IDEA Annual Conference 2025

RECLAIMING GROUND for Hope, Alternatives and Action

Wednesday 28 May 2025
Grand Hotel Malahide

IDEA
IRISH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

#IDEAconf2025

AGENDA **Wednesday 28 May 2025**

10.00	Registration & Refreshments
10.30	**Opening Remarks**
10.40	**Art, Education & Justice** Fireside Chat with: Joe Caslin, Grace Dyas, Dean Oke (Moderator: Leigh Brady)
11.40	Tea Break
12.05	Address by **Minister Neale Richmond TD**
12.15	**Global Voice for Humanity Award Ceremony**
13.00	Lunch
14.00	**Workshops** (pages 07–09)
15.40	**Community, Education & Hope** Fireside Chat with: Lynn Ruane, Donnah Vuma, Seán McCabe (Moderator: Ruairí McKiernan)
16.30	**Closing Remarks**
17.00	Social

Panel 1: Fireside chat

ART, EDUCATION & JUSTICE



Grace Dyas is an award-winning artist, activist, writer, director, producer and performer from inner-city Dublin. She makes film, theatre and large-scale participation projects, often in collaboration with people processing trauma. Grace's art has raised provocative questions about power, ethics, morality, class and social justice on issues including Ireland's history of social housing and the Magdalene laundries. Grace has also been outspoken bullying and harassment in the arts, campaigning for accountability.



Joe Caslin is an Irish street artist, academic and activist. Best known for his beautifully rendered pencil drawings, which manifest as towering pieces of street art. His highly accessible work engages directly with social issues on an unavoidable scale. Caslin is known to tackle pressing and often challenging themes head-on, including suicide, drug addiction, marriage equality, stigma, immigration, consent, sectarian division, disability and most recently gender-based violence. The monochrome drawings Caslin creates live with us and against many of us for some time before washing away. They hold a mirror up to the kind of society that we are, whilst asking us individually what kind of society we want to be a part of.



Dean Oke is an experienced youth worker, working with young people through education, creativity, and social impact in Ireland and abroad. Dean is also a spoken word artist, using poetry to address social issues, sparking conversation and change through creative expression. Based in Cork, Dean has recently developed a personal development group for young people from ages 13 and up called the "Candid Group" and uses social media as a platform make sure young voices are heard and valued.

2025 Award Ceremony presentation

IDEA GLOBAL VOICE FOR HUMANITY AWARD

MUSIC
Colm Mac Con Iomaire, acclaimed violinist and composer.

SPOKEN TRIBUTE
Caoimhe De Barra, CEO of Trócaire, renowned social justice leader and advocate.

POETRY
Sarah Clancy, award winning poet, activist and social justice campaigner.

SPOKEN TRIBUTE
Donnah Sibanda Vuma, human rights advocate and migrant justice leader.

SPOKEN TRIBUTE
Students from Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Belfast. Members of Concern Worldwide's Global Citizenship programme.

AWARD RECIPIENT
President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, distinguished statesman, poet, academic, and lifelong advocate for human rights, social justice, and global solidarity.

Guest of Honour and Award Recipient

PRESIDENT OF IRELAND, MICHAEL D HIGGINS



President Michael D. Higgins is the ninth President of Ireland and a distinguished statesman, poet, academic, and lifelong advocate for human rights, social justice, and global solidarity. A passionate champion of education, equality, and democratic engagement, President Higgins has dedicated his career to advancing the values that underpin Global Citizenship Education.

Before assuming the Presidency in 2011, he served with distinction as Ireland's first Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, revitalising cultural life and supporting freedom of expression. He is also a former university lecturer, public intellectual, T.D. and Senator, known for his principled positions on peace, anti-poverty, and international development. Throughout his life, President Higgins has consistently spoken out on behalf of the marginalised, challenging injustice and urging a more compassionate, inter-connected world. His leadership continues to inspire individuals and organisations in Ireland and globally to pursue education as a force for dignity, empowerment, and transformative change.

Panel 2: Fireside chat
COMMUNITY, EDUCATION & HOPE



Lynn Ruane is an independent Irish politician, who has served as a Senator and the deputy leader of the Civil Engagement Group in Seanad Éireann since 2016. After leaving school at the age of 15, Lynn returned to full-time education as a mature student; graduating from Trinity College Dublin with an honours degree in Political Science, Philosophy, Economics and Sociology in 2016. Before entering politics, Lynn developed community drug services and community initiatives over 15 years in Tallaght and Dublin's Canal Communities. As a Senator Lynn works to represent communities who have been traditionally excluded and neglected by those in power. She tables progressive bills which respond to the needs of those on the margins of society; recently yielding a substantive change in Irish employment law, which bans the misuse of non-disclosure agreements in cases of workplace abuse, harassment, and discrimination.



Seán McCabe is the Head of Climate Justice and Sustainability at Bohemian Football Club. As part of this role, he is engaged in local and international projects focused on engaging fans and their communities in the climate transition, such as partnerships with Community Law and Mediation, Friends of the Earth, the UNFCCC and an array of European football clubs including St. Pauli, Sheffield United and Real Betis. Seán has a background in environmental policy, including the Mary Robinson Foundation, the think-tank TASC and the Environmental Protection Agency in Sierra Leone.



Donnah Sibanda Vuma is a human rights advocate, public speaker, and the coordinator of the National Migrant Victims of Crime Support Project at Doras, where she supports migrant and refugee victims of trafficking, gender-based violence, labour exploitation, and hate crimes. Drawing on her lived experience as a former IPA, Donnah co-founded the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI) in 2014 and she is also the founder of Every Child is Your Child Ireland (ECIYC), which provides school support for children living in Direct Provision. Donnah was named Clare Woman of the Year 2017 by Soroptimist International for her contribution to migrant justice.

WORKSHOP **01**

NEWSPAPER THEATRE

Chriszine Backhouse



Chriszine Backhouse is a lecturer on the "Creativity and Change" special purpose award which promotes the exploration of global citizenship education through the arts. She is a co-founder of "Speak out: Theatre for transformation", which uses socially engaged forms of theatre to investigate and respond to local and global justice issues. Chriszine received her MA in Creative Arts Therapies with a specialisation in Theatre from Concordia University, Montreal Canada.

WORKSHOP **02**

SINGING FOR CHANGE

Rachel Dempsey



Rachel Dempsey is a song leader, ethnomusicologist and global citizenship educator. She has been leading singing workshops for over 20 years and has learnt about the transformative power of music from grass-roots / Indigenous communities in Colombia, Brazil, UK, Bolivia and Australia. Rachel is passionate about the power of singing for regenerative wellbeing, connection, eco-social justice and positive change. Her project, which promotes connection, wisdom and resilience for thriving people & planet is called Full Circle Change. www.fullcirclechange.ie.

WORKSHOP **03**

NAVIGATING THE GREY SPACE Niamh McDonald



Niamh McDonald, director of advocacy and community engagement at the Hope and Courage Collective. Niamh has a proven track record in leadership, strategy, stakeholder engagement and crisis management. Has vast experience working with a wide range of stakeholders across society, building trusted relationships and delivering complicated analysis and themes in a way that relates to a number of audiences. Has a strong record for advocating for and with people form marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds. Experience in independent research, publishing peer reviewed work and policy analysis.

WORKSHOP **04**

MEANINGFUL ACTION FOR PALESTINE Lizzy Noone



Lizzy Noone has been working with schools on Global Citizenship Education and campaigning for 24 years. She has worked for WorldWise Global Schools for 9 years working with schools to have a whole school approach to global justice and equality. She worked with Concern for 15 years previous to this, working on three EU funded projects including stop Child Labour. She is a strong believer in degrowth and decolonisation. Lizzy and members of the IDEA Development Education on Palestine working group will be facilitating the Meaningful Action for Palestine workshop. This working group was formed by IDEA members in 2024 in response to the continued genocide in Palestine.

WORKSHOP **05**

THE RIGHT FOCUS — GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION THROUGH DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKING Stephen Farley



Stephen Farley is the Post Primary Development Education officer with Trócaire, based in Maynooth. He has been working for Trócaire for ten years, and is a qualified post primary teacher, and taught in various schools in the UK and Ireland for ten years prior to joining the Development Education team in Trócaire. Stephen has been involved with IDEA for the past six years, firstly through the Formal Education Working Group, and has also served on the board of IDEA

→ ideaonline.ie

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