

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

More than ninety years after women in Ireland won the vote; only 15 per cent of Dáil Deputies are women. The Oireachtas used its Committee structure to explore the reasons in 2009 and 2010 and published two reports which identified the barriers.

Former Green Party Minister for Equality Ms. Mary White opened constructive dialogue with the political parties during 2010. Current Labour Party Minister of State for Equality, Ms. Kathleen Lynch T.D. has built upon this work, including through organisation of this Conference.

The new legislative measures being proposed by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government will require the political parties to present more female candidates to the electorate or risk the loss of State funding.

This Conference is an opportunity for an open dialogue with international and national experts including academics, politicians, political activists, party administrators and party leaders about the steps that need to be taken to ensure that women are more equally represented in Irish political life in the future.

WHO MAY ATTEND?

The Conference is open to all but is likely to be of greatest interest to

- women who might already be actively involved in community, business, public or political life;*
- women who are curious about how political life works in Ireland;*
- anyone involved in political life in Ireland;*
- anyone interested in advancing the role of women in all aspects of Irish life.*

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is **essential** using information on the Department of Justice and Equality website www.justice.ie. Completed registration forms should be sent to politicsconference@justice.ie or by FAX to 01- 4790293.

All registrations will be confirmed by email and only those with a confirmation may attend on the day.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All queries about this event should be addressed to Gender Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality at 01 – 4790263 and 01 - 4790264.

HOW TO ELECT MORE WOMEN?

A Conference convened by

MINISTER OF STATE, KATHLEEN LYNCH, T.D.

Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People

And

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

(with support from European Social Fund)

Friday 20th January 2012

Conference Centre, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

10:00 (with tea and coffee from 09:00)

Pre-registration essential at politicsconference@justice.ie

By 16th January 2012

DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FACILITATOR: MS. OLIVIA O'LEARY

09:00 to 10:00 Conference registration, tea and coffee served

10:00 ***OPENING ADDRESS – MR. ALAN SHATTER, T.D.***
Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence

10:15 to 11:20 ***WHY DO WE NEED MORE WOMEN IN POLITICS AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?***

- Ms. Mary White, former Minister for Equality
- Ms. Claire McGing, NUI, Maynooth
- Senator Ivana Bacik
- Ms. Susan McKay, CEO of the NWCI
- Ms. Kathleen Lynch T.D., Minister of State for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People

Short address by each speaker followed by open discussion

11:20 to 11:40 Tea and coffee

11:40 to 12:45 ***MY STORY AND MY VIEWS: PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE POLITICIANS***

- Ms. Catherine Byrne, T.D., Fine Gael
- Ms. Sandra McLellan, T.D., Sinn Féin (to be confirmed)
- Ms. Catherine Murphy T.D., Independent
- Senator Averil Power, Fianna Fáil
- Councillor Jane Dillon Byrne, Labour

Short address by each speaker followed by open discussion

12:45 to 13:30 *Light lunch*

13:30 to 14:30 ***A VIEW FROM THE TOP :***

A discussion on the candidate selection process

Guest Speaker: Ms. Ajla Van Heel, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE, Warsaw

- Mr. Tom Curran, General Secretary, Fine Gael
- Ms. Ita McAuliffe, General Secretary, Labour Party
- Mr. Seán Dorgan, General Secretary, Fianna Fáil
- Ms. Ailbhe Smyth, 'People Before Profit Alliance'

Short address by each speaker followed by open discussion

14:30 to 14:50 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Ms Nan Sloane, Director, Centre for Women and Democracy, Leeds, England

Address and open discussion

15:00 to 16:00 ***LEADERS' ROUND TABLE***

- Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D., Taoiseach and Leader of Fine Gael (to be confirmed)
- Mr Eamon Gilmore, T.D., Tánaiste & Leader of Labour Party*
- Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Uachtarán Fianna Fáil
- Mr. Eamon Ryan, Green Party (to be confirmed)

Short addresses followed by facilitated discussion

16:00 ***FINAL WORDS - MS. KATHLEEN LYNCH, T.D.***
Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People

16:15 Conference close

* Barring unforeseen circumstances