

- 1. Niall Crowley** is an independent equality expert. He was Chief Executive Officer of the Equality Authority in Ireland from its establishment in 1999 until 2009. The Equality Authority was established to promote equality and combat discrimination in the areas covered by Irish equality legislation. Prior to this, he worked in the community sector with the Travellers' rights organisation Pavee Point for twelve years. He was a member of the National Economic and Social Forum and the National Economic Social Council. He is the author of *An Ambition for Equality*, published in 2006, and *Empty Promises: Bringing the Equality Authority to Heel* published in 2010.
- 2. Kathleen Lynch** is UCD Professor of Equality Studies. Her major area of equality research is in education. Since 2007, she has been an advisor to the EU Directorate General on Education and Culture as a member of the European Network of Experts in the Social Sciences on Education and Training. In 2006, she was a visiting fellow at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge University and was an Irish Government Senior Research Fellow in 2006-7. She is one of 12 visiting global experts invited to be involved in the GEXcel (Gender Excellence Research programme) in Sweden at the Universities of Linköping and Örebro in 2010. In 2010 she was also appointed by the Minister of Education in Ireland to the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. She works closely with a number of voluntary and community organisations devoted to the promotion of social justice and equality.
- 3. Dan O'Brien** is economics editor of the Irish Times. Before joining the newspaper in June 2010, he was a senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit, the business information and forecasting arm of The Economist Newspaper Group. In a dozen years in that role he specialised in European affairs and in global trade and investment issues. During that time he commented frequently on those matters in the international media, for broadcasters such as CNN and the BBC and in print, for newspapers such as the International Herald Tribune and the Financial Times. Dan has also worked as an economist for the European Commission and as a consultant for the United Nations and Forfas. He is the author of recently published book: *Ireland, Europe and the World: Writings on a New Century*.
- 4. Professor Philip O'Connell** is the Director of the UCD Geary Institute, the university's research centre for economics and social sciences. Prior to joining UCD, Professor O'Connell was Head of Social Research and Director of the European Migration Network in Ireland at the ESRI. He specialises in labour market research and is the author of several books on work-related education and training, as well as a large body of research on quality of work and access to employment. His research has had a wide impact on national and European policy-making. He has served as a consultant on human resource development and labour market issues to the European Commission and the OECD, and is currently involved in a number of comparative European research projects.