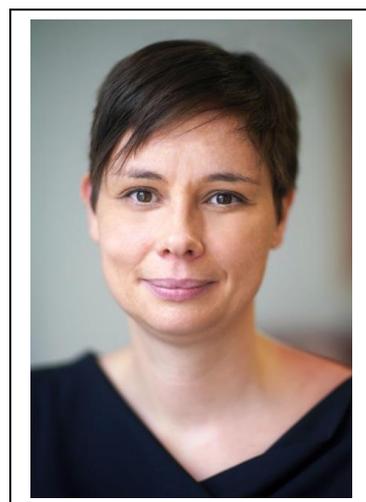


Speaker Bio's 04.04.2019

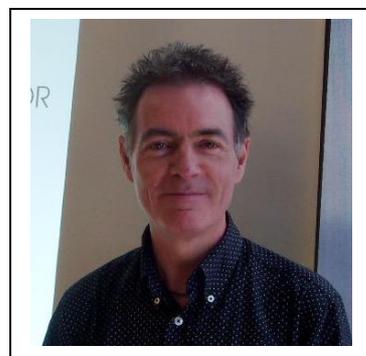
Making a difference to public policy and facing the challenge to advocacy work by community and voluntary organisations in 2019. What can new research on Ireland's Advocacy Initiative tell us about its long-term lessons ten years on?



Dr Nick Acheson is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Innovation at the Business School, Trinity College Dublin and Associate Lecturer in Social Policy at Ulster University. His main research interests are in civil society activism and state welfare reform. He has published widely on research in both jurisdictions in Ireland and Canada. He acted as co-editor of the scholarly journal, *Voluntary Sector Review* between 2014 and 2018. Before joining the staff of Ulster University in 1997, he worked in various roles in the Community and Voluntary Sector in Northern Ireland.



Dr. Anna Visser is Senior Parliamentary Researcher (Social Science) in the Oireachtas Parliamentary Research Service (PRS). Anna has responsibility for leading academic engagement and the PRS programme of topical research briefings. Anna holds a PhD from the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin, and worked in the non-profit sector for over 15 Years, including as Director of The Advocacy Initiative, an innovative three-year initiative which promoted understanding, awareness and effectiveness of social justice advocacy, and as Director of the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland. Anna is an experienced programme and research manager and has extensive experience across themes such as social inclusion, participative democracy, civil society, gender equality and inclusion.



Dr Mike Aiken is an associate at the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR, London) and has been a researcher, writer and practitioner in the community, voluntary and co-operative sector in the UK and internationally for over 20 years. His published work includes articles in *Voluntas*, *Voluntary Sector Review* and *Public Management Review*. He remains engaged as an active participant in local community action and campaign groups.

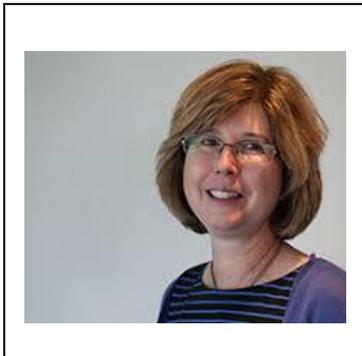
Most recent article: Mike Aiken and Marilyn Taylor (2019) 'Civic Action and Volunteering: The Changing Space for Popular Engagement in England' in *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-019-00090-y>



Frances Byrne is Director of Policy and Advocacy at Early Childhood Ireland. A former Chairperson of the National Women's Council of Ireland, she has worked in a variety of large and small organisations in the public and voluntary sectors since the 1990s. Frances now leads the Policy, Advocacy and Communications team at Early Childhood Ireland, the largest organisation in the early years sector in Ireland, representing over 3,800 members.



[Liam Herrick](#) was appointed to **Executive Director** of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) in November 2016. He has worked as Advisor to President Michael D. Higgins, Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) between 2007 and 2014, and for the former Irish Human Rights Commission, the Law Reform Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs. He is a former member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), and the Minister for Justice and Equality's Strategic Review Group on Penal Policy (2012-2014).



Prof. Gemma Donnelly-Cox (BA, MPhil, DPhil) is an Assistant Professor of Management at Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin. Her research is focused on philanthropy, organizational hybridity and organizational responses to altered conditions of support at the level of organization, organizational field and society. She is the co-Director of the Trinity Centre for Social Innovation and has expertise in research, consulting and management in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors.