Benchmarking Business & Human Rights in Ireland
Agenda and Speaker briefing notes
25 November 2020 5-6pm

Agenda:
Chair: ML Rhodes

5:00 Welcome and introduction
Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders

5:05 “Message from Irish Government on BHR plans and importance of Industry engagement”
Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ireland (recording)

5:10 “The Path to Sustainability in Irish Trade and Investment”
Simon McKeever, CEO of Irish Exporters Association

5:15 “Benchmarking Business & Human Rights in Ireland” – report highlights
Benn Hogan, Lead Author, Visiting Research Assistant Trinity CSI

5:25 “The way forward”: Panel discussion engaging policymakers, NGOs, global stakeholders, industry and academia on the implications of the Irish report and expected developments in Ireland and the EU
Moderator: Mary-Lee Rhodes, Director of Trinity Centre for Social Innovation

1. Global: Catie Shavin, Director, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights
2. Industry: Mark Kennedy, Managing Partner, Mazars Ireland
3. Academia: Martha O’Hagan-Luff, Assistant Prof. of Finance, TCD
4. NGO: Siobhan Curran, Chair of Irish Coalition for Business & Human Rights
5. Policy: Sarah Kavanagh, Deputy Director, Human Rights Unit, DFA

5:50 Q&A

6:00 Closing words / Next steps
Mary-Lee Rhodes, Director of Trinity Centre for Social Innovation

Aim of the webinar:

1. To raise awareness about the UN Guiding Principles for Business & Human Rights (UNGPs) and the state of Irish companies’ engagement with these (could be a contributing activity to the Irish National Action Plan?).

2. To officially launch the benchmarking report and announce a follow-up webinar for companies to be delivered jointly by Trinity CSI and Global Business Initiative for BHR