

IGHN **x** EU

Empowering Women for a Healthier Europe

RDS Dublin
Nov. 14 -15, 2025

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IGHN **x** EU 2025

Shaping Ireland's EU Presidency Through Inclusive Health Leadership

The IGHN-EUx 2025 event, Empowering Women for a Healthier Europe, is a two-day initiative designed to elevate inclusive, rights-based, and intersectional approaches to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), with a particular emphasis on women's leadership, health equity, and the voices of underserved populations. Framed around Ireland's upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July–December 2026), the event seeks to influence the EU health agenda through inclusive dialogue and actionable policy recommendations.



DAY ONE

Open Event

+200 attendees,
livestreamed globally



TED-Style Talk Sessions

Day One will feature a dynamic programme of TED-style talks, interactive experiences, and artistic expressions that centre lived experiences and innovative health leadership. The curated talks will address four interconnected themes:



Women and Leadership in Health – highlighting both formal and informal leadership across systems, from policy tables to community grassroots.



Health for Underserved Populations – focusing on migrant and refugee health, ethnic minorities, and communities often excluded from equitable care.



Health as a Human Right – exploring trauma-informed, rights-based approaches that reflect personal experience and system-level accountability.



Youth Shaping the Future of Health – uplifting young voices as active policy co-creators, innovators, and health system contributors.

These talks will be delivered by policymakers, healthcare professionals, youth leaders, and women from marginalised communities—particularly migrants and refugees—spotlighting their contributions to health equity and systemic transformation.

Complementary sessions will include:

- A Global Health Fashion Show celebrating the cultural identity and contributions of women from Europe and the Global South through traditional and contemporary fashion.
- An Interactive Global Health Village with exhibitions, community-led innovations, and interactive stalls by women's health organisations, showcasing projects in migrant health, mental health, interdisciplinary collaboration, and culturally responsive care.

DAY TWO

Policy Roundtables

**Invitation Only,
50–60 attendees**

A targeted policy-focused gathering will bring together decision-makers, policymakers, women leaders, youth, and migrant representatives to engage in structured roundtable workshops aligned with the Day One themes. Each roundtable will co-develop actionable recommendations to shape Ireland's EU Presidency priorities:



Women and Leadership

Addressing underrepresentation in leadership and broadening the definition to include informal, grassroots, and community-based roles.



Health for Underserved Populations

Identifying system-level barriers and exploring inclusive design to ensure access for migrants, refugees, Roma, Travellers, and those in poverty or remote areas.



Health as a Human Right

Connecting lived experience with legal and moral obligations to realise equitable, trauma-informed, and rights-based healthcare systems.



Youth Shaping the Future of Health

Promoting youth leadership in global health and co-creation of policies, with an emphasis on intergenerational innovation and systems change

This hybrid event will reach over 200 in-person participants and a projected 500 online viewers, with recorded content accessible globally via the IGHN YouTube channel. The outcomes—including a comprehensive policy brief—will directly inform Ireland's EU Presidency health agenda, positioning gender equity, youth leadership, and the rights of marginalised groups as central to Europe's path toward Universal Health Coverage.

Roundtable workshops

for policy discussions on themed areas, as follows:



Women and Leadership

Women health workers, despite being the backbone of health systems, remain underrepresented in decision-making roles. This theme amplifies diverse forms of women's leadership—from grassroots advocacy to policy influence—and addresses the systemic barriers faced by marginalised women in contributing to decision-making in health. Leadership is interpreted broadly to include not only formal institutional roles but also grassroots, movement-building, and community-based leadership.



Health for Underserved Populations

This theme explores how health systems can better serve communities who are consistently excluded from mainstream care. Discussions will focus on practical barriers and inclusive service design for groups such as migrants, refugees, Roma, Travellers, and people living in poverty or remote areas. The session will spotlight community-led solutions and policy gaps that hinder equitable access.



Health as a Human Right

Health as a Human Right centres around the principle that equitable access to quality healthcare is not a privilege, but a fundamental human right. This roundtable addresses the political, legal, and moral obligations needed to uphold that right. The discussion centres on survivors, advocates, and frontline workers, connecting personal experience with systemic gaps to build trauma-informed, rights-based, and inclusive systems.



Youth Shaping the Future of Health

Youth are not just the future of health—they are essential leaders in the present. This roundtable centres youth as co-creators of health policy, systems, and innovation. With participation from young health advocates, student leaders, and youth organisations, this theme showcases how inclusive, youth-led solutions can strengthen systems at every level.

Policy Brief

A primary outcome of Day Two will be a comprehensive policy document focused on advancing women's leadership in health. This document will not only outline actionable strategies to increase women's representation and offer concrete recommendations for policy development on health and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), but also directly contribute to expanding awareness and knowledge of gender-transformative workforce policies among health professionals.

It will specifically address methods for dismantling gender bias and fostering gender-sensitive workplace practices within the health sector, while promoting a deeper understanding of critical issues like pay equity, equitable career progression for women, and the vital importance of women's leadership in health.

Organisers & Co-Hosts



Women in Global Health Ireland (WGH-Ireland)

WGH-Ireland's ongoing work has made a significant impact on advancing global health and gender equity, both within Ireland and internationally. Their partnership with IGHN reflects a shared commitment to addressing pressing global health issues with a gender lens.



European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)

Founded in 1996, the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) is a prominent non-governmental organization advocating for gender equity in public health, research, and social policies across Europe. The EIWH's deep expertise and extensive network in advancing women's health and gender-sensitive policies will be central to the event's success.

By drawing on these key EU policies and frameworks, the event will generate impactful discussions aimed at shaping actionable policy recommendations for improving global health, with a particular focus on the health and well-being of women and vulnerable populations. This event will serve as a catalyst for further collaboration and policy development across Europe, contributing to the advancement of gender equity in health.

VISIT

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