

Banúlacht
International
Women's Day
Conference

Friday, March 7th 2008

9.00 to 5.30 p.m.

Venue: Axis Centre,
Ballymun, Dublin

Reimagining
Women's
HumanRights

Reimagining Women's
Human Rights



International Women's Day

On International Women's Day on March 8th, women throughout the world come together to celebrate the achievements of women in their fight against oppression, prejudice and inequality. Banúlacht's International Women's Day has become an annual event, and the theme for this year's conference is *Reimagining Women's Human Rights*.



Who is the conference for?

The conference is for women from community development and community education organisations, non-governmental organisations, national organisations, as well as individual women, feminist activists and all those interested in feminism and development from a local and a global perspective.



The conference will address the following questions:

- What are the key women's human rights issues today for women in Ireland and globally?
- What are the links between community development and human rights?
- What actions can women in Ireland take to promote and fulfil women's human rights in solidarity with women in the South?



Conference Aims

The conference aims to celebrate women's activism locally and globally. It offers a space for women to learn, to explore the challenges women face in working for change, to be energised, to celebrate and to have fun. Through participation in the conference, women will have the opportunity to draw parallels with and be inspired by the strategies and activism of women's organisations in Ireland and in the global South. In the creative atmosphere of Axis Ballymun, conference participants will have the chance to reimagine women's human rights.





Keynote Speakers



Amanda Khozi Mukwashi

Amanda is the Head of External Relations with Skillshare International. She has worked in a range of international development organisations in the UK and Africa. She has a master's degree in international economic law. Amanda is the Vice Chair of Akina Mama wa Afrika, an international non-governmental organisation for African women based in the UK and Uganda. In 2007, she facilitated a two-day 'Mini African Women's Leadership Institute' on the theme of strengthening the capacity of African women to influence policy on gender-based violence.



Valerie O'Carroll

Valerie has a long track record in working with women's organisations and in community development. She is campaign development worker with the National Women's Council of Ireland on the Social Welfare Reform Campaign. She has previously worked as co-ordinator of the Clondalkin Women's Network and the North West Inner City Women's Network. Valerie was one of the participants on Banúlacht's exchange with the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action in 2002.



Sarah Mukasa

Sarah Mukasa is Ugandan and works as the Director of Programmes at the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF). She is a feminist activist with extensive experience of advocacy at international, regional, and national levels. Her areas of interest and expertise are on 'race' as it interfaces with gender, sexual rights and the issues relating to the integrity of women's bodies, as well as the institutional development of women's organisations. In 2005, Sarah was one of a group of women who were threatened with imprisonment by the Ugandan government over plans to hold a performance of the Vagina Monologues.



Anne Marlborough

Anne Marlborough is a feminist human rights activist, with a background in academic law. She has extensive experience in working with Irish non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as the Irish section of Amnesty International, and with Concern, where she was head of advocacy from 2005 to 2007. She has served on several UN missions in East Timor and in Zimbabwe. She is the CEO of Doras Luimní, an NGO that supports migrants in the Irish Midwest.



Workshops

Workshops will enable participants to explore and reflect on such issues as gender-based violence, solidarity, and human rights. As well as discussion-based workshops, workshops that use drama, song and art to explore themes will be offered. The workshops will begin before lunch and continue with the same group after lunch.

Workshop 1

Women's human rights reimagined
Sarah Mukasa (African Women's Development Fund) and
Maeve Taylor (Banúlacht).

Workshop 2

Gender-based violence—A violation of women's human rights
Local and global perspectives
Tendai Madondo (Christian Aid Ireland/Gender-Based Violence Consortium) and Kate
McCarthy (Inchicore Outreach Centre)

Workshop 3

Using consumer power to promote the rights of workers in the flower industry
Kate Byron (Women Working Worldwide)

Workshop 4

Raise your voice: Song as a force to claim women's human rights
Rachel Dempsey (Global Harmonies)

Workshop 5

Solidarity for women's human rights: Local and global perspectives
Maimuna Kanyamala (Kivulini Women's Rights Organisation, Tanzania) and
Amanda Mukwashi (Skillshare International)

Workshop 6

Act now: Using drama to explore women's human rights
Sandra Villegas (Latinsphere)





Programme

9.00

Registration

9.30

Welcome and introduction

Voices from Tanzania: extract from radio documentary about Banúlacht's 2007 Exchange Visit to Tanzania.

What's on the Agenda: Key Issues for Women's Human Rights

10.00

Amanda Mukwashi

Global Challenges for Activism
Q & A

10.40

Valerie O'Carroll

Putting Women's Human Rights into Community Development
Q & A

11.15 - 12.45

Workshops

Including coffee break

12.45 Lunch

1.45 - 3.15

Workshops (continued)

Action for Women's Human Rights

3.30

Workshop feedback

4.30

Sarah Mukasa

Where are we going? New Directions for Women's Human Rights Activism
Q & A

5.00

Anne Marlborough

Our Collective Vision for Women's Human Rights
Q & A

5.30 Close

5.40 Reception
(Wine and finger-food)

Women Rights are Human Rights

2008 marks 60 years since the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2009 will be the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the 1990s, the slogan 'women's rights are human rights' was adopted by the women's movement globally.



Booking Form

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Preferred Workshop:

Do you have any special dietary requirements?

Please specify:

Do you require sign language interpretation:

(Please confirm by February 21st)

Will you stay for the reception?

Funded by:



Please complete and return with appropriate fee to **Banúlacht, 20 Lwr Dominick St, Dublin 1**

Places are limited: early booking is essential.
Bookings must be accompanied by the **relevant fee.**

Conference Fee

- Development/ Statutory agencies: €60
- Women's/ Development education groups: €45 (Members €35)
- Individuals: €35 (Members €25)
- Unwaged: €15
- Asylum seekers: €5

How to get to AXIS Ballymun

Axis is located between the Civic Offices and the Ballymun Plaza Hotel on Ballymun Main St. On-street parking is available on Shangan Road.



Bus routes stopping at the Axis Centre are No.s **4, 13, 13A, 17A, 220, 103 and 104.** For more detailed directions, see **www.axis-ballymun.ie**

For more information contact us at:

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