

IGHN^x

GLOBAL HEALTH REIMAGINED

Inspiring Creativity, Enhancing Innovation, Promoting Activism

Co-Hosted with the HSE Global Health Programme

[Listen to the recordings on YouTube](#)



150 in-person attendees



15 speakers



7 performers

How our attendees described the event:

EYE-OPENING **REIMAGINED** **CHARACTER DEVELOPING** **MEANINGFUL** **COMPASSION** **ENERGY** **UNIQUE** **ENGAGING** **EMPATHY** **IGHN^x** **RECONNECTING** **POWERFUL** **WARM** **INFORMATIVE**

EMPOWERING **GEN-VOLE** **HOLISTIC** **PRETTY** **ACTION** **POETIC** **DIVERSITY** **ENERGETIK**

IGHNx 2025: Global Health Reimagined is the second instalment of our very own version of a TEDx event aiming to inspire creativity, enhance innovation, and promote activism. The event, co-hosted with the HSE Global Health Programme, took place at The Printworks, Dublin Castle on Thursday 13th February 2025.

IGHNx is not like any other conference, 15 speakers and 7 arts performers entertained a crowd of over 150 attendees. The talks were short, engaging, personal, and exposed a clear challenge and a call to action. The topic range was wide, from stigma, to climate change, ocean health, humanitarian crisis, disability, HIV, and the importance of multilingualism in global health. This event gave us an opportunity to come together as a community and discuss these topics to broaden our knowledge and understanding of them, and most importantly, to ensure that the communities we are fighting for, the farthest left behind, are brought to the forefront of these talks. All talks are available on the Irish Global Health Network [YouTube channel](#).

Listening to the speakers, I was reminded of the power of collaboration and the importance of keeping empathy at the heart of public health efforts. I walked away feeling more inspired than ever to advocate for meaningful change.



Caoimhe de Barra opened the day with a recap on the recent events regarding the USAID foreign funding freeze and its possible consequences, closing with a call to action in “fighting the bullies”.

All talks had a specific theme, however they all shared some common points and tackled multiple challenges in the global health field. Elizabeth Bannon revealed how skills save lives, by portraying crucial barriers women in South Sudan encounter while seeking proper sexual and reproductive healthcare. James Swarray presented his personal experiences in growing up in Sierra Leone, where cultural, social, religious and gender norms are often causing a disruption in accessing healthcare services. Aoibhinn Walsh talked about her job as a practitioner in the inner city of Dublin, where too many families are still on the margins of society struggling to properly provide for their members. On a larger scale, Robbie Lawlor connected his talk to Caoimhe de Barra’s speech, highlighting the need for a coordinated response to the USAID foreign aid freeze, where without intervention, millions will die.

Climate change and its impacts on health were a recurrent topic, often emphasised also by our brilliant moderator, Fionnuala Moran. Easkey Britton eased in the topic of ocean conservation and health enhancement with her stories of surfing and connection with nature and water under the title of “Blue Attunement”. Lelo Mary Thebe talked about her personal experience with ecological grief, the loss of lands and the way of life connected to them.



The atrocities happening in Palestine were on the spotlight during two very acclaimed talks. Talha Al Ali, who lived his teenage years in the West Bank, presented the amazing possibility of healing through humanity, by using trauma-informed care. Fiona Downey urged all doctors and healthcare providers to say something and act as human rights activists, when people, hospitals and children are being bombed.

Many underrepresented or often overlooked challenges in the field of global health were brilliantly presented by some exceptional speakers. Ralph Hurley O'Dwyer presented his views and experiences with multilingualism, a phenomenon more common than most would believe, and suggested that we all start learning a new language as a hobby. Isabelle Blum, the youngest speaker of the day, talked about her very personal experience in navigating the mental health system in Ireland as an autistic young woman. Deirdre Ni Cheallaigh spoke about the journey from experiencing stigma to self-worth with the help of love and trust. Olivia Teahan broke taboos by talking about sex and the importance of pleasure to holistically approach healthcare. To close the circle, Dorly O'Sullivan inspired everyone by talking about her life and the third age, which was filled with care and love for others, and how your passions don't have an expiry date.

The day was broken up by a spark of comedy, poetry, dance, and soul touching music and dancing performances by Farah Elle, Tolü Makay, Anna D, Sean Collins, Colm Keegan, Aidan Jolliffe Byrne, and Felix O'Connor.



The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with attendees praising its engaging and dynamic format. Many highlighted the mix of TED-style talks, creative performances, and interactive sessions, which kept the atmosphere lively and participants engaged. The diversity of topics, such as global health challenges, humanitarian advocacy, and the climate crisis, resonated deeply with attendees. The integration of art, music, poetry, and even comedy was particularly appreciated for making the event unique and enjoyable. The variety of speakers, including those from the Global South, was noted for offering valuable and inspiring insights. Participants also appreciated the opportunity for networking and connecting with others, with the event being described as a highly motivating and uplifting experience. Overall, the event was seen as a fantastic learning and networking experience, praised for its creativity, organisation, and impact.



An incredible day of learning and engagement, creativity and empathy building. In a fractured world, it has never been more important to show compassion, build community, and take action.



The mix of TED-style talks, artistic performances, and interactive sessions created a dynamic atmosphere that kept participants engaged and made the event truly memorable.

IGHNx

Thank you to all the volunteers, partners, and sponsors who made IGHNx 2025 possible. Your support and hard work were key to its success, and we're so grateful for your commitment.



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