



THE IRISH ASSOCIATION
for cultural, economic and social relations

Belief in the Future: Religion and Changing Identity

Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St, Dublin 2

Tuesday 2nd July 2019 2:00pm – 6:30pm

Religion has long been seen as a marker of identity - and division – across the island of Ireland. This has not been without some validity but it is no longer an adequate starting point from which to approach the future. The Association believes that now is a good time to explore the role that religion plays and could or should play in the future, in our changing societies on the island.

In a time of increasing diversity, the development of multi-faith communities and increasing numbers who profess no faith, North and South, these matters have a particular relevance to the quality of relations on the island.

Our hope is that the conference will allow reflection on how religion can act as an agent for good in changing circumstances, on how faith communities and those without faith can contribute to public discourse and on what needs to change to ensure that cohesive communities can develop across the island of Ireland.

The conference is free but you will need to register. This can be done online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/belief-in-the-future-religion-and-changing-identities-tickets-63229639554> or book with our Hon Secretary Dermot O'Doherty, 16 Upper Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Tel +353(0) 879092491
E-mail: dermot.odoherty@gmail.com

- 2:00 **Welcome and Introduction**
President of the Irish Association: Bob Collins
- 2:10 **Opening Presentation**
Dr Gladys Ganiel, Research Fellow
Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice
Queen's University, Belfast

- 2:30 **Religion and Identity**
- Bishop John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher
 - Dr. Amanullah De Sony
Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Islam, Study of Religions
Department, UCC
 - Panellist 3 [tba]
- 3:20 **Religion and Education**
- Rev. Dr Niall Coll
 - Senior Lecturer, St. Mary's University College, Belfast
 - Jan O'Sullivan TD
Minister of Education 2014 - 2016
 - Prof Anne Lodge
Director of the Church of Ireland Centre (CIC) DCU
- 4:10 **Coffee Break**
- 4:30 **Religion in Community and Public Life**
- Nicola Brady, General Secretary, Irish Council of Churches
 - Rev Trevor Sergant, Green Party Leader 2001 - 7
 - Justin Kilcullen, Former Executive Director, Trócaire
 - Prof. David McConnell, President, Humanist Assoc. of Ireland
- 5:30 **Q & A / Next Steps/ Implications**
- 6:15 **Concluding Remarks**
- President of the Irish Association: Bob Collins