

Agenda: Day 1

Wednesday, 19th November

- 10.30am** **Registration**
- 11.00am** **Welcome**
John D’Arcy, AONTAS Chairperson
- 11.10am** **Performance**
Forever Young Community Choir
- 11.25am** **Official Opening**
Minister Marian Harkin, Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- 11.40am** **Launch of Learner Voices Across Ireland: The National FET Learner Forum Report, 2024-2025**
- **Aisling Meyler**, AONTAS Research Officer Learner Initiatives
 - **Karyn Farrell**, AONTAS Learner Voice Project Officer
 - **Dr Philip Finn**, AONTAS Research Officer
 - **Dr Thomas Murray**, AONTAS Head of Research
- 12.10pm** **Learner Voice Panel Discussion**
- **Ruby Cooney**, AONTAS Education Projects Officer, Chair
 - **Alex Stevenson**, Learning and Work, England
 - **Brenda Ivers**, Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
 - **Dr Thomas Murray**, AONTAS Head of Research
 - **Jude Ebo-serme Richard**, Adult Learner with Louth and Meath Education and Training Board
- 12.50pm** **Learner Spotlight**
Cathy Clear, Adult Literacy Learner with Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board
- 1.00pm** **Lunch break**



1.40pm

Workshop 1: Making Learner Voice Visible in Practice

(Box 441)

- **Karyn Farrell**, AONTAS Learner Voice Projects Officer
- **Ruby Cooney**, AONTAS Educations Project Officer

Workshop 2: Transformative Education in Times of Polarisation

(Havelock West)

Dr Sarah Sartori, Higher Education Strategic Project Lead with South East Technological University

Workshop 3: Collaborative Partnerships for Pathways into Education

(Havelock Suite)

- **Colm Downes**, South East Technological University
- **Sinead Mahon**, Women's Collective Ireland
- **Kathy Bradley**, National Tertiary Office
- **Pamela Latimer**, Education and Training Business Development Manager, Longford Women's Link

2.30pm

Close Workshops

2.35pm

Keynote Address: Reclaiming Resistance and Resilience

Dr Sharon Clancy, Associate Professor at University of Nottingham

3.00pm

Adult Education Beyond Borders: Panel with Partners Across Europe

- **Órla Barry**, Head of Qualifications Information and Learning Opportunities, QQI, *Panel Host*
- **Nessa White**, Interim CEO, SOLAS the Further Education and Training Authority
- **Lubica Gálová**, Vice-Director for Lifelong Learning State Vocational Education Institute, Slovakia
- **Raffaella Kihrer**, Secretary General, European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)
- **Dr John Evers**, Chairman, Verband Österreichischer Volkshochschulen/ Association of Austrian Adult Education Centres

4.00pm

End of Day Responses

4.15pm

Final Remarks

John D'Arcy, AONTAS Chairperson

4.30pm

Close of Event

Agenda: Day 2

Thursday, 20th November

- 9.30am** **Registration**
- 10.00am** **Welcome**
Dr Lilian Nwanze, AONTAS Vice-Chairperson
- 10.10am** **Performance**
Eddie Winston
- 10.25am** **Official Opening**
Fiona O’Byrne, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- 10.40am** **Launch of *The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education: The Adult Learner 2025***
- **Dr Tom Farrelly**, Gasta Master, Host
 - **Dr Rosemary Moreland**, Editor of *The Adult Learner*
 - **Kevin McCabe**, Adult Education Service in North County Dublin
 - **Fergus Craddock**, Inclusion Manager with Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)
 - **Fionnaigh Connaughton**, Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC)
 - **Anne Foster**, City of Dublin Education and Training Board
 - **Eleanor Neff**, South East Technological University (SETU)
- 11.40am** **Keynote Address: Popular Education in Historical and Contemporary Practice**
Professor Peter Mayo, University of Malta
- 12.15pm** **Learner Spotlight**
Chidiogo Blessing Ebeledike, AONTAS Board Member
- 12.30pm** **Lunch break**



1.20pm

Workshop 1: Equality in Apprenticeships, Learning, and Work

(Havelock Suite)

- **Dr Mary Quirke**, Griffith College
- **Bridget Kelly**, National Traveller Policy Co-ordinator for Traveller Employment and Enterprise with the Irish Traveller Movement
- **Damian Duffy**, Interim Principal and Chief Executive, Belfast Metropolitan College
- **Anne Gaskin Roe**, Apprenticeship Development Manager, ESB Networks

Workshop 2: Anti-racism with Dignity Partnership

(Havelock West)

Rosemary Kunene, Founder, Dignity Partnership

Workshop 3: Storytelling for Connecting Communities

(Box 441)

- **Larisa Sioneriu**, AONTAS Projects Coordinator
- **Aisling Meyler**, AONTAS Research Officer

2.15pm

Panel: Strengthening Communities through Community Education

- **Liliana Fernandez**, Leadership Officer, National Women's Council, Chair
- **Dearbhail Lawless**, AONTAS CEO
- **Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin**, President, Conradh na Gaeilge; Activist, Glór na Móna & Dream Dearg
- **Philomena Abulu Obasi**
- **Vivienne Glanville**, National Programme Coordinator for Women's Collective Ireland

3.20pm

End of Day Responses

3.35pm

Final Remarks

3.45pm

Close of Event

Dr Lilian Nwanze, AONTAS Vice-Chairperson