

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a light-colored facade and large windows. The building has a unique, stepped architectural style. A blue and white curved graphic element is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Trinity European Laureate Award

12 May 2026

Themes: Civic Society
Equality and Public Service

Recipients: European Movement Ireland
and Frances Fitzgerald



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity Long Room Hub
Arts & Humanities Research Institute

 Teneo®

Order of Events

- »» 7.00 p.m. Welcome by **Professor Patrick Geoghegan**, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub.
- »» 7.05 p.m. Introduction by **Michael O'Keeffe**, the CEO of Teneo.
- »» 7.10 p.m. Presentation of the Trinity European Laureate Award by the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, **Simon Harris T.D.**
- »» 7.20 p.m. Laureate Address by **Julie Sinnamon** (accepting on behalf of European Movement Ireland).
- »» 7.25 p.m. Laureate Address by **Frances Fitzgerald**.
- »» 7.35 p.m. Panel discussion on the Future of Europe and its challenges.

Panel:

Denise Charleton, CEO of Community Foundation Ireland.

Mark Little, Journalist, Entrepreneur, and former Schuler Democracy Forum Media Fellow in the Trinity Long Room Hub.

Trinity European Laureate Award

European Movement Ireland

The Trinity European Laureate Award is awarded to European Movement Ireland in recognition of its remarkable contribution to civic society over more than seven decades. The gold medal acknowledges its outstanding contribution to strengthening Ireland's place in Europe, to advancing informed public debate on European affairs, and to sustaining the values of democracy and mutual co-operation. In this way, it has championed and nurtured Ireland's active participation in the European Union, and the values on which it was founded. This award celebrates the remarkable individuals who have sustained this work, including all those who have served, and continue to serve, in a voluntary capacity on its Board, giving generously of their time and ideas. Alongside them, a succession of exceptional CEOs and committed staff have contributed so much, and this award recognises their vital role in strengthening informed public debate and safeguarding and protecting our democratic culture.

Founded in 1954, European Movement Ireland is the oldest organisation in this country devoted to European affairs. European Movement Ireland champions Ireland's role in shaping a stronger, fairer Europe - sparking public engagement, challenging indifference, and standing up for democratic values through courageous, informed dialogue.

In each generation, it has shared knowledge, convened public debates, challenged disinformation, and enabled informed and inclusive discussions of complex European issues. Whether in times of constitutional referendums, debates over enlargement, or during periods of economic crisis or geopolitical uncertainty, it has ensured that our choices about Europe are based on knowledge and evidence.



Through its work, it provides a vital barometer of public attitudes, providing independent insight into how we view Ireland's role within the Union. By measuring support, and identifying concerns, European Movement Ireland strengthens democratic accountability and ensures that civil society is central to our European story.

Its work consistently demonstrates how informed citizenship is the foundation of a resilient democracy, and reminds us that European integration requires engagement, transparency, dialogue, and participation. Through its policy briefings and its publications, it helps translate complex policy developments into clear and accessible language. In doing so, it connects people, communities and organisations in Ireland to align and mobilise their engagement with the EU, its values, and its democratic institutions.

By bringing together citizens, policymakers, diplomats, academics, journalists, students, and others from wider civil society, European Movement Ireland helps create a broad and inclusive civic space. Its programmes encourage young people in particular to see Europe as a living political community in which as European citizens they can influence, shape and benefit from EU policies.

During critical junctures in our recent history, most notably the profound challenges posed by Brexit, European Movement Ireland has been a voice for stability, co-operation, and ensuring citizens' access to and participation in the EU. Its work reminds us of the importance of Ireland continuing to be at the heart of a community founded on peace, solidarity, democracy, and the rule of law.

This gold medal, awarded by the Trinity Long Room Hub in partnership with Teneo, is presented to Julie Sinnamon, the Chair of the Board of Directors of European Movement Ireland, on behalf of the organisation. The award celebrates a sustained and distinguished contribution to Ireland's European story, and to advancing our understanding of the values upon which the European Union is founded.

Trinity European Laureate Award

Frances Fitzgerald

The Trinity European Laureate Award is awarded to Frances Fitzgerald in recognition of her outstanding contribution to public service, and her lifelong commitment to building a fairer, more tolerant and more inclusive society in Ireland and across Europe. The gold medal honours her principled and reforming leadership and her sustained commitment to gender equality and the protection of women's rights.

As a Member of the European Parliament, Frances Fitzgerald was a strong voice for the rule of law, democratic accountability, and the prevention of gender-based violence across Europe. Her legislative and committee work has been hailed for contributing significantly to strengthening Europe's response to violence against women and to promoting equality in public and economic life. In 2024 she secured an historic deal for a new landmark EU Directive to combat violence against women. This was the first-ever piece of EU legislation focused on the protection, prevention, and prosecution of violence against women and domestic violence in Europe. She also helped inform and develop just and sustainable policies in a range of areas, including the sustainable development goals, international development, trade, health, finance and banking.

These campaigns were a continuation of the principled work that has defined her entire career. As Chair of the National Women's Council of Ireland, and through her work with the Council for the Status of Women, Frances helped champion issues of equality, representation, and violence against women and bring them to the centre of Irish public life. At a time when these concerns were too often overlooked, she worked to ensure that women's voices were heard in policymaking, reminding us that equality is a core democratic principle.



As Ireland's first Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, she introduced major reforms to child protection services, and worked to create a dedicated and accountable structure to safeguard vulnerable children.

As Minister for Justice and Equality, she led one of the most significant programmes of reform in the history of the State. Under her leadership, landmark legislation was enacted to combat domestic violence, marking a decisive shift in the State's response to abuse.

During this time, she also played a central role in bringing forward the 2015 referendum on marriage equality. In guiding the legislation and advocating for constitutional change, she helped frame the referendum as an affirmation of equal citizenship and human dignity. The successful vote, which made Ireland the first country in the world to approve marriage equality by popular vote, was a transformative moment in Irish history.

Later, as Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, she championed inclusive economic growth and strong engagement within the European Union. During the Brexit negotiations, she was a steadfast advocate for European solidarity and stability, and her work helped reinforce Ireland's place at the heart of a Union founded on peace and co-operation.

In 2024, she was appointed Officer of the Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur by President Emmanuel Macron, one of France's highest distinctions, in recognition 'of her work on women's and children's rights and her unwavering commitment to European democracy.'

Throughout her career, Frances Fitzgerald has exemplified the European values that this award honours. She has helped to reshape Ireland into a more equal, more open and more compassionate society, one in which diversity is respected, and rights are protected.

This gold medal, awarded by the Trinity Long Room Hub, in partnership with Teneo, acknowledges a lifetime dedicated to European values. The award honours her profound contribution to making our society more equal, more tolerant, and more just.

About Us

The Trinity Long Room Hub is where we bring new perspectives, critical thinking, and creativity and imagination to the great questions of our time. At a time of global insecurity, threats to democracy, the erosion of public trust, debates about technology, power, and even what it means to be human in the age of AI, our scholars explore these challenges and offer new and creative insights.

Through our research and fellowships, debates and public events, and engagement with public policy, we provide a community of scholars who tackle the greatest of challenges.

Learn more

For further information about any of our activities, please email [**patrick.geoghegan@tcd.ie**](mailto:patrick.geoghegan@tcd.ie)
Or scan the QR code to sign up for our mailing list.





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