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11th Biennial
International Conference

Promoting Equality
Through *Family Support*

13 - 14
June 2024

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre,
University of Galway





11th Biennial International Conference

Conference Theme

Social exclusion, discrimination, poverty, migration, displacement and the accompanying trauma strongly impact on parenting and family life.

In this conference, we consider the critical role family support can play in contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals by confronting the forces of inequality and exclusion. The conference will reflect on current debates, challenges and opportunities for promoting and supporting equality, inclusion and fairness for all families and children. Through plenary and workshop sessions focused on policy and practice, we will explore themes and issues related to promoting equality in the context of gender, sexuality, disability, poverty, migration and participation. This international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary conference will offer cutting-edge thinking, research evidence and innovative practices. It will be of interest to practitioners, service leaders, policymakers, researchers and academics.

Conference Programme

Day One: Thursday, 13th June 2024

09.00-09.45	Registration / Tea & Coffee
09.45-10.00	Opening Address Dr Helen Maher Vice President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Office, University of Galway
10.00-10.45	Family Support Policy and Practice: a Multi-dimensional Conceptual and Developmental Approach to Promoting Equality Professor Angela Abela, University of Malta, Dr Harriet Churchill, University of Sheffield & Dr Carmel Devaney, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, University of Galway
10.45-11.30	Family Support on the Edge of Care in an Era of Rising Care Rates Dr Robin Sen, University of Edinburgh
11.30-11.45	Tea & Coffee
11.45-12.30	Youth and Parent Panel: Sharing Experiences of Inclusion [and Exclusion]
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12.30-13.45	Lunch
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13.45-15.15	Parallel Sessions
15.15-15.30	Tea & Coffee
15.30-16.15	Family Support in Context of Disability: an Undue Burden? Professor Bronagh Byrne, Queen's University Belfast
16.15-17.00	A Leadership Paradox? Reflections on the First Year of the Child Poverty and Well-Being Programme Office Dr Anna Visser & Dr Anne-Marie McGauran, Child Poverty and Well Being Programme Office, Department of the Taoiseach
17.00-18.00	Evening Reception

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Day Two: Friday, 14th June 2024

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| 09.30-10.15 | Social Benefits of Mentoring Relationships with Migrant Children and their Families
Óscar Prieto-Flores, University of Girona |
| 10.15-11.00 | Diversity, Dialogues, and Social Justice: Amplifying the Voices of Young People
Professor Barry Checkoway, University of Michigan |
| 11.00-11.15 | Tea & Coffee |
| 11.15-12.15 | Parallel Sessions |
| 12.15-13.00 | Special Guest: Mary Coughlan |
| 13.00-13.10 | Closing Remarks |
| 13.10-14.00 | Lunch |

*Conference programme subject to change

Keynote Speakers

Professor Angela Abela **University of Malta**

Professor Angela Abela is a clinical psychologist, family therapist, and supervisor. She set up the Centre for Family Studies at the University of Malta which is now the Department of Child and Family Studies. She has led several national studies related to child and family policy including the Strategic Policy on Positive Parenting for Malta. On an international level, she has worked extensively as an expert for the Council of Europe in the area of children and families. In 2022, she received the European Family Therapy Association award in recognition of her excellence in the field of research in family therapy and systemic practice.

Professor Bronagh Byrne **Queen's University Belfast**

Bronagh Byrne (with Hearing Dog Robyn) is Professor of Disability and Children's Rights at Queen's University Belfast. She is Co-Director of the globally recognised Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's where she also coordinates the Masters degree programme in Children's Rights. Bronagh's research expertise is on the rights of children and young people with disabilities and the right to inclusive education in particular. She is a member of UNICEF Innocenti's Advisory Group on the Global Research Agenda for Children with Disabilities.

Professor Barry Checkoway **University of Michigan**

Barry Checkoway is Arthur Dunham Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Social Work and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. His scholarship includes youth empowerment, neighborhood development, and community change. His projects draw on work with grassroots groups, community agencies, and government programs worldwide. He presently directs Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity, and Youth Civil Rights Academy.

Dr Harriet Churchill **University of Sheffield**

Harriet is a family studies, social policy and children's services researcher. Collaborating with Action for Children, Harriet is leading a Nuffield Foundation funded study about online and digital resources and support for parents. Harriet is Associate Researcher at the ESRC Centre for Care, Co-PI for the EurofamNet EU COST Innovators Grant project and Associate Editor for Families, Relationships and Societies.

Dr Carmel Devaney **UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, University of Galway**

Carmel is a Lecturer, Associate Director of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre and Head of the Discipline of Applied Social Science at the University of Galway. Carmel's recent publications and conference presentations are in the area of Family Support, Parenting Support, Child Protection and Welfare and supporting practitioners who work in these areas.

Dr Helen Maher **Vice President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, University of Galway**

Helen Maher is currently Vice President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Galway. She leads an EDI strategy focused on four pillars: gender, race, sexual violence and harassment and universal design and accessibility. Helen's experience has primarily been in the field of equality and social justice, working in a wide variety of contexts in higher education, community organisations and consultancy work. Helen holds a PhD on the Gendered nature of the Transition to Democracy in South Africa, from Dublin City University.

**Promoting Equality
Through *Family Support*.**

Dr Anne-Marie McGauran

Child Poverty and Well Being Programme Office, Department of the Taoiseach

Anne-Marie works at the Child Poverty and Well-being Programme Office in the Department of the Taoiseach. Since completing her Ph D in Gender and Women's Studies, Anne-Marie has worked on a range of social policy issues in the National Economic and Social Council and Forum, and in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. She was also a board member of One Family, which supports lone parents, from 2010 to 2018.

Professor Òscar Prieto-Flores

University of Girona

Òscar Prieto-Flores is Associate Professor of Sociology at the School of Education and Psychology, University of Girona (Spain). He is the Vice-Chair of the IMISCOE BD (International Migration Research Network) and his last book is "Mentoring Children and Young People for Social Inclusion: Global approaches to Empowerment" published by Routledge (2021).

Dr Robin Sen

University of Edinburgh

Robin Sen practised as a child and family social worker in Scotland before moving into higher education. He currently teaches and researches on different aspects of social work services at the University of Edinburgh. He is the co-editor of the recent book *The Future of Children's Care, Critical Perspectives*, published by Policy Press.

Dr Anna Visser

Child Poverty and Well Being Programme Office, Department of the Taoiseach

Anna is policy and research professional, who has led teams and organizations in the public and non-profit sectors. In April 2023, she was appointed as head of the newly established Child Poverty and Well Being Programme Office in the Department of the Taoiseach. Anna was previously the Head of Research in the Department of Children, and she has a PhD in Equality Studies.



Guest Speaker

Mary Coughlan

Mary is Ireland's greatest jazz and blues singer and "one of our most openly raw performers" (Hotpress).

In a career fast approaching its 40th year, she is about to enter its next, exciting stage. Born in Shantalla, Galway City, Mary has made some of the most uncompromising, wholly personal, and universal music by any Irish artist. While her roots are in jazz and blues - Billie Holiday and Bessie Smith are among her inspirations - pop, rock, folk, and chanson (Edith Piaf is also a touchstone) influences also appear in her work. Now, the next chapter of her distinguished career finds her exploring a little known side of the music of Peggy Lee.

Parallel Sessions

Abstracts will be presented from the practice, policy, research and academic communities in relation to the conference themes, which are as follows.



Promoting Equality Through Family Support in:



Individual or group programmatic practice models



Workforce learning and development



Service planning and design



Policy development and implementation



Research and evaluation



11th Biennial International Conference

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (UNESCO CFRC)

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at the School of Political Science and Sociology is part of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) at University of Galway. Founded with support from The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Health Services Executive, the mission of the Centre, established in 2007, is to help create the conditions for excellent policies, services and practices that improve the lives of children, youth and families through research, education and service development. The UCFRC undertakes an extensive programme of activities nationally and at a global level with core expertise in the areas of Family Support and Youth Development. Research undertaken is strongly connected to applied work for children and families and is relevant to a diverse range of stakeholders including service users, policymakers, politicians, service managers and front-line staff.

For further information please visit our website
www.universityofgalway.ie/cfrc/

Fees & Registration

Early Bird Fee €150, closing **30th April**

Full Conference Fee €170

Student Fee €150

Registration is **online by credit or laser card only**

<https://universityofgalwayunesco.clr.events/event/135170#>

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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