

Defining public duties to tackle incitement to hatred whilst respecting free expression: reviewing the legal & policy framework

A conference to address the 'threshold' and 'intervention' questions increasingly defined in human rights law as to when public authorities can or must act against speech and cultural expression in order to protect the rights of others.

Friday 13th October 2017 Canada Room, Queens University Belfast

Opening 9.45

- Equality Coalition Co-Conveners **Patricia McKeown, UNISON** and **Daniel Holder, CAJ**;
- Welcome, former Justice Minister **Claire Sugden MLA**

10.00 PANEL 1: Harms and Impacts of Hate Expression: Chair Patricia McKeown

- **Gavin Boyd**, the Rainbow Project; **Ellen Murray**, Sail; **Ola Sobieraj**, Stronger Together Network; **Anna Lo**, former MLA and Director of Chinese Welfare Association; **Dessie Donnelly**, Participation and Practice of Rights; **Dr Rachel Killean**, School of Law, QUB

Presentation: Dr Robbie McVeigh – Independent Researcher: Equality Coalition research report 'Incitement to Hatred in Northern Ireland';

11.20-BREAK

11.35 Session 2: Legal frameworks and the European Context

- **Judit Geller, Senior Lawyer, European Roma Rights Centre:** Anti-Roma parading and police intervention – the case law of the European Court of Human Rights;
- **Jeremy McBride, Barrister, Monckton Chambers, London and External Expert, ECRI:** ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance) General Policy Recommendation 15 on Combating Hate Speech;
- **Prof Jon-Mirena Landa, Director of the Chair of Human Rights and Public Authorities, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU:** Incitement to hatred in Spain: the risk of political censorship;

12.30 Panel II Public Authorities – response to morning session

Chair Professor Colin Harvey

- **Sinead Simpson**, Head of Crime and Community Safety Branch Department of Justice;
- **Paul Giannasi**, Head of the Cross-Government Hate Crime Programme, London;
- **Assistant Chief Constable, Mark Hamilton**, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI);

(Questions and Answers)

1.15pm Lunch

2pm PANEL III: Panel of Political Parties: Moderator Professor Kieran McEvoy

- **Mike Nesbit MLA, Ulster Unionist; Claire Sugden MLA, independent; Gerry Kelly MLA Sinn Féin; Clare Bailey MLA, Green Party; Stephen Farry MLA, Alliance; Colin McGrath MLA, SDLP, DUP (tbc).**

3pm Workshops

1. A *Fresh Start* for Parades, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition - factoring in countering hate expression and the rights of others?

Chair: Colin Harvey, QUB Location – **Canada Room**

Panel: Dr Dominic Bryan, QUB; Sophie Long, QUB; Mike Richie, Relatives for Justice, Christine Davis, NI Housing Executive.

2. Countering Incitement to hatred on grounds of gender: a missing category

Chair: Patricia McKeown, Unison - **Senate Chamber**

Panel: Kellie Turtle Women's Sector Lobbyist, Clare Bailey MLA, Elaine Croy, Hollaback.

3. Free religious expression & countering homophobia, drawing the line

Chair: Claire Moore, ICTU location - **Old Staff Common Room**

Panel: Ciaran Moynagh, solicitor, Grainne Taggart, Amnesty; Dr Gail Neil, Ulster University.

4. What is the broader role of public authorities? Public funding and intervention

Chair: Fidelma O'Hagan, CAJ location- **Council Chamber**

Panel: Paul Noonan, Equality Commission; Paul Jordan, Community Relations Council; Seán Brady, Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR); Tony O'Reilly, North West Forum for Persons with Disabilities.

4.15pm Report back from Workshops and Final Panel