



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Gay and Lesbian Awards 2010 Finalists Announced

On September 24th 2010 Ireland's top gay celebrities Anna Nolan and Seán Musanje will host the second annual gay and lesbian awards at the Radisson Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. The National Lesbian and Gay Federation have organised the prestigious awards ceremony for the second year running to honour lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people and organisations for their contributions to society on the island of Ireland. The awards are also to honour politicians, employers and others committed to advancing equality and social acceptance for LGBT people in Ireland.

Nominations are submitted from the public in ten of the twelve award categories which are then shortlisted by a group of diverse regional community organisations. The award categories include Noel Walsh HIV Activist of the Year, Community Organisation of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Event of the Year. Other award categories recognise and celebrate efforts made by individuals and companies in areas like employment and business, as well as media and broadcasting and arts and entertainment.

Ailbhe Smyth, NLGF Chair, remarked how '2010 has witnessed some outstanding developments for Ireland's LGBT community. We have been really heartened by the tremendous response to the GALAs from the LGBT community and beyond'. She was also delighted that 'this year's GALAS have progressed with the addition of an International Activist of the Year award'. This is new award honours activists outside the island of Ireland who are working, sometimes against the odds, for LGBT human rights. The nominations for this award are put forward by a number of human rights organisations and rights groups working in Ireland and abroad, with the winner being selected by the NLGF. The recipient of this award will receive a bursary of €2000 to assist them with their efforts. Having realised the significant advances being made by particular individuals on LGBT and human rights causes globally, the NLGF, Amnesty International, Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) and Front Line Defenders have committed to bestow this award to different individuals for the following three years.

The shortlisted awards finalists are listed on the following page. Award winners will be honoured on Friday September 24th 2010 at the Radisson Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. Tickets for Ireland's biggest celebratory awards in the LGBT community are available from [www.tickets.ie](http://www.tickets.ie)

For further information on the GALAS please contact:

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### **Category 1**

### **Community Organisation of the Year**

Short-List: Marriage Equality  
Northwest Pride  
TENI

**Category 2**  
Short-List  
**Volunteer of the Year**  
John Fennell  
Maureen Looney  
Billy Rabbitte

**Category 3**  
Short-List  
**Employer of the Year**  
An Garda Síochána  
IBM  
Microsoft Ireland

**Category 4**  
Short-List  
**Business Person of the Year**  
Darina Brennan, Fire Restaurant  
Ray O'Neill, Machna  
Anita Thoma, Il Primo

**Category 5**  
Short-List  
**LGBT-Friendly Politician of the Year**  
Ivana Bacik  
Eoghan Harris  
David Norris

**Category 6**  
Short-List  
**Journalist/Broadcaster of the Year**  
Carol Coulter  
Martina Devlin  
Fintan O'Toole

**Category 7**  
Short-List  
**Online Award: Blogger/Website of the Year**  
Maman Poulet  
Marriage Equality  
Queer ID

**Category 8**  
Short-List  
**Event of the Year**  
Absolut Theatre Festival  
Dublin Pride 2010  
Growing Up Gay

**Category 9**  
Short-List  
**Noel Walsh HIV Activist Award**  
Dublin Aids Alliance  
Jimmy Goulding  
Red Ribbon

**Category 10**  
Short-List  
**Artist/Entertainer of the Year**  
Panti/Rory O'Neill  
Colm Toibín  
Dearbhla Walsh

**Category 11**  
**International Award**  
The nominations for this award will be made by a number of human rights organisations (Amnesty International, ICCL and Front Line Defenders) and the winner will be selected by the NLGF.

**Category 12**  
**Person of the Year**  
There is no short-list for this award. The winner will be selected by the NLGF.