

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE



A Guide to children's EU rights in Ireland



Programme

- 9.15 Registration
- 9.30 Introduction from **Tanya Ward, Chief Executive**
- 9.35 Keynote address from **Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Special Rapporteur for Child Protection**
- 10.05 **Natalie McDonnell BL** – Brussels IIBis regulation (family law proceedings/child abduction)
- 10.25 **Hilka Becker, Senior Solicitor Immigrant Council of Ireland** – Citizenship and Freedom of Movement
- 10.45 Q&A
- 11.00 Break
- 11.20 **Billy Hawkes, Data Protection Commissioner**
- 11.40 **Eilis Barry, BL** – Equality and Non-discrimination
- 12.00 Q&A
- 12.15 Conclusion and thanks from **Tanya Ward, Chief Executive**
- 12.30 End

Speaker Biographies

Geoffrey Shannon

Dr Geoffrey Shannon is a solicitor and Special Rapporteur for Child Protection.

He is the Chairman of the Adoption Authority of Ireland and the author of Child Law.

In 2010, he was appointed by the Minister for Children along with Norah Gibbons to conduct a review of 196 children who have died in the care of the state in the last ten years. The review was published in June 2012.

Geoffrey is the recipient of the Canon Maurice Handy award and an Award by the Chamber of Commerce for Outstanding Contribution to Children.

Natalie McDonnell

Natalie McDonnell is a practicing barrister and a lecturer in Child and Family Law at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.

Hilkka Becker

Hilkka Becker is a senior solicitor with the Immigrant Council of Ireland – Independent Law Centre. She is a graduate of law of the University of Hamburg and is also qualified to practice law in Germany. Hilkka holds a post graduate diploma in employment law from UCD and a Certificate in Judicial Review from the Law Society of Ireland. She was admitted to the roll of solicitors by the Law Society of Ireland in 2003.

Hilkka is a member of the European Immigration Lawyers' Network and has worked as a trainer and international legal consultant with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Council of Europe. She is a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of Ireland and teaches regularly on immigration and citizenship law. Hilkka has recently been appointed as a member of the Refugee Appeals Tribunal.

Billy Hawkes

Billy Hawkes was appointed as Irish Data Protection Commissioner in 2005 for a five-year term. He was re-appointed in 2010 for a further 5 years.

Prior to his appointment, he worked as a Civil Servant in a number of Government Departments, including Finance, Foreign Affairs and Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Eilis Barry

Eilis Barry is a barrister specialising in employment and all types of equality and anti-discrimination law. She worked as the legal adviser to the Equality Authority from 2000-2009 when she returned to the law library.

She is co-editor of "Equality in Diversity" which dealt with the implementation of the anti-discrimination Directive into Ireland."