

**Biographies of Participants at the St Brigid's Day Event at the Irish Embassy, London  
1 February 2022**

**Panel: Women and the Climate Emergency**



**Moderator: Dr Sinéad Walsh**

Dr Sinéad Walsh is Climate Director with Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs since 2020. Prior to this, she served as the EU Ambassador to South Sudan, and as the Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Head of Irish Aid in the two countries, based in Freetown, from 2011 to 2016. Sinéad was also a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in 2016/17.

Before joining the Irish Government, Sinéad spent 10 years in the NGO sector, predominantly with Concern Worldwide, working in India, Pakistan, Rwanda, and South Sudan, as well as in a global advocacy role. She has a BA from Harvard University, an MSc in Development Studies from University College Dublin, and a PhD in Social Policy from the London School of Economics. Sinéad is the co-author of *Getting to Zero: A Doctor and A Diplomat on the Ebola Frontline*.



**Fiona Harvey**

Fiona Harvey is an award-winning journalist who has covered the environment since 2004, at *The Financial Times* and subsequently for *The Guardian* newspaper. She has written extensively on every environmental issue, from air pollution and biodiversity to ocean plastic and climate change. Her assignments have taken her as far afield as the Arctic and the Amazon, and she has attended almost every UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP) since 2004, including reporting live from the 2015 Paris conference.

The long list of major world figures Fiona has interviewed includes Antonio Guterres, Ban Ki-moon, Tony Blair, Jose Manuel Barroso, Noam Chomsky, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Sir David Attenborough.

Among numerous awards and recognitions, Fiona has twice won the Foreign Press Association award for Environment Story of the Year, as well as the British Environment and Media Awards Journalist of the Year. In 2020, she was named in the Woman's Hour Power List of 30 Top UK Women, focusing on Our Planet.

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**Aoibheann O'Brien**

Aoibheann O'Brien is co-founder and Partnerships Director of the award-winning social enterprise FoodCloud. Founded in 2013, FoodCloud's vision is for a world where no good food goes to waste. FoodCloud have established two national solutions for food redistribution in Ireland: a network of three food banks that redistribute large quantities of surplus food across Ireland, and a technology solution that connects retailers directly to local charities. FoodCloud's technology is also being used in the UK and Central Europe to support similar organisations to grow their impact.

Aoibheann was the recipient of the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Impact award and Green Entrepreneur of the Year in 2014. In 2017, Aoibheann received the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Special Achievement Award, and was named the overall winner of the IMAGE Businesswoman of the Year Award. In 2018, she also received a Humanitarian Award from the Irish Red Cross.

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**Katie Ann McGuigan**



**Beth Doherty**

Beth Doherty is an 18-year-old activist from Dublin. She began organising climate strikes in Dublin in February 2019, and since then has worked nationally and internationally with a focus on climate justice, policy, and education. She attended the Climate Case Ireland Supreme Court hearing in July 2020, and was the Sustainability Officer of the Irish Second-Level Students' Union from 2020-21. She attended CoP 26 this November, and is currently studying Law at Cambridge.

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