

CHILDREN LET DOWN BY THE SYSTEM IMPACT REPORT 2018

Wednesday 10 April 2019

SCHEDULE 11AM TO 12.30PM

Opening Remarks

Miriam O'Callaghan

Domestic Violence against Women and Children in 2018 – How Systems are Letting Children Down

Margaret Martin, Director, Women's Aid

Is our Family Law System Fit for Purpose?

Ursula Regan, Family Law Practitioner

The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

Dr. Geoffrey Shannon, the Special Rapporteur on Child Protection

Address by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Dr. Katherine Zappone, T.D.

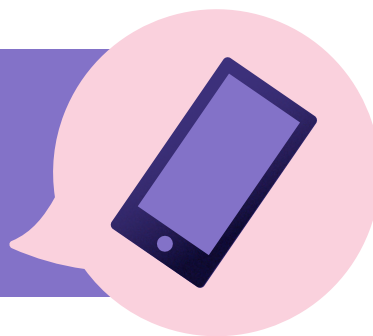
Panel Discussion and Q&A

Chaired by Miriam O'Callaghan

Close

Share your thoughts, comments and information from this morning's event using **#LettingChildrenDown #WomensAid2018**

Wifi Code: **Viking1100**



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SPEAKERS



Margaret Martin

Margaret Martin has been Director of Women's Aid since 2003. Women's Aid has been working in Ireland to stop domestic violence against women and children since 1974 and is a leading

national organisation which provides information and support to women and their children affected by abuse. Margaret has over 30 years' experience in the NGO sector including the areas of domestic and sexual violence, health and education. Margaret retires as Director of the organisation in May 2019.



Miriam O'Callaghan

Miriam O'Callaghan is a TV and Radio Broadcast Journalist with RTÉ, Ireland's public service broadcaster. She was born and raised in Dublin. She qualified as a solicitor before beginning her

broadcasting career on ITV's *This is your Life*. She joined the BBC as a producer in 1987, and went on to become a reporter on BBC2's *Newsnight*. In the early '90s Miriam returned to Ireland to present RTÉ's current affairs flagship programme *Prime Time*, while continuing to cover the Northern Irish peace process for *Newsnight*. In August 2000, Miriam co-founded Mint Productions, an independent production company that specialised in documentary.

Unusually for a current affairs presenter, Miriam was voted Best TV Personality at the Irish Film and Television Awards in 2003. To her surprise, she won the RTÉ Guide Style Award at the 2007 IFTAs following another public vote. In June 2013, her *Prime Time* interview with Praveen Halappanavar, won the Television News Category of the Justice Media Awards 2013.

Outside of her work on *Prime Time*, Miriam presented her own chat show during the summer, *Saturday Night with Miriam*, and a radio programme *Sundays with Miriam*. She has previously presented *Miriam Meets...* which won the PPI Radio Award in 2011 for best Speech Driven Magazine Programme. In 2011 and 2012 she presented RTÉ's New Year's Eve show which attracted huge audiences. Miriam also supports a large number of charitable causes throughout the year, including Women's Aid.



Ursula Regan

Ursula Regan is a solicitor and partner in the firm Regan Law. She deals exclusively in the area of Family Law and has worked extensively in the area of

domestic violence. She is the current chair of the Women's Aid Board of Directors, having served on it for almost 20 years.



Dr Geoffrey Shannon

Dr Geoffrey Shannon is a solicitor and is a leading authority in Child Law and Family Law. He is the current Chairman of the Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI).

In 2006, he was appointed as the Special Rapporteur on Child Protection for the Irish government. He has been re-appointed by successive Irish governments to this role as an independent legal expert.

Dr Shannon is the recipient of several awards for his work in the area of national and international family law. These include the 2005 JCI Outstanding Person of the Year Award, the 2006 Canon Maurice Handy Award and the 2013 Irish Law Award. On 23 June 2017, Mr Justice Peter Kelly, President of the Irish High Court presented Dr Shannon with the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association Award for outstanding contribution to legal scholarship for his entire work to date.



Dr Katherine Zappone, T.D.,

Dr Katherine Zappone, T.D., was appointed Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on May 6th, 2016. Dr. Zappone was nominated to the 24th Seanad Éireann by Taoiseach

Enda Kenny in 2011. She was elected to Dail Éireann for the Dublin South West Constituency in February 2016. She is a former Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission (2002-2012) and a former CEO of the National Women's Council of Ireland. Dr. Zappone has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice.

She is co-founder of An Cosán, an organisation that combats inter-generational poverty through education and training. Since its inception, An Cosán has grown into Ireland's largest community education organisation supporting over 1,000 families annually. An Cosán also runs early childhood education and care facility, Rainbow House and Fledglings social enterprise, which operates eight community pre-schools around the country. Minister Zappone holds a PhD from Boston College, an MBA from the Smurfit Business School and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from UCD School of Law.