

# BEARING THE BRUNT?

## WOMEN AND THE RECESSION

How is the recession affecting women? Are women bearing the brunt of austerity? Are cuts to public services impacting on women more? What are the implications of further public spending cuts for women?

**Date & Time** Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> 9.30am (for registration) to 1.15pm, followed by a light lunch

**Venue:** NWCI, 4th Floor, 2/3 Parnell Square East, Dublin 1

Increasing evidence is emerging that the recession is having a significant impact on women internationally and in Irish society. Yet, public discussions and policy development and discourse about the recession and its impacts are not informed by any type of gender analysis. The National Women's Council, in association with TASC, has identified the need to highlight the impact of the current recession on women and to inform public debate and policy development. **Bearing the Brunt?** will contribute to the development of a gender analysis of impact and inform responses to the current recession.

### SEMINAR PROGRAMME

<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Welcome and Context</b>	<b>Orla O'Connor, National Women's Council of Ireland</b>
<b>Key note addresses</b>	
<b>Pauline Conroy &amp; Ursula Barry</b>	<b>Ireland 2008-2012 Untold Story of the Crisis – Gender, Equality and Inequalities</b>
<b>Thora Thorsdottir</b>	<b>The Polar Opposite: Iceland, the recession and gender equality</b>
<b>Questions &amp; answers</b>	
<b>Followed by coffee break &amp; buzz</b>	
<b>Panel response</b>	<b>Tom Healy, Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI)</b> <b>Helen Johnston, National Economic &amp; Social Council (NESC)</b> <b>Laurence Bond, The Equality Authority</b>
<b>Over to you.....</b>	
<b>Discussion Chairperson</b>	<b>Sinéad Pentony, Head of Policy, TASC</b>
<b>Close</b>	<b>Clara Fisher, Irish Feminist Network</b>

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## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

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**Dr Pauline Conroy** is a graduate in Social Science of UCD and the London School of Economics. She has worked extensively with the European Commission on gender, employment, poverty and violence issues and also the Council of Europe on homeworking. She has been an evaluator with the Commission's DAPHNE programme to combat violence against women for six years and has acted as an expert with the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, She was a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunals for 4 years. Her most recent publications are on violence against children with disabilities in the UK Journal *Disability and Society* and 'Ireland - Rape, Incest Not Grounds for Abortion' with the US Women's Policy Centre's programme on reproductive rights for the 21st Century.

**Dr. Ursula Barry** is a researcher and lecturer with the School of Social Justice, University College Dublin, Ireland specialising in gender, equality and public policy. She is a researcher for government departments, statutory agencies, NGO's and EU and author of a wide range of research reports and articles on economic and social policy, gender and equality issues in Ireland. She is a member of a range of policy development and advisory committees within the NGO and public sectors and is the Irish representative on the EU Expert Network on Gender Equality and Employment and a Senior Expert on the EU Socio-Economic Network on Non-Discrimination. She is editor and contributor to *'Where are we now – new feminist perspectives on women in contemporary Ireland'* TASC series New Island publishers 2008, and she is joint author (with Pauline Conroy) of *IRELAND 2008-2012: Untold story of the crisis – gender, equality and inequality* TASC Dublin 2012.

Ursula Barry and Pauline Conroy have collaborated on a number of gender and employment studies starting with *Women on the Edge of Time - part-time work in Ireland North and South* in 1988.

**Thora Thorsdottir** is author of *Gender (in)equality in recession and recovery: the case of Iceland* (forthcoming in *Women and Austerity*, edited by Jill Rubery and Maria Karamessini and published by Routledge). She is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at the University of Iceland. Her research interests are gender roles and the division of work, both inside and outside the household. In her Ph.D. project she compares the gender division of paid and unpaid work in the boom and in the recession in Iceland.

**Dr. Tom Healy** is Director of the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI), the remit of which is to undertake, to the benefit of the public, research and analysis on the impact of economic policy development and its effects towards the attainment of a more equitable and just society. Tom has previously worked in the Economic and Social Research Institute, the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the National Economic and Social Forum and the Department of Education and Skills. He holds a PhD (economics and sociology) from UCD. His research interests have included the impact of education and social capital on well-being.

**Helen Johnston** joined the NESI as Senior Social Policy Analyst in July 2007. Since then she has worked on issues of well-being and social reporting. Her current interests are in the area of social regulation and standards. Helen was previously Director of the Combat Poverty Agency and before that she worked at the National Disability Authority and the Equality Authority for short spells. A native of Northern Ireland, Helen has previous experience working in the Northern Ireland civil service. She is currently Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Helen has qualifications in Environmental Science, Town and Country Planning and Business Administration, and is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Governance, where she is examining the implementation of mental health policy.

**Laurence Bond** has been Head of Research at the Equality Authority since 2002. Prior to this he worked for many years in research and policy analysis in the Irish public and non-government sectors.

To register please email [aoifec@nwci.ie](mailto:aoifec@nwci.ie)