



Labour
Youth



**TOM JOHNSON'S
SUMMER SCHOOL
2023
DUBLIN**



Wynn's Hotel, Dublin City Centre
Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd July 2023

www.labour.ie/tomjohnson

Introduction



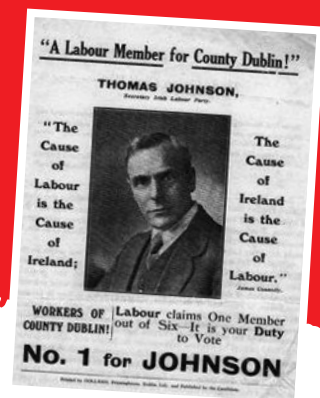
This year's Tom Johnson Summer School is all about creating a vision for the future of democratic society in Ireland.

How do we build and maintain a just and equitable society worth living in?

Tackling these important questions will be our incredible panellists and guest speakers. With discussions ranging from the hot topic of the housing crisis, to how we build and develop the institutional competency necessary to solve these fundamental issues within Irish society. Join us as we examine the barriers needed to break down to bring about the Ireland envisioned by James Connolly and Tom Johnson through social reform and the very foundations of Ireland, constitutional reform.

This year, Labour youth selected Leon Diop of Black and Irish as the worthy recipient of the Jim Kemmy Thirst for Justice award.

Schedule



Friday 21st July

- 6pm** **Registration opens**
- 6.45pm** **Welcome address by Senator Marie Sherlock**
- 7pm** **Panel – BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCE - TOWARDS A STAKEHOLDER SOCIETY**
- Dr Laura Bambrick - Irish Congress of Trade Union
 - Adam Harris - CEO of Aslam (Ireland's National Autism Charity)
 - Sam Tolland - CEO of Dublin Food Co-operative Society
 - Aoife Smith - CEO of Great Care Cooperative
- 8.30pm** **Keynote address by Esther Lynch**, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- 9.30pm** **Presentation of the Jim Kenny Thirst for Justice Award 2023 to Leon Diop** of Black and Irish

Saturday 22nd July

- 10am** **Panel – MUNICIPAL DREAMS - SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEM**
- Jose Ospina - Chairman of CHA & Author of "Housing Ourselves"
 - Alison Gilliland - Former Lord Mayor of Dublin & Chair of Dublin City Council Housing SPC
 - Keiran O'Neill - UK Labour & Co-operative Member of Glasgow City Council
 - Councillor Dermot Lacey - Former Lord Mayor of Dublin

- 11.30am Panel – DEEDS AND WORDS -
THE NECESSITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**
- Annie Hoey - Senator, Co-chair of the All-party Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
 - Carmel Seery - Women's Network Ireland
 - Katie Deegan - Women for Election

12.45pm Lunch

- 2pm Panel - FROM THE PLOUGH TO THE STARS - DEVELOPING
AGRICULTURE & PROTECTING FARMERS**
- Patrick Mc Cormack - President of Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
 - Mona O'Donoghue Concannon - Women in Agriculture Stakeholders' Group
 - Mark Roberts - Director of Irish Pig Society Co-operative

- 3.30pm Panel – EQUITABLE EARLY YEARS - ESTABLISHING
UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE**
- Eilish Balfe - SIPTU 'Big Start' National Committee
 - Bernadette Burke - CEO of Childminding Ireland (National Childminding Association)
 - John Davy- Advocate for Equitable Early Years.
 - Andrea Cleere - Kilkenny County Childcare Company
 - Will Pollard - SDLP

7pm Gala Dinner

Featuring speeches by:

- Tadhg Quill-Manley - Director of the Tom Johnson Summer School, Labour Youth Policy and Education Officer
- Labour Party Leader Ivana Bacik TD

Sunday 23rd July

- 11am Workshop - CANVA WITH COMRADES**
- Learning transferable skills to help bring in the revolution.

Keynote Speaker



Esther Lynch

Esther Lynch is the General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation.

Previously, Ms Lynch was Deputy General Secretary at the ETUC from 2019 to 2022, following four years as Confederal Secretary. Esther led on social dialogue, collective bargaining and wage policy, trade union rights, gender equality. She has extensive trade union experience at Irish, European and international levels, starting with her election as a shop steward in the 1980s. Before coming to the ETUC, she was the Legislation and Social Affairs Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), where she took part in negotiations on Ireland's National Social Partner Agreements.

As Deputy General Secretary and as Confederal Secretary she led successful actions aimed at improving workers and trade union rights in legislative initiatives such as the Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages, the Transparent and Predicable Working Conditions Directive and the Whistleblowing Directive, she also ran a successful campaign that mobilised support for the European Pillar of Social Rights and the ETUC's 'Europe Needs a Pay Rise' campaign. In addition to securing the adoption of 15 legally binding occupational exposure limits to protect workers from exposure to carcinogens, as well as concluding social partners' agreements on digitalisation and on reprotoxins. A lifelong feminist, Esther is pushing for measures to end the undervaluing of work predominantly done by women.

Speakers



Ivana Bacik TD

Ivana Bacik TD is the Leader of the Labour Party and TD for Dublin Bay South. She was first elected as a Senator on the Dublin University panel in 2007, and was re-elected at each subsequent Seanad election before being elected to the Dáil in July 2021. A lifelong feminist, Ivana has a long track record of campaigning on feminist and human rights issues. In 2018 she was Chairperson of the Oireachtas Vótáil100 Programme, the series of events run to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in Ireland. She was also Chairperson of the Special Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality, which was charged with considering the recommendations in the Report of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality. For many years, Ivana was the Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College Dublin, and has published extensively on criminal law, criminology, human rights, constitutional law and related matters.



**Dr Laura
Bambrick**

*Social Policy and Employment Affairs Officer
Irish Congress of Trade Unions*

Within the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Laura has responsibility for income protection policy and quality of life issues for workers and their families. ICTU is the representative body for 46 unions and seven associate members and is the largest civil society organisation on the island of Ireland.

Laura previously worked for the Labour Party as a parliamentary assistant to Michael Conaghan, a former Lord Mayor of Dublin, twenty-year Councillor for Ballyfermot and TD for Dublin South Central. She also worked for Joan Burton during her term as Party Leader, Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection.

A graduate of Trinity College Dublin with a BA in social policy, and a MSc and PhD in social policy from Oxford University.



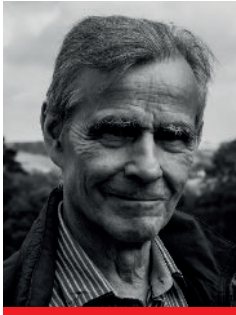
Adam Harris

Adam set up AsIAM based on his own experiences growing up as a young autistic person in Ireland. Diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome from an early age, the condition was far less understood or even known as it is today. Having spent his initial school years within the special education stream, he moved to a mainstream school in Second Class and was supported by an SNA.

Adam Harris is the Founder and CEO of AsIAM, Ireland's National Autism Charity. Adam founded the organisation based on his own experiences growing up on the autism spectrum. Today, AsIAM provides support to the autism people and their families, advocates on behalf of the community, and works to support public and private sector organisations and communities in becoming inclusive and accessible.

A Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awardee, Adam is a frequent contributor to media and conferences in

Ireland and overseas. He has also sat and advised on many government consultative and policy committees on disability rights and inclusion. From Greystones in Co Wicklow, Adam was appointed to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in July 2020.



Jose Ospina

José Ospina began working in housing in 1973, as student at Bristol University, he founded Bristol Self-Help Housing Association,, a housing association using empty property for short term housing for students and single people, which still operates today. The Association progressed from having no homes at all to begin with to managing 100 homes and housing around 300 homeless persons.

He holds an MA in Architecture at Institute of Advanced Architectural studies inYork University, aa Certificate in Housing Association Finance from the Housing Corporation and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Housing Association Development Management from the University of Westminster. He is also a (former) BER assessor. His book Housing Ourselves which was published by Hilary Shipman in 1987).

In 1986 he was employed by CHISEL (Cooperative Housing in Southeast London) as Development Manager, responsible for short-term housing, rehabilitation of existing properties and new buildings for rent. He developed several co-operative self-build projects using an innovative development model which he designed, the CHISEL Self-Build for Rent Model. These self build projects (Diggers Self Build and Fusions Jameen Self Build Co-op) were awarded various design awards, and showcased in Kevin McCloud's "Grand Designs" TV series.

In 1986 he moved to Ireland as Development Manager for the UK based Novas Overtures Group, where he set up an Approved Housing Body that later became Novas Ireland and still operates today providing housing for homeless people. In 2001 Carbery Housing Association (CHA) was set up by local residents in Skibbereen and Baltimore concerned at the growing housing crisis and lack of affordable homes for rent locally, and became its Secretary and later (and currently) Char of the new Association.

CHA now owns 21 homes, has an annual turnover of 200,000 p/a excluding capital expenditure and employs a part-time Operations Manager and has

saved approximately 50 people from homelessness, including the children of the former homeowners.

CHA is also a Sustainable Energy Community registered with SEAI, and has carried out a Master Plan that contains the objective of retrofitting all its homes to the B2 standard by 203. This is well on the way to being achieved, with financial support from SEAI and European Funding under the Interreg NWE Programme.

Jose works as Development Consultant and Project Manager, currently at the Centre for Architectural Studies at UCC and the NCE Energy Hub in North Cork. Past employers include CECOP (European confederation of social and production co-operatives), Co-op Home Services (London), Bournemouth Churches Housing Association, Bootstrap Enterprises, the Walter Segal Trust, London Borough of Bromley, Get Tallaght Working, the Dublin Arts Centre, Dublin City Council, Cork County Council and the Presentation Order.

He has also worked as Expert Evaluator for the European Commission on the Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme, URBACT, LIFE and the Urban Innovative Actions Programme, assessing housing, energy and environmental projects. He also qualified as a Building Energy Rating (BER) assessor, registered with Sustainable Energy Ireland. His book "Housing Ourselves", published in 1987, deals with user-participation in housing, and has recently provided training for Retrofit Advisors for the international training provider GENERATION.



CLlr Alison Gilliland

Councillor Alison Gilliland has been a Dublin City Councillor for the Labour Party since 2014. She is the Chairperson of the Dublin City Council Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and led the drafting and adoption of the Dublin City Council position on public housing <https://councilmeetings.dublincity.ie/documents/s33217/193%20Public%20Housing%20Working%20Group.pdf>

Alison is also Chairperson of the Special Inter-authority Committee on Fire and Ambulance Services and CLlr Emergency Management. She is also an alternate member to the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and sits on the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX). Alison is the shadow rapporteur for the CoR's position for the Conference of the Parties 28th Climate Change Talks (COP28), in particular the role of sub-national government in keeping climate ambition on track and is a member of the CoR Delegation to COP28 in Dubai in December 2023.

Alison was elected Lord Mayor of Dublin in June 2021 serving a one-year term. Her priorities for her year in office were the sustainable post-Covid recovery of the city, housing and the promotion of women and girls. She established a new cultural programme celebrating the contribution of women to the city of Dublin entitled Brigit: Dublin City Celebrating Women and, along with author Clodagh Finn, published a book Her keys to the City: Honouring the Women who made Dublin.

Alison has a background in education and trade unionism. She has worked as a primary school teacher as a Senior Official with the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) where she headed up the INTO Learning Section and was their Equality Officer. Alison believes in lifelong learning. her most significant learning achievement is a Doctorate in Education from the University of Nottingham awarded for her research into young teacher union activists' views and experiences of involvement, voice, and agency in their union and its influence on their concept of professionalism.



Keiran O'Neill

Keiran O'Neill is the Scottish Labour and Co-operative Councillor for the Maryhill Ward on Glasgow City Council having been elected in May 2022. He is a GMB branch secretary and shop steward having been involved in a number of industrial and political campaigns. Keiran is currently a Scottish Organiser for the Scottish Labour Party having previously worked in Scottish and UK Parliaments.



Dermot Lacey

Dermot Lacey has twice served as Chairperson of the Dublin City Council Housing, Social and Community Affairs SPC. He was previously Chairperson of the Dublin Regional Authority, the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly. He has been a Councillor since 1993 and has served as Lord Mayor of Dublin. He was a member of the board of the Royal Hospital Donnybrook Voluntary Housing Association and is a member of the main Hospital Board and a founder member of Beech Hill Housing Initiative that constructed nine social/affordable houses recently.

His other positions include Leader of the Labour Group on the City Council; a member of the Dublin City Education and Training Board (formerly the VEC) was on the Board of FAS and the Dublin Docklands Development Council. He proposed the introduction of the 20% Social and Affordable Housing requirement in the Docklands area a move that was followed by legislation across the Country for all developments. He published proposals "A Fair City - One Dublin Many Dubliners". From 1990 to 2002 he served as National Youth Officer for the Labour Party during which the Tom Johnson Summer School was initiated. He is a lifelong member of the Scout Movement.



Annie Hoey

Annie is a Labour Party Senator on the Agricultural Panel in the Seanad. Originally from Drogheda, she began her public office life as Councillor in Meath, before joining the Seanad in 2020.

Annie is the Labour Party Spokesperson on Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and has a strong record on advocating on student issues. Annie introduced legislation in the Seanad for student nurses and midwives to be paid for the work they do in hospitals during their training. Annie has also been campaigning to remove barriers to accessing higher education as well improved conditions and pay for PhD Researchers.

As a Senator, Annie continues to effect change through diversity, inclusion, equality and acceptance. She has a rich history of activism on a plethora of issues ranging from LGBT+ rights, reproductive justice, animal welfare, and health.



Katie Deegan

Katie Deegan, Communications & External Relations Coordinator

Katie joined the Women for Election team as Training and Engagement lead in October 2022. Before that she worked in Leinster house with the labour Party press office doing digital media. After graduating with her degree in Business Management from Maynooth University she was elected Deputy President and VP of Education of the Students' Union. After that year she was elected the first female president of Maynooth SU in over 10 years. During her time in Maynooth Students' Union she advocated to remove the barriers that there are to accessing higher education, diversifying the representation of the union and constitutional reforms.



Mark Roberts

Coming into farming only in the last few years and coming from an entirely different background. A senior manager in automotive in the UK and a director role in Pharma in Ireland, taking early retirement in June 23. Farming a small piece of land in an ethical and sustainable manner in Laois. Although taking early retirement certainly hasn't curtailed the workload!

Working with his partner Janine between them they farm both pigs and sheep, although they do have the addition of poultry largely for their own use. Although the pigs often get any excess. That's not to mention homegrown vegetables.

Mark took a Director role in the recently revamped Irish Pig Society Cooperative. A small organisation specialising in supplying outdoor raised pork to butchers and clients alike. This has taken several months to get in place and is still in the transitioning phase, so much so we now undergoing a full rebranding complete with a name change, "Irish Outdoor Pig Farmers." Hopefully in the very near future this brand name will become synonymous with quality ethical pork produce.



Eilish Balfe

Eilish Balfe has a BA Hons Degree in Early Childhood Education and Care and a Masters in Social Policy. She is a trade union activist for SIPTU and sat on the JLC committee to negotiate the historic pay deal. Eilish worked in Early Years for 16 years but is now the Care Officer for the National Women's Council. She is also a Local Area Rep for Labour in Ratoath LEA in Co. Meath



Will Polland

Will Polland is the current chair of the SDLP at Queen's University Belfast, and was the SDLP's youngest election candidate in the 2023 Local Elections in which he ran in his home area of Slieve Croob.

Will got involved with the SDLP and politics as he saw that his community was being let down by stop-start politics in the North, and he believes that the only way to end the division in the North is to work towards a New, Shared Ireland for all.

Will has developed a particular passion in his campaigning to address issues surrounding education and child care, as they can be key factors for increasing social mobility in our society and breaking down class and social divisions.



**Bernadette
Burke**

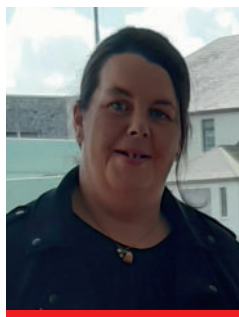
Childminding Ireland Chief Executive – Bernadette Orbinski Burke

Bernadette joined Childminding Ireland as the Chief Executive in October 2013, and continues to enjoy the challenging work, and the fact that no two weeks are the same. Prior to joining Childminding Ireland, Bernadette had experience of senior roles in both large and small organisations. Being able to draw on skills gained in these environments has been an asset in her current role. The majority of Bernadette's career has been with membership organisations, such as the medical, humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) where she had the responsibility of holding a senior

position as second in command to two consecutive international presidents. This has left her very conscious of the need for proximity whilst advocating on behalf of member issues and also the need for a committed team loyal to the ethos of the organisation around you.

Bernadette has also worked on the other side of the coin, for the Department of Health in Edinburgh, so has an understanding of how government departments can work.

Bernadette firmly believes in the benefits of childminding for children, families and communities and is committed to Childminding Ireland's work representing and advocating for childminding during this period of unprecedented change in the sector.



**Mona
Donoghue**

Mona O'Donoghue Concannon is a family carer caring for her brother who has an acquired brain injury. Since caring for her brother was extremely stressful and isolating she had to find a balance in life. In 2009 she started to help out on the family farm. She now helps in the running of a dairy beef and suckler farm in Co. Galway. Through community interaction she realised women in agriculture needed advocates as a lot of women were forgotten about. Though her many voluntary roles in agriculture she became ICSA Vice President in 2017 - a female first for the organisation. WASG was established in 2020 and ICSA were delighted to nominate Mona as their representative. In 2022 following Hannah Quinn Mulligans departure from WASG Mona was elected interim chair. WASG now advocates for women in agriculture through research and liaising with women, actively empowering them through recognition of importance and support to achieve their desires.



**Senator
Marie Sherlock**

Senator Marie Sherlock is the Labour Party Spokesperson on Employment Affairs, Media, Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht.

A proud Corkonian living and working in the North County Dublin, Marie has been a lifelong trade unionist, having worked for SIPTU since the early 2000s.

Marie did an undergraduate degree in Economics and Politics at TCD, then went on to undertake an MPhil in Cambridge University in Regional, Urban and Environmental Economics (Land Economy).

Since her election to the Seanad Marie has worked tirelessly to advocate for better wages and protections for workers, notably she introduced legislation to ban unpaid internships, to regulate platform work, to bring in paid sick leave for all workers, and to give more protections to people working from home and their right to disconnect.



Leon Diop

Leon is a mixed race man from Dublin. His mother is from Ireland and his father is from Senegal. He is the first in his family to go to college and was the first ever black student union president of Maynooth Students' Union. He is the founder of Black and Irish which has now amassed 55,000+ followers and is growing as an advocacy body for the Black community in Ireland. He hosts the Black and Irish podcast through RTE and is set to publish his first book this October. He recently spoke at the Ireland for All rally and wants to see more collaboration across progressive organisations and parties to put an end to the rise of the far right.



Pat McCormack

Pat McCormack is the President of ICMSA and has a spring-calving dairy herd in Greenane, near Tipperary town supplying Tipperary Co-op. At the time of his election in 2017, he was the youngest individual elected to the position and he is now in his sixth year of a six-year term. He previously chaired the organisation's Dairy Committee and was Deputy President from 2011-2016. He is a board member of Ornua, An Bord Bia and the European Milk Board (EMB) and is a former board member of the National Dairy Council. He was a member of the Food Vision 2030 Stakeholder Strategy Committee and is a member of both the Dairy Vision Group and the Beef & Sheep Vision Group.



Sam Tolland

Sam Tolland is an experienced Company Secretary and professional in the fields of corporate governance, and co-operative development. Currently serving as Co-operative Secretary of Dublin Food Co-op, he also has extensive experience in supporting various co-operatives and social enterprises across Ireland. With a keen interest in Co-operative Law and Social Enterprise policy, Sam actively contributes to creating a favourable environment for sustainable and socially responsible enterprise in Ireland.



Carmel Seery

Carmel has run her own Strategic Management Accounting business for the past 5 years, focusing on the ecommerce micro business sector and specialising in cashflow. Previously, Carmel spent 20 years with a number of high profile companies in the telecom and computer sectors, based in Ireland and UK. Carmel is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and was Network Ireland Dublin branch president in 2022.



Aoife Smith

Aoife Smith is cofounder and CEO of The Great Care Co-op, Ireland's first care work co-operative in home care. She is passionate about social enterprise and community development, having worked in the sector for 15 years. She is driven by working directly with communities to innovate and problem solve complex social issues.

