

**Irish Association for Cultural, Economic & Social Relations**  
in co-operation with  
Queen's University, Belfast

**Healing the wounds after Brexit:  
Rebuilding relationships on the island of Ireland**

Wednesday 14 November 2018

Canada Room  
Queen's University, Belfast

Political relations within Northern Ireland have given rise to a growing distance between the two main communities in the last two years. That distance and the associated tension have been exacerbated by the debate about Brexit. That debate has also created tension between Unionism and the Republic.

True to its traditions and purpose, the Irish Association, in this its eightieth year and in co-operation with Queen's University, seeks to reach beyond the immediate problems and to look at how relationships on this island can be rebuilt and new forms of understanding and co-operation created, whatever form the UK withdrawal from the EU takes.

A range of speakers will explore the challenges facing politicians, individuals and communities in reestablishing connections and shared engagement across the island.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Venue:** Canada Room, Queen's University, Belfast

### **10.00 – 10.30am: Welcome and CONTEXT**

Bob Collins, President, Irish Association for Cultural, Economic & Social Relationships: *Developing a new Vision for the Island – the role of the Irish Association*

Dr Katy Hayward, Queen's University: *Politics, NI/Ireland and Brexit – the reality for the Island now & in the near future*

### **10.30 – 11. 40am: POLITICAL & ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS – *the challenge in building & restoring North-South links***

CHAIR: Prof. Brian Walker, Queen's University & Council member, Irish Association

Steve Aiken, MLA, Ulster Unionists: *How Unionism should engage with the Republic*

Micheál Martin, Leader, Fianna Fáil: *How the Republic should engage with Unionism*

*(Followed by Q&A)*

### **11.40am: COFFEE**

### **12.00 - 1.00pm: CULTURAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (1) – Current & Evolving Relationships**

CHAIR: Anna Carragher, Chair, HLF NI & former Controller BBC NI

Trevor Ringland, Sportsman & Commentator: *The Role of Sport - on & off the Island*

Prof. John Brewer, Queen's University: *The Continuing Importance of intra and inter-Church Relationships*

*(Followed by Q&A)*

### **1.00pm: LUNCH**

**2.00 -3.00pm: CULTURAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (2) – Current & Evolving Relationships**

CHAIR: Anna Carragher

Roisín McDonough, Chief Executive, Arts Council NI: *Culture & the Arts – post-Brexit*

Adrian Moynes:, Chair, Tyrone Guthrie Centre & former Managing Director RTE Radio: *Old & New Media*

*(Followed by Q&A)*

**3.00 – 4.00pm: BUILDING ON EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

CHAIR: Peter Osbourne, Chair, Community Relations Council NI

Norma Shearer, CEO, Training for Women Network (TWN): *Linking Women, North-South – Challenges & Potential*

Phillip Orr MRIA, Historian and Independent Scholar: *The All-Island Impact of the Decade of Commemorations*

*(Followed by Q&A)*

**4.00 – 5.00pm: CONCLUSION – Progressing a Shared Vision of Future Relationships**

CHAIR: Bob Collins, Irish Association

Guest Speaker: (to be confirmed)

**NOTE: THE CONFERENCE IS FREE. BUT PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE WITH:**

“EVENTBRITE” AT <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healing-wounds-after-brexit-rebuilding-relationships-on-the-island-of-ireland-tickets-50447993306>

OR with me: Dr Donal O’Tierney, 41 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co Down, BT34 3NJ

E-mail: [dotierney@talktalk.net](mailto:dotierney@talktalk.net)

Tel: 00 44 (0)7718439719

Date for your Diary - Christmas Reception, Belfast, Tues 11th Dec

*Donal O’Tierney Hon Treasurer Irish Association*