

Sheehy Skeffington School 2017: Borders and Belonging, Migrants and Membership - Putting the Human back into Human Rights



Sheehy Skeffington School 2017

Borders and Belonging, Migrants and Membership: Putting the Human back into Human Rights

Saturday 7th October, Carmelite Community Centre, Aungier Street, Dublin

“Is the human rights era coming to an end – whither refugees and migrants?” Leading human rights Professor Conor Gearty of the London School of Economics poses that significant question in these troubled times for human rights in his opening address to the 2017 Sheehy Skeffington Human Rights School to be held in Dublin on October 7th.

The school was founded to provide an accessible forum for discussion on issues of human rights and social justice and the focus of this year’s school is on human rights and migrants.

Professor **Siobhan Mullally**, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway, will address the position of migrants “beyond the limits of law” while **Edel McGinley**, Migrant Rights Centre director, and **Bernadette McAliskey**, civil rights activist and cofounder of the South Tyrone Empowerment Programme will provide timely reminders that “universal human rights begin in small places close to home”.

Sorley McCaughey of Christian Aid will explore the connections between migration, violent conflict and climate change and migrant voices will include **Lucky Khambule** of the Movement for Asylum Seekers in Ireland who will examine how to move forward, including developing alternatives to the denigrated direct provision system.

The school is proud of its arts and historical content and is particularly delighted this year to feature exclusive extracts from the forthcoming documentary by **Micheline Sheehy Skeffington** in which she travels to the US to mark the centenary of her grandmother Hanna’s tour of major US cities in 1917 seeking international support for a public inquiry into the British Army’s murder in 1916 of her pacifist

husband Frank and also promoting the rights of women and workers. A key focus of Micheline's tour involves promoting gender equality issues.

Playwrights **Mirjana Rendulic and Donal O'Kelly** will address themes of migration and displacement in extracts from their respective plays. Mirjana will perform from her play *Broken Promise Land* and Donal will perform from his new play *67 Words*, marking the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, to be premiered next month.

This year's school occurs amidst the greatest displacement of peoples worldwide since the second world war, creating huge insecurity, uncertainty and division among the peoples and governments of Europe. Some favour a generous humanitarian response and firm adherence to Europe's human rights tradition but others advocate intensified border security and increasingly nationalist and xenophobic responses. There is a pressing need for cooperation and inclusive dialogue on how best to address the challenges and opportunities presented by migration and we hope you will join the discussion.

For further information on the Sheehy Skeffington School and this year's programme go to: www.sheehyskeffingtonschool.org

For booking please email with the subject line 'Booking for 2017 School' to:

sheehyskeffingtonschool@gmail.com

Places are limited so early booking is advisable. This event is free. Lunch is available for €5

The Sheehy Skeffington School has no core funding and is supported by contributions of time and by modest donations from individuals and institutions

<https://www.activelink.ie/content/community-exchange/events/32634>