

# First Child Summit:

A Symposium on the Recommendations by the UN  
Committee on the Rights of the Child for Ireland



Thursday, 8 September 2016

Cusack Suite, Croke Park, Dublin

## Conference Schedule

8.45 – 9.30	<b>Registration</b>
9:30 - 9:40	<i>Welcome Address: Tom Costello, Chair, Children's Rights Alliance</i>
9:40 - 11:15	<b>Opening Session</b>  Chair: Prof. Geoffrey Shannon, Special Rapporteur on Child Protection and Founding Patron of the Children's Rights Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Address: Dr. Fergal Lynch, Secretary General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs</li><li>• Keynote Address 1: Prof. Kirsten Sandberg, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Country Rapporteur on Ireland</li><li>• Keynote Address 2: Gehad Madi, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Country Rapporteur on Ireland</li></ul>
	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
11.15 – 11.35	<b>Break for Refreshments</b>
11.35 – 1.05	<b>Panel Sessions A and B</b>  Chair: Prof. Ursula Kilkelly, Dean of the School of Law, University College Cork  <b>Response from Stakeholders: Panel A</b>  Young people from the 'Picture Your Rights' project team, creators of the Children and Young People's Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child  <b>Response from Stakeholders: Panel B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elizabeth Canavan, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs</li><li>• Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children</li><li>• Tanya Ward, Chief Executive, Children's Rights Alliance</li></ul>
	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
1.05 – 2.15	<b>Lunch</b>

## Conference Schedule

2.15 – 3.45

### *Parallel Sessions:*

Run in parallel, these six sessions represent the key areas in which the UN Committee made its recommendations. **The grouping of issues in each session reflects the responsibilities of relevant departments.**

- ***Session 1: Family and Alternative Care including Children in Detention***

Independent Facilitator: Susan Coughlin

Setting the context: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) and the Irish Youth Justice Service

- ***Session 2: Education, Leisure and Culture***

Independent Facilitator: Aiden Lloyd

Setting the Context: Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

- ***Session 3: Children with Disabilities in Early Years Settings, Health Services for Children with Disabilities and LGBT Children and Young People***

Independent Facilitator: Monica Manning

Setting the Context: Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Health

- ***Session 4: Health***

Independent Facilitator: Patricia Prendiville

Setting the Context: Department of Health

- ***Session 5: Immigration and Direct Provision, Traveller and Roma Children and the Rights of Children with Disabilities under the remit of the Department of Justice and Equality***

Independent Facilitator: Gráinne Healy

Setting the Context: Department of Justice and Equality

- ***Session 6: Poverty and Homelessness***

Independent Facilitator: John Warren

Setting the Context: Department of Social Protection and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

3.50 – 4.10

### *Ministerial Address*

- Chair: Owen Keenan, Chair of the National Advisory Council for Children and Young People under Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020
- Dr. Katherine Zappone TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

4.10 – 4.15

***Close by Dr. Fergal Lynch, Secretary General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs***

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## Speakers



Elizabeth Canavan

**Elizabeth Canavan** is an Assistant Secretary at the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. She has responsibility for policy and legislative developments relating to child welfare and protection; alternative care; family support and related issues of children's rights; children's health and well-being; implementation of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, the National Policy*

*Framework for Children and Young People (2014-2020)*, and cross-sectoral working in the area of children's services. Previously, Elizabeth was Chief Executive Officer at the Adoption Authority of Ireland, and Deputy Director at the National Children's Office.



Dr. Fergal Lynch

**Dr. Fergal Lynch** was appointed as Secretary General of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) in January 2015. A career civil servant, he was previously Deputy Secretary General of the Department of Health. He has a particular interest in social policy, and has worked with colleagues in the DCYA on a range of issues affecting children, young people and families. He

chaired the Inter-Departmental Group on Future Investment in Child Care, and the Policy Consortium that oversees implementation of *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, policy, evaluation of policy and service delivery and project management. Dr. Lynch holds a BA in Public Management, an M.Sc (Econ) and a Doctorate in Governance.



Tom Costello

**Tom Costello** has been Chair of the Children's Rights Alliance since 2014. Tom left The Atlantic Philanthropies at the end of 2014 as part of the wind down of the organisation internationally, in line with Founder Chuck Feeney's Giving While Living philosophy. Over a period of 14 years, Tom was instrumental in leading investments by Atlantic spanning programmes for Children,

Older People, Education and Community Development. He is a member of the Board of the Charities Regulatory Authority. His earlier career included stints in teaching and consulting with the Irish Management Institute, as Director of Programme Development with FAS and the Youth Employment Agency in the 1990s. Tom's formative early career was in the voluntary sector as Director of the National Youth Council of Ireland and President of the Union of Students in Ireland.



Gehad Madi

**Gehad Madi** is a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2011. He is a former Ambassador for Egypt, having served as Ambassador to the Republic of India from 1998 to 2002, and as Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 2004 to 2008. He held several diplomatic posts abroad, notably in the central office in Cairo including the

post of Assistant Foreign Minister, and retired from the Foreign Service in 2011. In addition to sitting on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, he is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Sir Magdy Yacoub Aswan Heart Foundation, where heart operations and related procedures are conducted to children free of charge.



Prof. Ursula Kilkelly

**Prof. Ursula Kilkelly** is a professor of law and currently Dean of the School of Law at University College Cork. She is also Head of the College of Business and Law. She is an international children's rights scholar. She has published widely on children's rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and youth justice. At UCC, she directs the innovative Child Law

Clinic, a research initiative which provides student-led research services to lawyers litigating children's issues. She teaches Child Law in Practice, Children's Rights and Juvenile Justice and has five PhD students in these areas. She leads a research team who are currently working on child rights advocacy, children's participation and children's access to justice. In January 2016, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs appointed her to Chair the Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention School in Dublin.



Dr. Niall Muldoon

**Dr. Niall Muldoon** is Ireland's Ombudsman for Children. He was appointed by the Head of State, President Michael D. Higgins, following an open competition and interview process involving children and adults in 2015. He was formerly national clinical director of the CARI children's charity and has worked in the area of child protection for nearly 20 years. His appointment

as Ombudsman followed a role in the Ombudsman's Office as Director of Investigations.



Picture Your Rights

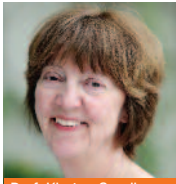
**Picture Your Rights** was a shared project facilitated by the Children's Rights Alliance and UNICEF Ireland, funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. A group of 31 children from all over Ireland, from a variety of backgrounds, took ownership of the project with an aim to represent the voices and concerns of

children and young people in Ireland to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The project took in feedback from over 2,750 individuals and groups aged 0-18. The young people developed the 'Picture Your Rights' Children and Young People's Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which was launched in June 2016. Six members of the project team travelled to the pre-sessional hearings in June 2015 to present the report to the committee on behalf of the children and young people of Ireland.

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Prof. Kirsten Sandberg

**Prof. Kirsten Sandberg** is member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the child since 2011, serving as the Committee's chairperson May 2013 - May 2015 and now as its general rapporteur. She is a professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. Ms Sandberg is co-editor of a book on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its implementation in Norway and has published and lectured extensively within child law and children's rights. She has served as acting Justice in the Supreme Court of Norway, acting judge in the Court of Appeal and assistant judge in the County Court and has worked in the Legal Department of the Norwegian Ministry of Justice.



Tanya Ward

**Tanya Ward** is the Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance since 2012. Previously, she was the Deputy Director at the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, where she worked for eight years. She has also worked with the Irish Centre for Migration Studies, the Irish Refugee Council, the Curriculum Development Unit and the City of Dublin VEC. Tanya was a lecturer in human rights on the MPhil in Ethnic and Racial Studies, TCD and the Masters in Equality Studies in the UCD School for Social Justice. She is a former board member with Campaign for Children and played a major role in the children's referendum of 2012. She is also a former Vice President for the International Federation of Human Rights (2008-2011). Tanya has graduate and post-graduate degrees from UCC, an LLM in Human Rights from Queens University Belfast and a Certificate in Managing Community and Voluntary Organisations from the National College of Ireland. Tanya is currently the Children's Rights Alliance's representative on the National Advisory Council for *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*.



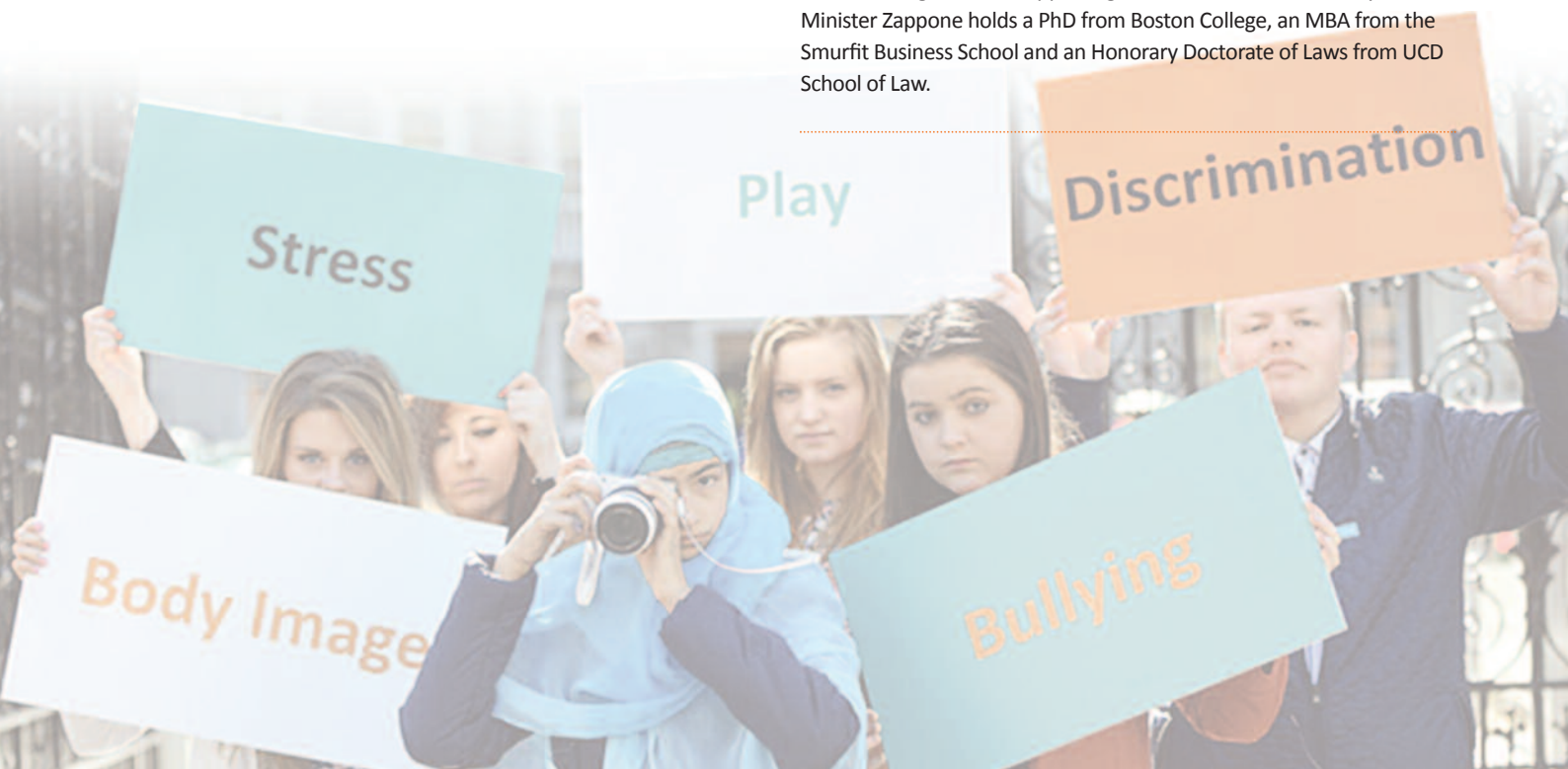
Prof. Geoffrey Shannon

**Prof. Geoffrey Shannon** is a solicitor and the Government Special Rapporteur for Child Protection. He is the Chairman of the Adoption Authority of Ireland and is the Irish Expert Member on the Commission on European Family Law. Professor Shannon is the recipient of several awards for his work in the area of children's rights and national and international family law. These include the 2005 JCI Outstanding Person of the Year Award, the 2006 Canon Maurice Handy Award and the 2013 Irish Law Award. Professor Shannon is a prolific author and has written leading texts on national and international child and family law. He is also the editor of the Irish Journal of Family Law.



Dr. Katherine Zappone

**Dr. Katherine Zappone** was elected as a TD to the 32nd Dáil Éireann for the Dublin South West Constituency and was appointed Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in May 2016. Prior to this, Minister Zappone was nominated to the 24th Seanad Éireann by Taoiseach Enda Kenny in 2011. Minister Zappone is a former Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission (2002-2012) and a former CEO of the National Women's Council of Ireland. She has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice. Along with her spouse, Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan, she is co-founder of An Cosán, an organisation that combats inter-generational poverty through education and training. Since its inception, An Cosán has grown into Ireland's largest community education organisation supporting over 1,000 families annually. Minister Zappone holds a PhD from Boston College, an MBA from the Smurfit Business School and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from UCD School of Law.



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An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of  
Children and Youth Affairs

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs was established on the 2 June 2011. The Department brings together a number of key areas of policy and provision for children, young people and families. It is tasked with driving forward a range of commitments outlined in the Programme for Government, as well as leading an ambitious reform agenda for children and family services. The Department focuses on harmonising policy issues that affect children in areas such as early childhood care and education, youth justice, child welfare and protection, children and young people's participation, research on children and young people, youth work and cross-cutting initiatives for children.

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs has overall responsibility for the roll-out of the *Better Outcomes, Better Futures* Framework.

For more information on the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, visit [www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie).



*Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2014-2020)* was developed following consultation with 66,705 children and young people, and a public consultation with parents and individuals who work with and for children and young people. It identifies the five national outcomes towards which all of government, and indeed all of society, must work to achieve for children and young people. These are that children and young people should be:

1. active and healthy with physical and mental well-being
2. achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. safe and protected from harm
4. enjoying economic security and opportunity
5. connected, respected and contributing to their world.



The Children's Rights Alliance unites over 100 members working together to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to be a child. We change the lives of all children in Ireland by making sure that their rights are respected and protected in our laws, policies and services. We identify problems for children. We develop solutions. We educate and provide information on children's rights.

For more information or to become a member or see [www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie)

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,  
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government



Katharine  
Howard  
Foundation



The  
ATLANTIC  
Philanthropies