



Women's Studies in University College Cork (UCC)
in conjunction with the
Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) Gender Politics Specialist Group
present a one-day conference

***Moving in from the Margins:
Women's political representation in Ireland***

**Saturday, 18th September 2010
Cavanagh Pharmacy Building LG_51
University College Cork**

Recent Oireachtas reports have recommended the introduction of a variety of measures to increase the number of women in Irish politics. Proposals include legislative quotas and state funding for women election candidates.

On Saturday 18th September, Women's Studies (UCC), in conjunction with the PSAI Gender Politics specialist group, will host a one-day conference to discuss issues arising from the under-representation of women in Ireland. The conference will involve politicians, academics and representatives of women's and community organisations. Issues discussed will include the impact of under-representation on policy-making; the structural reasons why few women reach decision-making positions; and possible strategies for increasing the numbers of women candidates. A number of women politicians will share their views on these issues and delegates will have an opportunity to participate in a plenary/round table session.

Conference Schedule:

9.30am – 10am: *Registration*

10am – 11.30am: *Strategies for increasing women's representation*: Senator Ivana Bacik; Prof. Yvonne Galligan (QUB); Susan McKay, Chief Executive of the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi)

11.30am – 11.45am: *Break*

11.45am – 1.15pm: *Impact of (under) representation of women on policy-making*: Dr. Eileen Connolly (DCU); Joanne Vance (NWCi Health Analyst); Cathleen O'Neil (Kilbarrack Community Development Project); Dr. Margaret O'Keeffe (CIT)

1.15pm – 2.15pm: *Lunch*

2.15pm – 3.15pm: *Women Politicians' Experiences of Political Life in Ireland*: Kathleen Lynch, TD; [Please note that the list of women politicians is still being confirmed; Each political party will be represented].

3.15pm – 3.30pm: *Break*

3.30pm – 4.30pm: *Roundtable Discussion*

Conference rate (to cover teas, coffees and buffet lunch): €15

(Unwaged and seniors: €5; Students: free of charge).

Background Information:

- Women make up more than 50% of the population but there are only twenty-three women TDs occupying 13.85 per cent of Dail seats.
- The position in the Senate is only marginally better with twelve women Senators occupying 20 per cent of seats.
- Ireland currently lies in 82nd position in a world classification table of women's representation in parliament compiled by the inter-parliamentary union.
- Only eighty-two women out of a total of 470 candidates contested the General Election in 2007, the lowest figure since 1989.
- Many reasons have been put forward for the low levels of women's representation in Irish politics. The five 'Cs' of childcare, cash, confidence, culture and candidate selection have been identified as key explanations for the exclusion of women from Irish politics.

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