Women's Aid

30 Years of the Women's Aid Femicide Watch

UN Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women Seminar

11am – 1pm, Wednesday 25th November 2026

Programme

Welcome and Introductions.
Ailbhe Smyth, Chairperson, Women's Aid.

30 Years of the Femicide Watch: Remembering, Recording, Preventing.
Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid.

From Loss to Law: How Domestic Homicide Reviews Changed Policy and Practice.
Frank Mullane, MBE.

Reflections on domestic homicide and abuse related death reviews in the UK - 15 years of learning and change.
Dr James Rowlands.

Living to Tell the Tale: Trauma, Fear and the Path to Safety.
Ríanna Moore, survivor of domestic abuse.

Questions and Anwers.

Performance of The Artist Regards the Woman Murdered.
Paula Meehan.

Closing remarks.
Ailbhe Smyth.

Light lunch and networking.

#WomensAid #FemicideWatch #16DaysofAction

Wi-Fi Code: SSID - WQV



Ailbhe Smyth

Ailbhe Smyth is the Chairperson of Women's Aid and a long-time campaigner on feminist, LGBT and other social issues. Most recently, she played a leading role in the marriage equality referendum campaign in 2015 and was Co-Director of the Together for Yes campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment. She was the founding head of Women's Studies at UCD where she lectured for many years.



Sarah Benson

Sarah Benson is the Chief Executive Officer of Women's Aid since 2019. For nine years prior to this role, Sarah was the CEO of Ruhama, an Irish specialist service working nationally with women and people affected by prostitution including victims of sex trafficking. In addition, Sarah has previous experience as Manager of the National Domestic Violence Helpline and extensive work in the community and voluntary sector both in Ireland and abroad, working particularly with marginalised ethnic minority women and youth. Sarah is a Ministerial Appointee to the Boards of the Irish Courts Service and CUAN, the National DSGBV Agency.



Frank Mullane, MBE

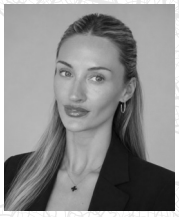
Frank is the CEO of Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA). It advocates for families after fatal domestic abuse and provides specialist peer support. It trains Chairs of Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) and influences policy and legislation. Frank helped ensure DARDRs became law and continues to enhance the methodology. Frank was a Home Office appointed reader of DARDRs for fourteen years, during which he assessed around 1,200 for quality. He has co-authored a book and multiple chapters in different books. He developed a model for helping families to be integral to reviews after domestic homicide, thought to be unique in the world. Frank's sister Julia and nephew William Pemberton were murdered in 2003.

www.aafda.org.uk



Dr James Rowlands

Dr James Rowlands is an Assistant Professor in Sociology at Durham University. His research focuses on domestic abuse, specifically domestic homicide and domestic abuse-related deaths, as well as fatality review systems and femicide. James' broader interests encompass practice and policy interventions, including coordinated community responses, as well as the experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans+ (LGBT+) victims/survivors and heterosexual men. James' practice background includes training as a social worker and working in the voluntary and statutory sectors in frontline, leadership, and policy roles. James recently published his first book titled 'The Potential and Peril of Reviewing Domestic Homicides and Domestic Abuse-Related Deaths'.



Ríanna Moore

Ríanna Moore is the owner of Luxe Dublin and Director of the Luxe Dublin Academy. Ríanna is also a survivor of domestic abuse. In 2026, three years after she first reported, her former partner was jailed for assault, assault causing harm, and criminal damage. Since then, has talked about how abuse can build slowly until a woman feels trapped, and how asking a friend for help became her turning point. She has also spoken about how traumatic it was to have her therapy notes used as evidence, and about the gap between justice and accountability. Ríanna now uses her voice to help other women recognise the signs and seek support.



Paula Meehan

Paula Meehan is one of the best-known contemporary Irish poets. Born in 1955 in Dublin where she still lives, she studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and in the MFA programme at Eastern Washington University. Besides seven award-winning poetry collections Paula Meehan has also written plays for both adults and children. She has conducted residencies in universities, in prisons, in the wider community, and her poems and plays have been translated into many languages, including Irish. Paula Meehan has collaborated with musicians, visual artists and dancers. From 2013 to 2016 Paula Meehan was Ireland Professor of Poetry. Paula Meehan's awards include the Butler Award of the Irish American Cultural Institute, the Laurence O'Shaughnessy Award, the Denis Devlin Award and the Marten Toonder Award.

We Remember

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the Women's Aid Femicide Watch, Women's Aid has created an online memorial remembering each woman.

For more visit **www.femicide.ie**

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