

SWCONF25 parallel sessions programme (subject to change)

10th National Child Protection and
Welfare Social Work Conference
24th October 2025

Child Protection and Children's Rights: The Future of Social Work



By popular demand! For 2025, parallel sessions will run twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. You will need to select two preferences when registering.

The colloquium (#7) will only run in the morning session.

Parallel Session 1	
Navigating tensions to achieve a shared purpose: Findings from PhD research on child protection social workers and guardians ad litem	Dr Lisa Garavin¹ University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
Child Safeguarding: A form of Troublesome Knowledge?	Professor Jo Finch¹, Dr David McKendrick¹ ¹ Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland
'Crossing the line': child protection and welfare managers' and social workers' experiences of social media and digital abuse and harassment	Ms Amy Bradley¹, Dr Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin¹, Ms Olwen Halvey¹, Dr Kenneth Burns¹ ¹ University College Cork, Ireland
Frontline Social Work Teams Experiencing Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) – The Future Pathway for Tusla's National VHA Programme.	Mr David O Connell¹ ¹ Tusla, Cork, Ireland

Parallel Session 2	
Transforming foster care practice: Sharing innovative practices that drive children's right to stability in foster care	<u>Dr Maria Lotty¹, Lisa McCormack², Niamh Campbell², Dylan Stanley²</u> ¹ University College Cork, Cork City, Ireland, ² TUSLA - Child and Family Agency, Dublin South Central Area, Ireland
The Solihull Approach: Promoting attachment, resilience and mental wellbeing - Early implementation of the Solihull Approach in Ireland	<u>Ms Debbie Scales¹</u> ¹ Consultant working with Tusla, Dublin 12, Ireland
Strengthening Attachment Through Play: A Learning and Development Approach to Embedding Relational Practice in Social Work	<u>Ms Caroline Maguire¹</u> ¹ Tusla, Dublin Northeast
Children's Experiences of Signs of Safety: A Scoping Review	<u>Dr Louise Caffrey¹</u> , Dr Eavan Brady, Ms Orla Keegan ¹ , Ms Siobhan Dunne ¹ , Mr Greg Sheaf ¹ Professor Stephanie Holt ¹ , Professor Robbie Gilligan ¹ ¹ Trinity College Dublin

Parallel Session 3	
What do care-experienced young people value most? Exploring their experiences and views of independent advocacy	<u>Hilary Jenkinson¹</u> ¹ University College Cork, Cork, Ireland
Our Voices: Insights from Young Adults Accessing Aftercare Services	<u>Ms Emer Saunders¹</u> ¹ Tusla, Cork, Ireland
Enhanced Coaching Skills, Supporting Young People and Families: A Positive Psychology Approach in Tusla Practice	<u>Caroline Maguire¹</u> , Sean Blackwell, Denise Sheridan, Suzanne Kiernan, Cathal Grant ¹ Tusla, Ireland
Empowering Practitioners and Practice Initiative (EPPI) - developing evidence informed, outcomes focused social workers in child protection and welfare	<u>Ms Stella Owens¹</u> ¹ Tusla, National

Parallel Session 4	
"Out of Sight, Out of Rights: Child Sexual Trafficking in Ireland"	<u>Miss Marta Sofia Mendes Mendonca Correia</u> ¹ ¹ N/A
A Research Overview: The impact of Maternal Incarceration on Mothers and Children using a Social Identity Perspective.	<u>Miss Lynn Fenton</u> ¹ , Dr Daragh Bradshaw ¹ , Dr Anca Minescu ¹ ¹ University of Limerick
Working with the Online Offender- A New Approach to Practice.	<u>Mrs Jill Coogan</u> ¹ ¹ Specialist Inquiry Team Tusla, Cork
Domestic Violence and Child Protection - how can social workers ensure balance of parental and children's rights?	<u>Ms Sonya Bruen</u> ¹ ¹ MHC LLP, Dublin

Parallel Session 5	
Somewhere in the middle: the educational experience of Irish children in residential care	<u>Tara Ciric</u> ¹ , <u>Dr Catriona O'Toole</u> ¹ , <u>Dr Aislinn O'Donnell</u> ¹ ¹ Maynooth University
Supporting the inclusion of separated children seeking international protection: Balancing children's rights, care and independence at the threshold of adulthood.	<u>Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh</u> ¹ , Professor Prospera Tedam, Dr Joanne Kelleher ¹ University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
From Lived Experience to Professional Practice: Bridging Two Worlds in Child Protection and Welfare	<u>Thomas O Driscoll</u> ¹ ¹ Health Service Executive (HSE), Newcastle West, Ireland
The Care Experiences Programme; using research and data to contribute to the development of policies and services for alternative care.	<u>Dr Sadhbh Whelan</u> ¹ , <u>Angela Feeney</u> ¹ ¹ DCEDIY

Parallel Session 6	
The operation of the in camera rule in child care proceedings in Ireland	Dr Aisling Parkes ¹ , <u>Dr Simone McCaughren</u> ² , Dr Kenneth Burns ¹ ¹ University College Cork, Ireland, ² Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Beyond the siloes: Building capacity for a child rights-based approach to responding to child sexual abuse through Barnahus Ireland	<u>Dr Maria Lotty</u> ¹ , <u>Blathnaid McCabe</u> ² , Sinead Hegarty ³ , <u>Rosaleen McElvaney</u> ² , Aoife Deacon ² , <u>Eimear Lacey</u> ² , <u>Keith O'Reilly</u> ² , Sarah Roarty ² ¹ University College Cork, Cork City, Ireland, ² The Alder's Unit, Children's Health Ireland, Ireland, ³ Irish Child and Family Institute, Ireland
Barnahus Ireland: Strengthening children's rights and access to justice and recovery in response to sexual abuse and violence against children	<u>Ms Linda Cooney</u> ¹ , <u>Dr Olive Moloney</u> ¹ , <u>Ms Niamh Whooley</u> ¹ ¹ St. Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road, Ireland,
"It was actually very stressful" Children's experience and outcomes of court mandated access/contact with a perpetrator father	<u>Dr Ruth Elliffe</u> ¹ , <u>Prof Stephanie Holt</u> , Ms Soma Gregory, Ms Davina James Hanman, Dr Aisling Parkes ² ¹ Trinity College Dublin, ² University College Cork

7 Symposium: Using Artificial Intelligence in Child Protection
<p>Note: this colloquium will run as part of the morning session only. Have you wondered what you can use Copilot for with your Microsoft 365 account? How useful is Generative AI for child protection practice? What does hallucination mean in Generative AI, and what are the GDPR and ethical considerations with its use? This colloquium will explore existing applications in use internationally and in Ireland, and consider their effectiveness in helping child protection and welfare services to keep children safe.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor Lauri Goldkind, Fordham University, New York. 2. Fergus O'Cuanacháin, Chief Information Officer, Tusla, Child and Agency 3. Niamh Browne, Principal Social Worker, Practice Lead TCM CPAC, Tusla, Child and Agency. 4. Bernie Redmond, ICT Digital Transformation Manager, Tusla, Child and Agency

Parallel Session 8

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Parallel Session 8	
Listening to the Voice of the Child in Family Law Cases involving Domestic Violence and Abuse: Considering Best Interests.	Prof. Stephanie Holt¹ , Dr Aisling Parkes ² , Ms Soma Gregory ¹ , Ms Davina James-Hanman ¹ , Dr Ruth Elliffe ¹ ¹ Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, ² University College Cork
Collaboration in Action: Embedding Meitheal in Special Schools for Children with Complex Needs	Mrs. Orlaith Kerrigan¹ ¹ Parent Advocate
Supporting parents involved in child care proceedings: Reflections on the development and implementation of a Parent Advocacy and Information Service	Niamh McCarthy¹ , Dr Gráinne Hickey¹ , Clare Deane ¹ ¹ Barnardos Ireland
What are the outcomes and experiences of care-experienced adults aged 25 years or more? Findings from a narrative rapid review	Dr Eavan Brady¹ , Prof Janet Boddy² , Dr Lynne Cahill¹ , Prof Robbie Gilligan¹ , Prof Stephanie Holt¹ , Dr Sarah Parker¹ ¹ Trinity College Dublin, ² University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

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