago. It helps independent workers by making it easier for them to work locally, and providing access to support packages. Working with Community Union, the small team at Indycube is working towards coverage across the U.K., and 100,000 members.

With a background in accountancy and retail, Mark has held senior positions in large organisations before putting his effort into community projects, including a community radio station, Cardiff City Supporters' Trust, and the development of a local currency for Cardiff. An FRSA, he is also a trustee of the Bevan Foundation and a Town Councillor.

Mark is keen to develop locally focused solutions to deeply entrenched problems, his focus covers the Foundational Economy, identity economics, and how we grow social capital.



**CONNYSCHOENHARDT**  
**Trade Union Officer, IG Metall Collective Bargaining Department**

Conny works as a political adviser at IG Metall Headquarters in the Collective Bargaining Department. She deals in a conceptual way with different topics like qualifications and further education, as well as with the topics of the IG Metall working time campaign.

Conny studied Economics and International and European Politics. Before that, she worked at Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles.



**AIDAN HARPER**  
**4-Day Week Campaign Director and Researcher, New Economics Foundation**

Aidan is a founder of the 4 Day Week Campaign which aims to re-establish working time as a site of political contestation in the UK and beyond. He believes that reducing the working week is a powerful and pragmatic response to a series of deeply embedded and interconnected problems within the economy. These problems include the impact of automation, unsustainably high carbon emissions, gender inequality, stagnating productivity, continued job polarisation and vast income inequality.

As part of the campaign, Aidan has acted as a spokesperson on television and radio, presented at conferences, and written for a variety of news media, as well as co-authoring a report making the case for working time reduction. He also works as a researcher with the New Economics Foundation.



**DR AILEEN O'CARROLL**  
**Researcher, Maynooth University Social Science Institute**

Aileen is a researcher at Maynooth University Social Science Institute (MUSSI). Her research interests include working time and how social and technological change impact on people's work and family lives over the life course.

She is the author of *Working Time, Knowledge Work & Post-Industrial Society, Unpredictable Work* (2015, Palgrave Macmillan) and co-authored with Dr Don Bennett, *The Dublin Docker, Working Lives of Dublin's Deep-sea Port* (2017, Irish Academic Press).

She is the chair of the Maynooth University branch of IFUT, and also the Policy Manager at the Digital Repository of Ireland.



**KATE BELL**  
**Head of Economic and Social Affairs, TUC**

Kate is the Head of the Rights, International, Social and Economics Department. The department leads the TUC's work on boosting employment rights, promoting social and economic policies that benefit working people, and building international solidarity.

Before joining the TUC, Kate worked as Head of Policy and Public Affairs for a local authority, for the Labour Party, and for the charities Child Poverty Action Group and Gingerbread. Kate is also a member of the Low Pay Commission, representing workers.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**Joe O'Connor, Lead Organiser, Fórsa Trade Union.**  
**t 087 067 4111 e joconnor@forsa.ie**