

Austerity and Inequality: A threat to peace?

Thursday 15 October 2015
UNISON, Galway House, Belfast

09.30 Registration

10.00 **Welcome** Conference Chair **Susan McKay**, Author and Journalist
Overview of day **Daniel Holder**, CAJ / Co-convenor Equality Coalition

10:15 **Session One: Austerity and Inequality- The global to the local**

Virginia Brás Gomes, Member UN Committee on Economic and Social Rights / and Senior Social Policy Adviser, Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security, Portugal
“**Impact of austerity and fiscal adjustment on rights**”

Elena Crespi, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
“**Downgrading rights: the cost of austerity in Greece**”

Bernadette McAliskey, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP)
“**Austerity here and now**”

In Partnership with:



11.30 Coffee Break

11.45 Session Two: Austerity and Inequality- Impact and organising
Introduction: **Patricia McKeown**, UNISON/ Co-convener Equality Coalition

Workshop 1: Using the Law (Chair: Prof Colin Harvey QUB)
Panellists: **Gordon Anthony BL** (QUB) **CAJ anti-poverty strategy judicial review**
Sinead Larkin (Solicitor Larkin O'Connor Cassidy Solicitors) **Legal aid cuts**
Sharon Fitchie (Former Equality Officer DARD) **Experience of applying equality duty**

Workshop 2: Mobilising Against Austerity (Chair: Anne Speed NIC-ICTU)
Panellists: **Nicola Browne** (PPR) **PPRs organising model**
Lynn Carvill (Women's Budget Group/ Reclaim the Agenda) **Corporation Tax/ Empty purse campaign**
Charmain Jones (Rural Community Network) **Rural communities and cuts**
Fiona McCausland (Human Rights Consortium) **Grassroots communities/ Bill of Rights**

Workshop 3: Mapping Austerity (Chair: Kate Ward PPR)
Panellists: **Paul MacFlynn** (NEVIN Institute) **Analysing spending and cuts**
Jonathan Swallow (UNISON) **Cuts to the health sector**
Goretti Horgan (NI Child Poverty Alliance) **Child poverty**

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13.15 **Lunch**

14.00 **Session three: Research Briefing**

“The equality impacts of the Stormont House Agreement on the two main communities”

Research presentation: Professor Christine Bell and Dr Robbie McVeigh

15.00 **Session Four: Panel Discussion**

Adam Ostry, Project Manager, Public Governance Review Northern Ireland, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, NI Human Rights Commission

Michael Wardlow, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission NI

Virginia Brás Gomes, Member UN Committee on Economic and Social Rights

16:00 **Closing Call to Action:**

Patricia McKeown, UNISON/ Co-convener of the Equality Coalition

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