

The United Nations and The Embassy of Ireland present:

## The Queen of Ireland

This screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring:



### Rory O'Neill

Rory grew up in County Mayo, Ireland, and has since become a national figure campaigning for LGBT+ rights both in Ireland and beyond. Created by Rory O'Neill, *Panti* is also an accidental activist and in her own words 'a court jester, whose role is to say the un-sayable'. In recent years, Rory has become a figurehead for LGBT rights in Ireland and since the 2014 scandal around *Pantigate*, his fight for equality and against homophobia has become recognised across the world. 'The Queen of Ireland' tells the story of Rory and the ongoing evolution of Ireland into a truly equal society, as seen through the eyes of one of its most vivid, morally courageous and downright entertaining citizens.



### Caroline Mellows

Caroline Mellows joined the Department of Justice and Equality in Ireland in September 2017. She is an Assistant principal in the Equality and Human Rights Division where she has responsibility for development of the National LGBTI strategy and management of a wide range of international human rights reporting obligations. She also has responsibility for EU fundamental rights issues and has represented Ireland in negotiations on the proposed EU Accessibility Act. She is passionate about equality and mental health, and in her current role worked on the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which came into force in Ireland in April of 2018.



### Claude Cahn

Claude Cahn has worked in multiple capacities for OHCHR since 2009, in Moldova, Serbia and currently the Regional Office for Europe in Brussels. He was previously Head of Advocacy Unit with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (2007-2009). Between 1996 and 2007, he worked for the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC). Mr. Cahn's areas of expertise include human rights law and policy, equality and anti-discrimination law, minority rights, economic and social rights, migration and refugee law, environmental justice, the law of the rights of persons with disabilities, human rights in the field of health, and matters relating to Romani communities. He holds degrees in Law, History and Literature.



### Carlos Jimenez

Carlos Jimenez is the Desk Officer for Spain and Andorra at UNRIC, the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.



### Introduced by: Helena Nolan

H.E. Ms. Helena Nolan, Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Liaison Office of Ireland to EAPC and PfP. Ambassador Nolan has previously served in Dar Es Salaam, London and Kuala Lumpur and prior to her posting to Belgium was Director of the Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Follow the discussion on Twitter and Facebook:



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The mandate of the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe is promote and protect human rights in the EU. Through the integration of the UN’s human rights standards into EU-wide policies, legislation and implementation measures, the Regional Office aims to help address human rights challenges in Europe. It also seeks to ensure the integration of the UN’s human rights perspective in external EU policies and activities. To this end, the Office provides policy advocacy and advisory services and works with governments, parliaments, judicial and national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and the UN Team in Brussels.



More than a third of the world’s countries criminalize consensual, loving same-sex relationships, entrenching prejudice and putting millions of people at risk of blackmail, arrest and imprisonment. In July 2013, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched UN Free & Equal – an unprecedented global UN public information campaign aimed at promoting equal rights and fair treatment of LGBTI people. The UN Free & Equal campaign is an initiative of the United Nations Human Rights Office and implemented with support from UN and non-UN partners at the country level. In 2017, UN Free & Equal reached 2.4 billion social media feeds around the world and generated a stream of widely shared materials – including powerful videos, impactful graphics and plain-language fact sheets.

Our screening of ‘The Queen of Ireland’ comes on the anniversary of the ‘YES’ vote for same-sex marriage referendum held by Ireland three years ago. A landmark result for both Ireland and wider movements, a resounding victory for Human Rights. #Standup4HumanRights



The 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights campaign has three core objectives: to promote, engage and reflect. Our aim is to engage a broad base of audiences the world over; to help promote understanding of how the Universal Declaration empowers us all; and encourage further reflection on the ways that each of us can stand up for rights, every day. The anniversary is a chance for the world to celebrate the gift of the Universal Declaration and to help reaffirm the enduring human rights principles and standards it has helped establish.



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland



UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit [www.unric.org](http://www.unric.org) for more information.