

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 an 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.



IGHN **x** EU 2025

IGHNx EU Themes

IGHNxEU 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.

IGHN **x** EU Speakers

FIONNUALA MORAN

The Moderator

Irish Broadcaster, Sustainability Influencer & DJ, RTE2fm

Fionnuala Moran is an Irish broadcaster, sustainability influencer, and DJ. A presenter on Virgin Media's The Six O'Clock Show and RTÉ 2FM, she shares fun, accessible ways to live more sustainably, with a focus on fashion and interiors.

Fionnuala has moderated several IGHN events, and we are delighted to welcome such a brilliant presence with us again.



AILBHE SMYTH

Keynote Speaker

Irish academic, feminist, and LGBTQ+ activist

Ailbhe Smyth is an Irish academic, feminist, and LGBTQ+ activist. She was the founding head of the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERRC) at University College Dublin, and led the Women's Studies programme there until 2006. After stepping back from academia, she focused on activism and social movement work, especially on women's rights, reproductive choice, and LGBTQ+ equality.



MARIA JOYCE

Roma and Traveller Communities Rights

Coordinator of the National Traveller Women's Forum

Maria Joyce is the Coordinator of the National Traveller Women's Forum where she is leading the organisations mission to empower Traveller Women to achieve full equality and have their identity celebrated. Using a human rights and community development based approach, she strives to empower Traveller Women in working towards full (gender) equality, supporting them to take leadership roles within their own and the wider community.



JENNIFER OKEKE

Anti-Trafficking and Migrant Rights

Anti-Trafficking Coordinator at the Immigrant Council of Ireland and Chair of the National Women's Council

Jennifer Okeke is the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator at the Immigrant Council of Ireland and Chair of the National Women's Council. Originally from Nigeria and now proudly Black Irish, she arrived in Ireland in 2004 and earned a PhD from DCU researching the experiences of African migrant women trafficked for sexual exploitation. A leading voice on migration, gender equality, and human rights, Jennifer works nationally and across Europe to combat human trafficking, support migrant women, and advocate for systemic change.



IGHN Speakers

FIONNUALA SWEENEY

Live Well Longer: Brain Health for Longevity

Journalist and Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute at Trinity College Dublin

Fionnuala is a journalist who worked with RTÉ, CNN, anchoring prime-time news and reporting across Europe and the Middle East. Inspired by her father's Alzheimer's diagnosis, she became an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at Trinity College Dublin. Her work now focuses on brain health, longevity, and the experiences of family carers. She has produced an audio documentary with The Memory Clinic at Tallaght University Hospital, presented the radio series Let's Talk Dementia, and hosted the Dementia is Global podcast.



MILENA JAKUBOWSKA

Everyday Leadership for Helathier Communities

Manufacturing Lead at Epigenica and Education Lead at the Bruised Food Club

Milena Jakubowska is a life-science operations professional living in Sweden. Originally from Poland, she is raising two children far from her extended family, an experience that has shaped her interest in how supportive networks help families and communities thrive. Drawing on her background in manufacturing leadership and her involvement with the Bruised Food Club, she brings both professional and personal perspectives on how everyday leadership can foster health and resilience.



HAFSA ALI MOHAMUD

The Double Burden: Immigrant Women's Health Inequities in Europe

Global Health MSc graduate with a background in Nutrition and Dietetics and an MPH in Reproductive and Child Health

Hafsa Ali is a Global Health MSc graduate from Brighton and Sussex Medical School. She has worked in Sudan and Somalia, where she set up the first university counselling programme for students, and her career spans emergency nutrition, maternal and child health, and policy advisory roles in fragile settings. Now in Europe, she draws on her lived experience as a Somali woman to champion health equity, decolonising global health, and approaches that centre dignity, justice, and the voices of marginalised women.



KATERIN JURADO DIAZ

Feminist Strategies: Women as Transformative Agents of Change in Colombia's Peacebuilding

Executive Director of Corporación Sisma Mujer



Katerin Jurado Díaz is a feminist lawyer and human rights defender with extensive experience addressing gender-based violence in Colombia. As Executive Director of Corporación Sisma Mujer, a leading feminist NGO, she has dedicated her career to strengthening the women's movement and advancing women's rights. Her expertise includes strategic litigation, victim support, and feminist research, with a focus on supporting women victims of violence in private, public, and conflict settings through a legal and human rights lens.

RÓISÍN TRACEY

Lived Experience as Evidence: Centering Disabled Women in Health and Justice

Disability rights, chronic illness, and mental health activist and advocate

Róisín is an activist and advocate for disability rights, chronic illness awareness, and mental health.

A Sociology and International Development graduate, she has volunteered extensively with homeless services, direct provision, animal welfare, and campaigns against gender-based violence.

After enduring brain surgeries and complex treatments for multiple chronic illnesses, she transformed personal struggle into political purpose, lobbying for a society that values lived experience and includes those most affected in decision-making.



MARK LEDWIDGE

Gender Diagnostic Gaps

Pharmacist and co-founder of the Heartbeat Trust

Mark Ledwidge is a pharmacist and co-founder of the Heartbeat Trust, which develops community-based programmes to prevent heart failure. He is a member of the Gorey Malawi Health Partnership, an Adjunct Professor in the School of Medicine in UCD and co-founder of the Navigator Project.



NIAMH MELLERICK

Creating Inclusive Spaces for Autistic Youth

Director of Operations at AslAm

Niamh Mellerick is Director of Operations at AslAm, Ireland's national Autism charity. Niamh's early career as a school based occupational therapist ignited her professional belief system that centres on healthcare professionals choosing either to advocate for social justice, or to comply with injustices through inaction. Through her subsequent Masters of Science and roles in healthcare education, Niamh further probed the neuronormative focus of society, evidenced to under recognise and undervalue genuine connection and belonging for Autistic children and young people.



CLARE MORRISON

Teaching fear, not facts: How disinformation is failing young people

Senior Adviser at Frontline AIDS

Clare Morrison is a Senior Adviser at Frontline AIDS. Clare leads advocacy on HIV prevention across multiple countries, ensuring that community voices shape the policies and funding that affect them. With nearly a decade of experience, she works with youth-led networks, governments, and donors to push for stronger action on HIV, especially expanding access to comprehensive sexuality education, which is essential for reducing new infections and empowering young people to make informed decisions about their health.



TOLÜ MAKAY

Singer and Songwriter

Tolü Makay is an independent alternative pop-soul singer-songwriter and theatrical performer from Ireland. Since her debut single 'Goodbye' in 2018 and EP 'Being' in 2020, Tolü's music has amassed over one million streams. Her rendition of The Saw Doctors' 'N17' with the RTÉ National Orchestra topped Irish charts and received praise from Graham Norton and Samantha Power. In 2021, Tolü embarked on her sold-out nationwide tour, The Tolü Makay Experience. She has performed at major festivals including Electric Picnic (2022), Kaleidoscope, All Together Now, and The Great Escape, where her set was praised as a festival highlight.



EIMEAR CREHAN

Irish Singer and Songwriter

Eimear is a singer-songwriter, pianist, vocal coach, choir director and creativity coach. She has toured nationally with her acclaimed show Grá Mór, including a sold-out performance at the National Concert Hall. As founder and director of SpeakUp SingOut Music School in Kildare, she leads 12 choirs and supports over 450 students, fostering creativity, confidence, and belonging. Beyond Ireland, Eimear partners with Beyond Stigma on Wakosha, a global creative resilience programme empowering young people living with HIV through music and storytelling.



FARAH ELLE

Singer and Songwriter

Farah Elle, a North African-Irish artist, developed a passion for music early on, inspired by her siblings and self-taught experiences. Her songs, blending poetry and piano, serve as a cathartic outlet for exploring personal and cultural identity. Born in Libya and raised in Ireland, Farah's heritage, marked by significant political and historical ties, deeply influences her music. Her debut album, *FATIMA*, reflects themes of displacement and adulthood, integrating traditional Arabic melodies with contemporary sounds. Farah has performed at notable Irish venues and festivals, including a special collaboration with Liam Ó Maonlaí for the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards.



AOIFE DUNNE

Comedian, Storyteller, and Content Creator

Aoife Dunne is an Irish comedian, storyteller, and content creator who blends humour and honesty to share her stories on grief and resilience. Her one-woman show *Good Grief* has sold out at theatres and festivals across Ireland and the UK, while her sharp, relatable reels have built a loyal online following of over 170k.



Policy Brief

A primary outcome of IGHNxEU 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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