

IFN MONTHLY

Irish Feminist Network

Monthly newsletter



OCTOBER ISSUE

IFN Official Launch



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Other upcoming feminist events and contact details for the IFN.

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Thank you...

First of all we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made it out to the launch on Thursday night. It was amazing to see so many vibrant women and men, all interested in supporting the IFN. For those who weren't able to make it, we hope to have more big events in future for you to attend.

We are also hoping to expand our events and meetings to venues outside of Dublin in the coming months. So look out for future notices!

Now that we have such an extensive mailing list we decided that the best way to keep in touch is a monthly newsletter. However, if events come up after the newsletter has been sent out, we will send them as individual invitations.

This month's newsletter includes photos and media from the launch as well as details for upcoming events. We hope you enjoy Issue 1 of the IFN news.

IFN Official Launch – Media and Photos

Network plans to promote feminism

- By Genevieve Carbery, Irish Times, October 1, 2010

AN ORGANISATION that hopes to make feminism more relevant to a new generation was officially established last night. The Irish Feminist Network aims to promote gender equality and make feminism accessible. The network was started last May by masters students at the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies in Trinity College Dublin.

"We were becoming more and more aware of the inequalities and the regression of women's role," said spokeswoman Madeline Hawke, referring to a lack of representation of women in politics; budget cuts affecting women; and statistics showing women earn less than men. The network wants to have a mainstream appeal to a broad range of young women as well as the established older feminists. "We want to destigmatise feminism and draw new women who are not self-identified feminists and who never thought about getting involved," said Ms Hawke.

The five aims of the network are: reclaiming feminism as a voice for change, involving young women in the movement, raising awareness, building alliances and increasing women's political and media representation. The committee includes former women's studies students Ursula Hughes, Dolores Gibbon and Madeline Hawke as well as former Union of Students in Ireland equality officer Linda Kelly and Amanda King from Shannon.

"Hundreds of young women have been writing to us saying that they were happy to get involved," Ms Hawke said. The group has some 800 Facebook supporters and 100 people, mainly women, attended last night's meeting. This breaks down the myth that young women do not want to be labelled feminists, Ms Hawke said. "Women have been realising that sexism still exists."

Susan McKay of the National Women's Council told the meeting it was "disturbing that the invisibility of women was no longer noticed". Labour senator Ivana Bacik said that the Dáil would not be any less male after the next election "unless we push for change".

The group is planning to hold a wide range of cultural and activist events to make feminism accessible.



From left to right: Senator Ivana Bacik, Amanda King, Madeline Hawke, Susan McKay, Anthea McTeirnan.



IFN Events

- Thursday, October 7 at 8pm.

The IFN Book Club will be meeting. This month's venue is The Mercantile Bar, 28 Dame St in Dublin.

- Sunday, October 10 at 3:20pm.

The IFN Film Club will be meeting. This month's venue is Cineworld, Parnell St in Dublin.

For those outside of Dublin, we hope to include you in an online discussion about the film or book featured in either club.

Each month we will put up a discussion on the discussion board of our facebook group where people can share their thoughts and opinions on the film or book of the month.

Got some ideas for future IFN events?

Contact us at irishfeministnetwork@gmail.com

OR

[facebook.com/irishfemnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/irishfemnetwork)

If you would like to hold your own branch of the IFN film or book club in your area, get in touch with us at irishfeministnetwork@gmail.com



Coming soon...

'Feminism in the Pub'



Based on the Australian series 'Spirituality in the Pub', 'Feminism in the Pub' will be a travelling discussion group aimed at including our members outside of Dublin in the feminist discussion.

The purpose of 'Feminism in the Pub' is to stimulate conversation, with the hope of creating a safe environment for learning and discussion of feminist issues. In such conversations we want to hear the longings, insights, questions, needs and aspirations of participants. In this way we seek to understand and gain insight into the contemporary Irish feminist movement. Thus conversations are geared around what is currently happening in the Irish Feminist movement.

The format of the evening will be as follows:

- Each event goes for around an hour and a half
- There are two speakers
- Each speaker is given 15 minutes to present a point of view
- Following the presentations there is then an open forum in which people are invited to ask questions of the presenters or put forward their own point of view

If you would like 'Feminism in the Pub' to visit your area, please contact us at irishfeministnetwork@gmail.com

Other feminist going's on...

Wednesday, 6 October, 7pm.

Cork Feminista is holding its October meeting at the Gate Cinema, North Main St in Cork. This month's meeting is a trip to the movies to see "Made in Dagenham".

For more information visit:
[facebook.com/CorkFeminista](https://www.facebook.com/CorkFeminista)

Monday, 11 October, 2-4pm.

An analysis of the 'Anti-trafficking provisions in the Immigration Residence and Protection Bill 2010' will be carried out by solicitor Hillka Becker. The event is to be held at Immigrant Council of Ireland, 2 St Andrew st, Dublin 2.

For more information and to RSVP email:
nusha@immigrantcouncil.ie

Thursday, 14 October, 7:30pm.

Feminist Open Forum is holding its October meeting at Exchange Dublin, Exchange St Upper, Temple Bar, Dublin. The theme of the event is "Do the unions belong to women?"

For more information visit:
twitter.com/FeministForum

Thursday, 21 October, 9am.

All Island Conference on Combating Rural Poverty and Social Exclusion to be held at Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

For more information visit:
www.pobal.ie

Wednesday, 27 October, 7pm.

UCD Literary and Historical Society will be debating the motion "This house believes that gender equality is a thing of the past". Madeline Hawke from the IFN will be one of the guest debaters.

Saturday, 30 October, 9am.

Claiming Our Future event to be held at Industries Hall, RDS, Dublin.

For more information visit:
www.claimingourfuture.ie

If you would like us to advertise your feminist event please send time, date, venue, link to more information and name of event to irishfeministnetwork@gmail.com

Furthermore, if you would like to contact us for any other reason you can find us at:
[facebook.com/irishfemnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/irishfemnetwork),
twitter.com/irishfemnetwork,
irishfeministnetwork@gmail.com