

Launch of the Eavan Boland Poem ‘Our Future Will Become the Past of Other Women’

Location: Trusteeship Chamber, UN Headquarters.

Time: 13.15 – 14.00

Planned Run of Show:

- 13.15 Welcome and introduction by Ambassador Byrne Nason of Ireland
- 13.20 Remarks by President of the General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces
- 13.25 Remarks by Katherine Zappone T.D., Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ireland
- 13.30 Reading of the Poem by the poet, Eavan Boland (in English)
- 13.45 Reading of sections of the poem in the official UN languages and Irish
- 13.55 Closing remarks by Ambassador Byrne Nason

Background:

The Permanent Mission of Ireland commissioned a poem by the leading Irish poet Eavan Boland to mark 100 years since the women of Ireland won the right to suffrage and first cast their ballots in the 1918 election. The poem marks this important anniversary, and celebrates the progress made in the 100 years since. It also recognises that to achieve gender equality much work remains to be done, including at the United Nations and the Commission on the Status of Women, which Ireland is currently chairing.

When completed by Eavan Boland, the poem was professionally translated into all of the UN languages, and into our native Irish, so as to share the beauty and amplify the message of the poem globally. Eavan Boland also has an important personal link to the UN in that her late father Ambassador Frederick Boland was our first Permanent Representative, and Ireland’s only ever President of the General Assembly from 1960-1961.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy together produced a rare limited edition book illustrated by the renowned illustrator Paula McGloin.

The poem appears in 7 languages with translations by poets Reem Dawood (Arabic), Huiyi Bao (Chinese), Pura López-Colomé (Spanish), Aifric Mac Aodha (Irish), Grigory Kruzikov (Russian) and Clíona Ní Ríordáin (French).

Bio of Eavan Boland:

[Eavan Boland](#) is an Irish poet and author whose work deals with Irish national identity and the role of women in Irish history. Her father was Ambassador Frederick Boland, the Irish diplomat who was Ireland’s first Permanent Representative when we joined the United Nations in 1955. He was also Ireland’s only ever President of the General Assembly for the 1960-1961 term.

She has received a Lannan Foundation Award in Poetry; an American-Ireland Fund Literary Award; the Corrington Medal for Literary Excellence; the Bucknell Medal of Distinction; and a PEN Award for creative nonfiction for a collection of her essays. She is currently Bella Mabury and Eloise Mabury Knapp Professor in the Humanities and Melvin and Bill Lane Professor and Director of the Creative Writing program at Stanford University.

Bio of Paula McGloin:

[Paula McGloin](#) is a Dublin-based illustrator and surface pattern designer. She illustrated the book *All Through the Night* by Marie Heaney, shortlisted in two categories at the Irish Book Awards 2016. Paula is a member of Illustrators Guild of Ireland and the Association of Illustrators (UK).

The Royal Irish Academy

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA; Irish: Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann), based in Dublin, is an all-Ireland, independent academic body that promotes study and excellence in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. It is one of Ireland's premier learned societies and cultural institutions, and currently has around 501 members including Honorary Members, elected in recognition of their academic achievements. The Academy was established in 1785 and granted a royal charter in 1786.