

SEÁNAD100

MINORITY VOICES, MAJOR CHANGES



INTRODUCTION



Foreword

Established in the midst of a bitter, tragic and divisive Civil War in which many families, including my own, lost loved ones, the Seanad played an important role in establishing and consolidating the democratic institutions of our State.

The first Seanad has been described as having the most diverse group of politicians in our country's history. The creators of the Seanad intended it to give a platform to the Unionist, Protestant and other communities that found themselves as a minority in the new State.

Since its first meeting in Leinster House on 11 December 1922, the Seanad has reflected a broad range of views. The theme of the Seanad100 commemoration – 'Minority Voices, Major Changes' reflects this range. It captures and celebrates the diversity of perspectives, causes and changes to Irish life that Senators championed through representation in our national parliament.

Two of the best-known members of the Seanad over the last 100 years, former Senator and seventh President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, and Senator David Norris opened the Seanad100 programme in February 2022.

Combined, they have more than half a century of unbroken public service as members of Seanad Éireann. Senator Norris achieved changes in the law for the LGBTQI+ community over many years while Former President Robinson relentlessly pursued issues of social justice, which accelerated positive changes for women.

It is a signal of progress on gender balance that the 26th Seanad had the highest number of women (23) members ever to serve, making up 40% of the total. In 1922 there were just four women Senators.

The Seanad's Public Consultation on the Constitutional Future of the Island of Ireland provided an opportunity for people, particularly young people, to have their voices heard on what they envision for the next 100 years for this island.

Because of its unique structure, Seanad Éireann has also been able to include voices from those in Northern Ireland, from both traditions, which would not usually be heard in the Republic.

In 2001, TK Whitaker was voted as Irish Person of the 20th Century by the people of Ireland. Born in Co Down, he served in the Seanad from 1977 to 1982. In his 1958 plan 'Economic Development', Whitaker was the chief architect of the policy that brought economic and societal prosperity to the State with his revolutionary economy policies in the 1950s.

When Whitaker spoke of the constitutional future in a note to then Taoiseach Seán Lemass in 1968, his opinion could be viewed as a minority voice on the issue of unity at that time.

"We were, therefore, left with only one choice. Of its nature this is a long-term policy, requiring patience, understanding and forbearance and resolute resistance to emotionalism and opportunism. It is none the less patriotic for that," he said.

We should listen to those words now more than ever.

Senator Mark Daly
Cathaoirleach, Seanad Éireann



Senator David Norris, former President of Ireland Mary Robinson and Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly launching Seanad100

A landmark moment

The following is an extract from a Seanad Éireann debate which took place on Tuesday, 12 December, 1922, when former Lord Chancellor of Ireland Lord Glenavy accepted his position as first Chairman of the Seanad

Lord Glenavy (on taking the chair): I am prepared with confidence and courage to accept the trust you have offered to me. I observe by the terms of the Constitution, by which we here are bound, that the chairman is not allowed to give a vote upon any division in this chamber — a very clear indication, I think, that it is contemplated that he should hold himself aloof from the controversial questions of the hour.

The duties of your Chairman have yet to be defined in accordance with the terms of the Constitution, but it is fairly obvious that it will be his province to uphold the powers of the Seanad and the privileges of its members, to regulate the order and procedure of its business, and to secure to each and every member the fullest freedom of speech.

I claim but one qualification for this honourable position to which you have appointed me today — the qualification that I

“ I CLAIM BUT ONE QUALIFICATION. THAT IS A LOVE FOR MY COUNTRY AND A PASSIONATE DESIRE FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE. ”



Lord Glenavy

I am certain I hold in common with each and all of you — that is, a love for my country and its people, a passionate desire for the restoration of peace, goodwill and unity amongst all Irish men and a speedy and honourable release from the horrors and devastation of the fratricidal strife that at present is being waged in our midst. It is in that hope and in that spirit that I accept the responsible trust that by your practically unanimous vote today you have bestowed upon me.



Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly with Congressman Richard Neal



Lord John McFall of Alcluith



Linda Ervine MBE

Progressive guest speakers

Three key speakers addressed the Seanad as part of its centenary this year – Linda Ervine MBE, Congressman Richard Neal and Lord John McFall of Alcluith

Manager of the Turas Irish language project at the East Belfast Mission and president of East Belfast GAA Linda Ervine MBE addressed Seanad Éireann in March to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge. A stalwart in her community, she has worked hard since 2012 to provide Irish classes to non-traditional learners of the language. “Linda has shown that language is a medium that can unite communities, promote reconciliation and heal divisions,” said Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly. In May, the Seanad was honoured to welcome Congressman Richard Neal, member of the US House of Representatives and chairman of the US House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. Among the topics discussed were the appointment of a US special envoy to Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Protocol. “Chairman Neal’s involvement in ensuring

the Good Friday Agreement is protected has been extraordinary. In his position as chair of the Ways and Means Committee, he is ensuring the peace process is at the forefront of any talks of a future US-UK trade agreement,” said Senator Daly. As a junior Northern Ireland Office Minister in 1998, The Right Honourable Lord John McFall of Alcluith was the first UK Minister on the scene hours after the Omagh bombing. The Seanad welcomed the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords in October – his first official visit to Ireland. Matters discussed included the shared revising and scrutiny role of the respective chambers and how members of both parliaments can work together on issues of common interest. “The Oireachtas is such an important partner to the UK Parliament. My aim is to deepen the friendship and partnership between our two parliaments going forward,” said Lord McFall.

Momentum on reform

Various reforms to Seanad Éireann have arisen following the defeat of the famous referendum to abolish the upper house of the Oireachtas in 2013

Speaking to the House on 18 November, 2021 with An Taoiseach Micheál Martin in attendance, Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly noted that Seanad Éireann had implemented all of the relevant recommendations in the Seanad reform reports that were in its power to action since 2013. “For the first time ever, we are reviewing the recommendations of Oireachtas committee reports six months after they have been published so we can see which of the recommendations have been actioned,” he said. As an example of this significant Seanad reform, Senator Daly noted that on 17 November, Deputy James Lawless, chairman of the Joint Committee on Justice appeared before the House to talk about the report it had compiled on the issue of rape and sexual violence. The debate that followed outlined the continued action that was required to ensure all the recommendations proposed will be put in place. Another of the reform recommendations

implemented in this Seanad relate to the increased engagement with public and nominated bodies, such as charities, trade unions, farmers, business organisations and the cultural and educational sectors, on issues of concern to them in the new Seanad panel forums. The first of these topics relates to ending the practice of non-disclosure agreements by universities, which silence victims and protect the guilty, allowing abuse to continue. The Government has since committed to introducing legislation to address this problem. Moving forward, the Seanad is playing a key role in ensuring that EU laws will now be securitised by the Oireachtas in advance of being signed into Irish law. This was a recommendation of numerous reports on Seanad reform. Previously, Government Departments added to EU legislation which was signed into Irish law, bypassing democratic scrutiny. “The worst example of this was first and to date only organ-donor legislation in the history of the

State. No Deputy, Senator or even the health committee had sight of that legislation before it was signed into Irish law. Mark Murphy, chairperson of the Irish Kidney Association, stated that it was the worst transposition of that EU directive in the EU,” said Senator Daly. In his speech on 18 November, 2021, Senator Daly highlighted that the referendum on the seventh amendment to the Constitution passed by the people over 40 years ago is the only one that has not been enacted by successive administrations. The Seventh Amendment of the Constitution (Election of Members of Seanad Éireann by Institutions of Higher Education) Act 1979 provides that the procedure for the election of six members of the Seanad in the university constituencies could be altered by law. “Legislation to give effect to this amendment would expand the right to vote to our citizens and increase the number of people entitled to vote in reformed Seanad elections from 150,000 to, potentially, millions,” said Senator Daly.

CEREMONIAL SITTING

Seanad100 commemorations will conclude on Monday, 12 December with a special ceremonial sitting in the Dáil Chamber, where the first Seanad sat in 1922. This will be attended by current and former members of Seanad Éireann, with guest of honour Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who will address the Seanad on this historic occasion. The event will be broadcast live on Oireachtas TV.

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THE FIRST SEANAD



Members of the First Seanad Arthur Jackson, Andre Jameson and Perry Goodbody.
Photo credit: NLF

A unique experiment

The Senate was an intriguing institution born from a sense of idealism that accompanied the birth of the State but whose practicality was short-lived, writes barrister and author Dr Elaine Byrne BL

The energy of the Senate of 1922-28 reflected, for the most part, the conventional outlook of the pro-Treaty Dáil majority. Attention was focused on the establishment of the legislative infrastructure of the State, the organisation of law and order, the protection of property and the regulation of land, agriculture and transport.

The Senate strove to consolidate minority political traditions in a new independent state. This acute awareness of marrying the old and new regimes together was an underlying theme of the Upper House. Formalities such as an agreed prayer to be read in English and Irish before the opening of Senate proceedings were handled with discrete sensitivity.

The context of the senators' contribution to the foundation of the State was remarkable. During the Civil War, Liam Lynch, chief of staff of the Irish Republican Army, issued a notice on November 30, 1922 identifying 14 categories of persons as legitimate targets to be "shot at sight". They included Senators and a list of the "residences of Senators to be destroyed". The anti-treatyites attacked Senators through a campaign of intimidation, kidnappings, attempts on their lives and the destruction of their houses. Thirty-seven Senators' homes were burnt to the ground between November 1922 and February 1923.

As a response to this challenging period, Senator Alice Stopford Green commissioned the design of a wrought-metal casket containing a vellum roll with the signature of every Senator who served in the 1922 Senate, accompanied by this message: "Whether we are of an ancient Irish descent, or of later Irish birth, we are united in one people, and we are bound by one lofty obligation to complete the building of our common nation". The casket was placed on the Cathaoirleach's desk immediately prior to every session of the Senate from 26 November, 1924 until its final sitting on 19 May 1936.

Religious diversity

W. T. Cosgrave, President of the Executive (1922-32), directly appointed 30 individuals

to the first Senate of 1922. His nominees numbered 16 former southern unionists. Aside from engineering the political and symbolic reconciliation of the *ancien regime* with the new Free State, the Upper House had the significant purpose of bringing political and administrative expertise into the legislature, noticeably absent within Dáil membership. This inaugural Senate consisted of 36 Catholics, 20 Protestants, three Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) and one member of the Jewish faith, making it the most religiously-diverse parliamentary body since the birth of Irish independence.

Cosgrave's government relied enormously on the Senate. Most of the new Ministers were "young men with very little experience

“THE QUALITY OF THE SENATE'S MEMBERSHIP, THE RULES UNDERPINNING ITS ESTABLISHMENT, AND THE WAYS IN WHICH SENATORS EXERCISED THOSE RULES MAY HAVE ENABLED IT TO BE PARTICULARLY PERSUASIVE IN AMENDING LEGISLATION.”



of the world or knowledge of the conduct of public affairs". No Minister had ever served in parliament, never mind at ministerial level.

The Senate of 1922-28 was the de-facto opposition to the Government for unprecedented reasons. The policy of abstentionism adopted by the anti-Treaty parliamentarians and a weak Labour Party provided little resistance to government policy in the Dáil. The quality of the Senate's membership, the rules underpinning its establishment, and the ways in which senators exercised those rules may have enabled it to be particularly persuasive in amending legislation.

Senators had the parliamentary experience and intimate understanding of policy and draftsmanship skills that the Ministers simply did not. The Leas-Cathaoirleach (Vice-Chair) of the first Senate was James G. Douglas, a Quaker. Although Douglas was from a business background and without formal legal training, he was recognised as an authority on constitutional law. He assumed the technical role of drafting standing orders and taking charge of private Bills for both the Dáil and Senate.

Policy discussion was facilitated in a non-party atmosphere without the distraction of sharp party lines. According to Douglas, Senators "pledged to support the Government on all issues affecting the maintenance of the Treaty, but not in matters relating to internal politics or affairs."

Significant contribution

The extent of the Senate's contribution to the development of the State is particularly illustrated by the amendments it made to primary legislation between 1922 and 1928. A prodigious 238 Bills (other than Money Bills) came before the Senate in this period. These included laws which went to the very heart of the new legislative infrastructure of the Free State, including the Garda Síochána Act 1924, Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924, Courts of Justice Act 1924 and the Local Government Act 1925.

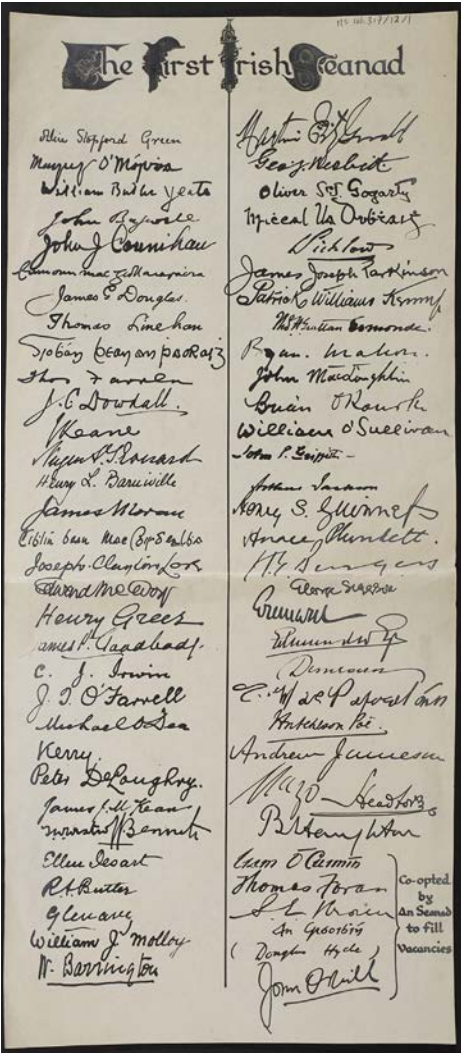
The Senate substantially amended 93 Bills before they became law. Of the 954 amendments made to primary legislation, the Dáil agreed to 910. Subsequent to the amendment of the original amendment, the Dáil in fact only rejected 27 of the Senate's



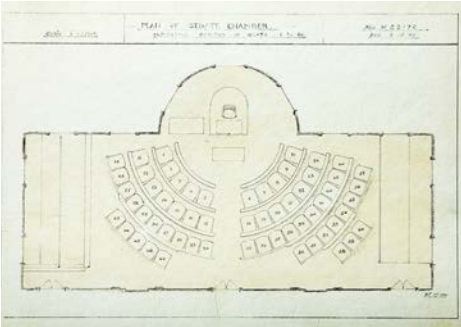
The Seanad chamber. Photo credit: Houses of the Oireachtas



Seanad sitting, the Mansion House, 1969. Photo credit: Houses of the Oireachtas



Signatures of First Seanad Senators. Photo credit: NLI



Plan of Senate chamber 1946. Photo credit: Houses of the Oireachtas



The Seanad bell. Photo credit: Houses of the Oireachtas

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST SEANAD – 1922

John Philip Bagwell, Independent
Henry Leo Barniville, Cumann na nGaedheal
William Barrington, Independent
Thomas Westropp Bennett, Cumann na nGaedheal
Earl of Mayo (Dermot Bourke), Independent
Samuel Lombard Brown, Independent
Henry Givens Burgess, Independent
Richard A. Butler, Independent
Eileen Ellen Costello, Independent
John Joseph Coughlin, Independent
William Cummins, Labour Party
Peter De Loughry, Cumann na nGaedheal
Countess of Desart, Independent
James Green Douglas, Independent
James Charles Dowdall, Independent
Michael Duffy, Labour Party
Thomas Henry Grattan Esmonde, Independent
Nugent Talbot Everard, Independent
Edmund Eyre, Independent
Thomas Farren, Labour Party
Martin Fitzgerald, Independent
Thomas Foran, Labour Party
Earl of Granard (Bernard Forbes), Independent
Lord Glenavy, Independent
James Perry Goodbody, Independent
Alice Stopford Green, Independent
Henry Greer, Independent
John Purser Griffith, Independent
Henry Seymour Guinness, Independent
Benjamin Haughton, Independent
Earl of Wicklow (Ralph Howard), Independent
Douglas Hyde, Independent
Cornelius J. Irwin, Cumann na nGaedheal
Arthur Jackson, Independent
Hon Andrew Jameson, Independent
John Keane, Independent
Patrick W. Kenny, Cumann na nGaedheal
Thomas Linehan, Farmers Party
Joseph Clayton Love, Cumann na nGaedheal
Edward MacEvoy, Cumann na nGaedheal
James MacKean, Cumann na nGaedheal
John MacLoughlin, Independent
Edward MacLysaght, Independent
Thomas MacPartlin, Labour Party
Bryan Mahon, Independent
Edward Mansfield, Independent
William John Molloy, Independent
Maurice George Moore, Independent
James Moran, Independent
George Nesbitt, Independent
Michael O'Dea, Cumann na nGaedheal
John O'Neill, Cumann na nGaedheal
John Thomas O'Farrell, Labour Party
Brian O'Rourke, Cumann na nGaedheal
William O'Sullivan, Cumann na nGaedheal
James Joseph Parkinson, Cumann na nGaedheal
Earl of Kerry (Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice), Independent
Horace Plunkett, Independent
Jane Wyse Power, Independent
George Sigerson, Independent
Oliver St. John Gogarty, Cumann na nGaedheal
Marquess of Headfort (Geoffrey Tylour), Independent
William Hutcheson Poë, Independent
Earl of Dunraven (Windham Wyndham-Quin), Independent
William Butler Yeats, Independent



Members of the First Seanad Eileen Costello and Alice Stopford Green. Photo credit: NLF

amendments in those six years. In all, the Dáil accepted 98% of all Senate amendments. Moreover, the Senate proved particularly effective in ensuring that the principle of judicial independence was robust within the Courts of Justice Act, 1924, thereby mitigating the disreputable British judicial legacy in Ireland. For example, Senator John T. O'Farrell's amendment warranted that the Central Fund, and not the Appropriation Act, provided for judicial remuneration. Senators successfully argued for full-time, paid and legally qualified district judges – in stark contrast to their immediate predecessors,

the Resident Magistrates of the Petty Session Courts, who were the citadels of the corruptible. The Senate had the power to suggest amendments and delay legislation up to 270 days but could not veto Bills. These suspensory powers were used on three occasions before 1928, most notably with regard to the Civil Service Regulation (Amendment) Bill of 1925. Senator Eileen Costello and Senator Jennie Wyse Power, former president of Cumann na mBan, an organisation for republican women set up in 1914, were successful in convincing their Senate colleagues that the provision for competitive examinations for civil-service positions discriminated against women. However, the delay had no effect and the legislation was passed a year later. Such interventions by Costello and Wyse Power were characteristic of a Senate which was prepared to oppose government, in this case over feminist issues. Indeed, the four female Senators contrasted sharply with the presence of just one woman out of 128 seats in the 1922 Dáil. Cosgrave's patience with the Senate was wearing thin by the end of the 1920s. This unique experiment in idealism would always have had a limited outing. The Senate's contribution to the establishment of the new State became lost in the perception that it was a temporary compromise to the leftovers of empire. On the centenary of its establishment, it is timely to reassess the Senate's role in consolidating Irish democracy. This is an abbreviated version of a chapter which appeared in Elaine Byrne, 'A Unique Experiment in Idealism: Irish Senate 1922-28', published in Ciara Meehan, Mel Farrell, Jason Knirck (editors), A Formative Decade: Ireland in the 1920s. Irish Academic Press, 2015, pp.59-85.

MINORITY VOICES, MAJOR CHANGES

Champions of Change

The over-arching theme for Seanad100, Minority Voices, Major Changes, emphasises how the unique composition and nature of the Seanad created a more diverse political environment where Senators had increased latitude to articulate views across a broad range of matters

Launched in February, the programme of events for Seanad 100 – Minority Voices, Major Changes – has included an exhibition, lectures, a TV documentary, themed tours of Leinster House, Culture Night events and student debates. There is also dedicated web content developed by the Oireachtas web team and a #Seanad100 social

media campaign.

To open the programme, Cathaoirleach, Senator Mark Daly chaired a discussion with two of the best-known members of the Seanad to date – former President of Ireland Mary Robinson and Senator David Norris.

“Former President Mary Robinson and Senator David Norris are two of the most distinguished members of the Seanad over the past 100 years. Together, they have more than 50 years of unbroken service that embodies Minority Voices, Major Changes. Their contributions during that time as Senators made a lasting impact on the history and daily life of the nation and the State,” said Senator Daly.

The Minority Voices, Major Changes exhibition highlights some of the many voices who used their time in the Seanad to champion issues and causes that were marginalised or lacking the visibility needed to bring about political, societal and economic change.

Each Senator featured in this exhibition helped bring about changes that were often won over the course of decades of campaigning and with the participation of many others from both within the political system and outside of it, including those who were marginalised at the time.

Here is a selection of Senators in the exhibition:

“THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THAT TIME AS SENATORS MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE HISTORY AND DAILY LIFE OF THE NATION AND THE STATE.”



David P. B. Norris (Born in 1944)

An independent University of Dublin Senator since 1987, David Norris is a lecturer in English and a Joycean scholar, human rights activist and politician. He was a candidate for President of Ireland in the October 2011 election. As a Senator, he has introduced and co-sponsored 32 Private Members' Bills and campaigned widely on human rights issues. He introduced a Civil Partnership Bill as a Private Members' Bill in the Seanad in 2004 before civil partnership was legalised in Ireland in 2010. His case in the European Court of Justice forced change in Irish law to decriminalise homosexuality in 1993. Photo credit: Oireachtas Flickr



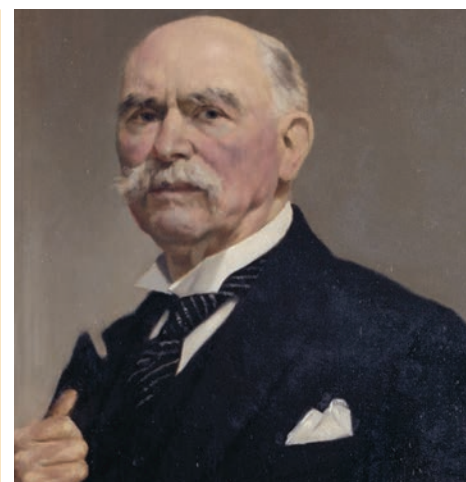
Michael Daniel Higgins (Born in 1941)

The ninth President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins is a former Labour Party Senator, TD and Minister, human-rights advocate, poet and academic. He was first nominated by An Taoiseach to Seanad Éireann in 1973 for one term and served again as National University of Ireland panel member from 1983 to 1987. As a Senator, he co-sponsored the Illegitimate Children (Maintenance and Succession) Bill in 1974 to abolish the concept of illegitimacy of children from Irish law and campaigned against the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution. Photo credit: Áras an Uachtaráin official picture



Eileen Ellen (Edith) Costello (1870 - 1962)

An Irish language enthusiast, political activist and a member of the Seanad from 1922 to 1934, Edith Costello argued against the 1927 Juries Bill which sought to exclude women from serving on juries. She strongly opposed the Civil Service Regulation (Amendment) Bill 1925 which sought to limit women to the lower-level civil service positions. In her contribution to the debate, she quoted the Constitution of the Irish Free State and its promise of privileges and obligations of citizenship “without distinction of sex”. Photo credit: NLF



Douglas Hyde (1860 - 1949)

Douglas Hyde was the co-founder and first president of the Gaelic League, the national movement for the revival of the Irish language. He became a member of the First Seanad in 1925 in a by-election. In 1925, he voted for a procedural motion to allow a debate on divorce in the Seanad. This led to a campaign to discredit him and other Protestant senators and he lost his seat at the election later that year. Hyde served briefly in the Second Seanad in 1938 before becoming the first President of Ireland later that year. Photo credit: Áras an Uachtaráin



The ‘Minority Voices, Major Changes’ exhibition at Leinster House, Dublin



MINORITY VOICES, MAJOR CHANGES – LESSON PLAN

The following people were all members of the First Seanad. Using the biographical information on the *Minority Voices, Major Changes* website, answer the questions on each of them. (Other Senators could also be considered as an extension activity especially if there were local links).

A. Countess of Desart, Ellen Odette Cuffe

1. Briefly describe her background and how she became a Senator (elected or nominated).
2. What issues did she campaign on while in the Seanad and what was her stance on these issues.
3. Describe her contribution to life in Kilkenny.

B. William Butler Yeats

1. Briefly describe his background and how he became a Senator.
2. What issues did he campaign on while in the Seanad?
3. Outside of his work as a Senator what else is he known for?

C. Douglas Hyde

1. Briefly describe his background and how he became a Senator.
2. What issues did he campaign on while in the Seanad?
3. Outside of his work as a Senator what else is he known for?

D. Eileen Costello

1. Briefly describe her background and how she became a Senator.
2. What issues did she campaign on while in the Seanad?
3. Explain her contribution to the cultural life of Ireland.

DEVELOPMENT:

Continue to explore some of the other members of the First Seanad. Use the following suggested headings to conduct your research: local personalities, famous family names, historical figures etc.

RESOURCES

The Senators described in the following resources provide links with with Later Modern Ireland Topics 5 and 6 of the Leaving Certificate History Curriculum and also elements of the Politics and Society Curriculum.

1. Minority Voices Major Change
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/centenaries/seanad100/minority-voices-major-changes/>

2. Members of the First Seanad
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/centenaries/seanad100/members-of-the-first-seanad/>



Jane (Jennie) Wyse Power (1858 - 1941)

A member of the Dublin Women’s Suffrage Association, Jane Wyse Power co-founded Inghinidhe na hÉireann in 1900. She was nominated to the First Seanad in 1922 and was a member until 1936. She served on the executive of Sinn Féin and was a founder of Cumann na mBan. Together with Edith Costello, she convinced the Seanad to reject the Civil Service Regulation Bill 1925, which confined women to lower grades within the civil service and argued against the Conditions of Employment Bill 1935 which restricted the ability of women to take up work in certain industries. *Photo credit: Kilmainham Gaol Museum*



Eamon De Buitléar (1930 - 2013)

Filmmaker, environmentalist, and author Eamon De Buitléar was nominated to the Seanad in 1987 and served until the end of the 18th Seanad in 1989 as an Independent Senator. An Irish-language promoter, De Buitléar’s main contribution was arguing for a variety of nature conservation measures in all aspects of government policy. During a debate on Fisheries (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1988 he stated: “We have a country which is nothing short of a jewel and we do not really understand what we have and what we stand to lose.” *Photo credit: NUIG*



Labhrás Ó Murchú (Born in 1939)

A Fianna Fáil politician, Labhrás Ó Murchú is the director general of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, which promotes Irish music, song and dance. He was a member of the Seanad from 1997 to 2016 on the Cultural and Educational Panel. During his time as a Senator, he supported Private Members’ Bills and motions that advocated for the rights of those with disabilities, including the Recognition of Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Bill 2013. He consistently championed the cause of the arts, culture and Irish language in the Seanad.



William Butler Yeats (1865 - 1939)

Poet and dramatist William Butler Yeats was a member of the Seanad from 1922 to 1928, during which time he received the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1923. In the Seanad, he was a frequent contributor to debates, including objecting to the use of Irish language in parliamentary proceedings. He was an outspoken critic of the law which outlawed divorce in Ireland – arguing that such a law would alienate Irish Protestants and create a barrier between the South and the North. *Photo credit: NLF*

WOMEN IN THE SEANAD

Launch of the Women in the Seanad exhibition in July

Campaigning for equality

The 'Women in the Seanad' exhibition captures many of the women Senators who campaigned for equality from a multitude of socio-economic contexts over the course of a century

The only woman ever to be elected as Cathaoirleach of the Seanad, Tras Honan, launched the Women in the Seanad exhibition on 12 July, 2022 (see

“THE SENATORS FEATURED IN THIS EXHIBITION APPROACHED THEIR QUEST TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY FROM A RANGE OF POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES.”

Tras Honan profile below).

This exhibition features 26 women Senators who campaigned for equality from a variety of viewpoints. The exhibition also lists every woman member of the Seanad over the past 100 years, from the four women Senators elected in 1922 to the 23 women Senators in the current Seanad.

“The Senators featured in this exhibition approached their quest to achieve equality from a range of political perspectives, each using their voice to progress the essential need for women to be respected as an equal voice in politics and in society in Ireland,” said Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly at the launch of the exhibition.

The full exhibition is on display in the foyer of Leinster House and is also available online at www.oireachtas.ie/seanad100.

Here is a selection of some of the determined and capable women featured in the exhibition:



Tras Honan (Born in 1930)

A Fianna Fáil Senator who served from 1977 to 1992 on the Administrative Panel, Tras Honan remains to this day the only woman to have served as Cathaoirleach (elected in 1982, unopposed, and re-elected in 1987). While she supported the Health (Family Planning) Bill 1978, which when enacted legalised contraceptives on prescription by medical professionals, in 1985 she opposed further liberalising proposals to make contraceptives available to over 18s. During the second-stage debate on the Maternity Protection of Employees Bill 1981 she commended women who could balance work and family life. *Photo credit: Oireachtas*



Monica Barnes (1936 - 2018)

Elected to the 16th Seanad (1982) for Fine Gael on the Labour Panel, Monica Barnes was an early member of the Council for the Status of Women in 1973 (now the National Women's Council) and Vice-chairperson of the Women's Political Association (WPA). During the Seanad debate on the Motion to Establish a Joint Committee on State Sponsored Bodies in June 1982 she expressed the hope that the committee would examine the gender balance of State agency boards. She was chairperson of the Joint Committee on Women's Rights when it reported in 1988 and 1991 during her term as a TD. *Photo credit: Collins*



Margaret Mary Pearse (1878 - 1968)

Elected as a Fianna Fáil Senator to the second Seanad in 1938, Margaret Mary Pearse served continuously in ten Seanad until her death in 1968 and was as a TD in the eighth Dáil (1933-1937). She was a teacher at St Enda's School, Rathfarnham, which was founded in 1908 by her brother and 1916 proclamation signatory Patrick J. Pearse. In April 1966 during the Golden Jubilee commemoration of the Easter Rising, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. On her death in 1968 the house and grounds at St Enda's were gifted to the Irish nation and she was accorded a State funeral. *Photo credit: Pearse Museum*



Mary E. F. Henry (Born in 1940)

A founding member of the Women's Political Association in the 1970s and former independent member of the University of Dublin panel of Seanad Éireann, physician Mary Henry served as a Senator from 1993 to 2007. She sponsored a Private Members' Bill (PMB) on stopping child sex tourism in 1995 and a PMB on Regulation of Assisted Human Reproduction (1999) which sought to introduce legal regulation of *in-vitro* fertilisation. In 1994 she advocated for a national breast screening programme which was rolled out six years later. She was inaugurated as Pro-Chancellor of Trinity College Dublin in 2012. *Photo credit: Oireachtas*



WOMEN IN THE SEANAD – LESSON PLAN

The following women were all members of the Seanad at one point. Using the biographical information on the Women in the Seanad website (see link below), answer the questions on each of them. (Other Senators could also be considered as an extension activity especially if there were local links).

A. Tras Honan

- 1. Briefly describe her background and how she became a Senator (elected or nominated).
- 2. What issues did she campaign on while in the Seanad and what was her stance on these issues.
- 3. List any two interesting facts that you can find about her or her family.

B. Monica Barnes

- 1. How did she become a Senator (elected or nominated)?
- 2. Describe her early career in advocating for equality and women's rights.
- 3. What issues did she campaign on while in the Seanad (and later as a TD)?

C. Mary Robinson

- 1. Briefly describe her background and how she became a Senator.
- 2. What issues did she campaign on while practising as a barrister?
- 3. Outside of her work as a Senator what else is she known for?

D. Mary Harney

- 1. Briefly describe her background and how she became a Senator.
- 2. What issues did she campaign on while in the Seanad?
- 3. List any other interesting fact about her political career.

DEVELOPMENT:

Continue to explore some of the other female members of the Seanad. Use the following suggested headings to conduct your research: local personalities, prominent campaigners, historical figures etc.

RESOURCES

The Senators described in this resource provide links with Later Modern Ireland Topic 6 of the Leaving Certificate History Curriculum and also elements of the Politics and Society Curriculum.

1. Women in the Seanad

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/centenaries/seanad100/women-in-the-seanad/>

Joan Freeman (Born in 1958)

Mental health activist and author Joan Freeman was nominated as an Independent to the 25th Seanad by then Taoiseach Enda Kenny. In 2006 she set up the Pieta House charity and subsequently pioneered the international flagship fundraising event Darkness into Light. As a Senator she co-sponsored the Private Members' Bill (PMB) Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2016, which passed all Seanad stages but lapsed with the dissolution of the 25th Seanad. In tabling her 2017 Motion on Mental Health Services, she advocated for 24-hour access for service-users. She chaired the Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care, which published its final report in October 2018.

Evelyn Owens (1931 - 2010)

A member of the 12th and 13th Seanaid (1969-1977) for the Labour Party on the Labour Panel, Evelyn Owens became the first woman president of the Irish Local Government Officials' Union (later, the IMPACT union) in 1967. In the Seanad she co-sponsored the Private Members' Bill (PMB) Adoption Bill 1971 which was partly incorporated into the Government's Adoption Bill 1974. In June 1973 she was elected the first woman Leas-Chathaoirleach and held this position for the 13th Seanad and was appointed as the first female Deputy Chairperson of the Labour Court in 1984 and its first female Chairperson in 1994.



Mary Robinson (Born in 1944)

The first woman President of Ireland, Mary Robinson was a Senator from 1969 to 1989 on the University of Dublin panel, mainly as an Independent, and as a Labour Party member in the 14th and 15th Seanaid (1977-1982). As a barrister she argued successfully in several landmark court cases in Ireland and Europe. She introduced three Private Members' Bills that paved the way towards the liberalisation of Irish laws on contraception and family planning matters. On leaving office as President of Ireland, she was appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and since 2018 is Chair of The Elders, an independent group of global leaders working for peace, justice and human rights. Photo credit: Mary Robinson



Jillian van Turnhout (Born in 1968)

Nominated by then Taoiseach Enda Kenny to the 24th Seanad, children's rights advocate Jillian van Turnhout served as an Independent Senator from 2011 to 2016 and led the Independent (Taoiseach nominees) Group. Until 2011 she was CEO of the Children's Rights Alliance, which was created in 1995 to actively monitor and advocate to ensure that Ireland's laws, policies and services respect children's rights and protect them. In this capacity and as a Senator she actively campaigned for the referendum to protect children's rights in the Constitution, which was passed in 2012. Photo credit: Oireachtas



Katherine Zappone (Born in 1953)

A Senator from 2011 to 2016, Katherine Zappone was the first member of the Houses of the Oireachtas to be openly lesbian and in a legally-recognised same-sex relationship, under Canadian law. She contributed to the draft of the Gender Recognition Bill, which was initiated in the Seanad in 2015. While a Senator she co-founded 'Democracy Matters' which led the campaign to retain the Seanad when its abolition was proposed in the 2013 referendum. She was also a founding member of 'Marriage Equality', which campaigned in the marriage equality referendum passed in 2015. Photo credit: Oireachtas

NORTHERN VOICES

Launch of the Northern
Voices exhibition

Promoting representation

The 'Northern Voices' exhibition aims to highlight the role the Seanad has played in providing a platform for the representation of diverse and minority voices from 1922 to the present day

Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly was joined by three former members of the Upper House – Catherine McGuinness, Martin McAleese and Ian Marshall – to launch the Northern Voices exhibition on 28 September.

The 'Northern Voices' exhibition features 26

“THE PRESENCE OF NORTHERN VOICES IN THE UPPER HOUSE, BOTH NATIONALIST AND UNIONIST, HAS BEEN CRITICAL IN ENSURING REPRESENTATIVE AND INCLUSIVE DEBATE.”

former members of the Seanad. It shows how, over time, voices from both traditions were represented in the Seanad.

“The presence of northern voices in the Upper House, both nationalist and unionist, has been critical in ensuring representative and inclusive debate, particularly during The Troubles and since the Good Friday Agreement,” said Senator Daly.

“These contributions have provided insights and understanding that have not always been present in the Dáil. As debates around Brexit and the relationship between Ireland, Northern Ireland, the UK and the EU continue to evolve, the role of the Seanad in this area will continue to grow.”

Marshall was the first Ulster Unionist elected to the Seanad in nearly 100 years. He said: “The Seanad’s meaningful inclusion of northern voices over the past 100 years has been an important one, as it facilitates open, inclusive conversation.”

McGuinness said: “The Seanad provided a safe and respectful forum for different views and opinions on Northern Ireland.”

The full exhibition is on display in the foyer of Leinster House and is also available online at www.oireachtas.ie.

Here is a selection of former Senators in the Northern Voices exhibition:



Ian Marshall (Born in 1968)

Co Armagh native Ian Marshall is a dairy farmer and served as president of the Ulster Farmers' Union from 2014 to 2016. He was elected to the 25th Seanad as an Independent in a 2018 by-election on the Agricultural Panel – representing the first time an Ulster Unionist was elected, as opposed to nominated, to the Seanad. As a Senator he was a member of the Joint Committee for Climate Change and Environment and the Joint Committee for Rural and Community Development.



Martin McAleese (Born 1951)

Born in Belfast, Martin McAleese is the husband of former President of Ireland Mary McAleese. During her presidency, he was an influential figure in assisting loyalist groups to participate in the peace process. He was nominated by then Taoiseach Enda Kenny as an Independent Senator in the 24th Seanad in 2011. As a Senator he focused on issues such as social, personal and health education in schools and the promotion of peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland. He was appointed Chair of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State Involvement with the Magdalene Laundries. *Photo credit: Oireachtas Flickr*



Seamus Mallon (1936 - 2020)

Seamus Mallon was an Independent Senator nominated to the 16th Seanad by Taoiseach Charles Haughey in 1982. Originally from a republican background, he eschewed violence and helped form the anti-sectarian Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and was deputy leader from 1979 to 2001. He served as Deputy First Minister of the then newly-created, power-sharing Northern Ireland Assembly (1998- 2001). In the Seanad he stressed the duty of politicians to find a lasting political solution to end violence and advocated for cross-border co-operation and joint action. *Photo credit: Irish News*



Dr Martin Mansergh (Born in 1946)

Dr Martin Mansergh was born in Surrey to an Anglo-Irish family. In 1974, he joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and from 1981 to 2002 was Fianna Fáil Director of Research and Special Advisor on Northern Ireland. He played a major role in the negotiation of the IRA ceasefire and the talks that led to the Good Friday Agreement. He was elected as a Senator for the Agricultural Panel from 2002 to 2007, where he was Fianna Fáil spokesperson on finance. As a Senator he spoke on a wide range of topics, including the economy, foreign affairs, Northern Ireland and the peace process. *Photo credit: The Model*

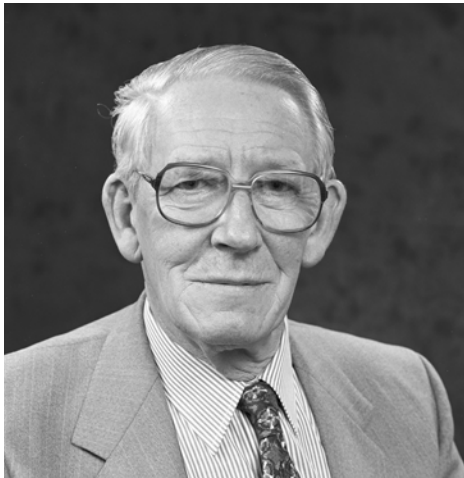


Thomas (TK) Whitaker (1916 - 2017)

As Secretary to the Department of Finance, TK Whitaker's 1958 paper 'Economic Development' informed the First Programme for Economic Expansion. Born in Rostrevor, Co Down, he consistently highlighted the deterioration of Ireland's public finances and advocated informing the public on the state of the economy. Nominated to the Seanad by then Taoiseach Jack Lynch, he served from 1977 to 1982. By his own description, his cautionary approach was viewed as "undermining public confidence" by some of his fellow senators.

George Sigerson (1836 - 1925)

Born in Co Tyrone, George Sigerson was a physician, scientist, writer and Independent Member of the First Seanad from 1922 to 1925. He served as temporary Cathaoirleach of the inaugural Seanad in 1922. He resigned from the Seanad in early 1923 after a threat by anti-Treaty forces to burn his house and returned to the Seanad in late 1923. Active in the Gaelic revival, he was President of the National Literary Society from 1893 until his death, was a founding member of Feis Ceoil and he presented the Sigerson Cup for the first Gaelic football competition between colleges in 1911.



Gordon Wilson (1927 - 1995)

Gordon Wilson was an Independent Senator nominated to the 20th Seanad by Taoiseach Albert Reynolds. While attending the World War commemoration ceremony in Enniskillen on 8 November 1987 he was injured and his daughter Marie was killed by an IRA bomb blast. He rose to political prominence for publicly forgiving the perpetrators, his peace advocacy and his initiation of talks with paramilitaries on both sides. In the Seanad, he spoke for peace in a number of Northern-Ireland-related debates. He attended the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, established in Dublin in 1994. *Photo credit: Boston College*

NORTHERN VOICES – LESSON PLAN

Using the resources listed below, answer the following questions:

1. Senator **Ian Marshall** was elected from what panel and for how long did he serve? (*Resource 1*)
2. In his first speech in the Seanad Senator Marshall said: "It is a truly historic day, both for this House and for myself." Using Resource 2 explain why this was the case.
3. What panel was **Catherine McGuinness** elected from? (*Resource 1*)
4. Briefly describe her work as a judge and for promoting peace throughout Ireland. (*Resource 1 or Resource 3*)
5. How did **Martin McAleese** become a Senator? (*Resource 1*)
6. Two of the key concepts in Topic 6 of the Leaving Certificate History Syllabus are cultural traditions and cultural identity. What does Senator McAleese say about these concepts in the third paragraph of his speech in Resource 5?

DEVELOPMENT

Continue to explore some of the other members of the Seanad who were important northern voices. Use the following suggested headings to conduct your research: local personalities, prominent campaigners, historical figures etc.

RESOURCES

The Senators described in these resources provide links with Later Modern Ireland Topics 5 and 6 of the Leaving Certificate History curriculum and also elements of the Politics and Society curriculum.

1. **Northern Voices**
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/centenaries/seanad100/northern-voices/>
2. **Senator Ian Marshall**
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Ian-Marshall.S.2018-04-18/>
3. **Catherine McGuinness**
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Catherine-McGuinness.S.1979-12-11/>
4. **Martin McAleese**
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Martin-McAleese.S.2011-05-25/>
5. **Cultural Traditions and Identity**
https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/seanad/2012-06-07/7/#spk_174



Catherine McGuinness (Born 1934)

Born in Belfast, Catherine McGuinness is the first person to progress from the Circuit Court to the High Court to the Supreme Court. Active in Church of Ireland, in the 1990s she chaired the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation in Dublin Castle. She was an independent member of the 14th, 15th and 17th Seanad on the University of Dublin panel. In 2014, she addressed the Seanad on children's rights in Ireland and in 2018 addressed the Committee on Justice and Equality during pre-legislative scrutiny on the General Scheme on the Thirty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution (Role of Women) Bill. *Photo credit: Maxwells*



Brid Rogers (Born in 1935)

Brid Rodgers was an Independent Senator nominated to the 17th Seanad by Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald. A Donegal Gaeltacht native, she became a "Southern Northerner" on moving to Co Armagh around 1960. There, she became involved in the Campaign for Social Justice and the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. She was successively Chairperson, General Secretary and Deputy Leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and was a leader in the talks that led to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. In the Seanad she was unequivocal in condemning atrocities in Northern Ireland. *Photo credit: Irish News*

SEANAD NA nÓG



The first sitting of Seanad na nÓg in November

Up for debate

In keeping with the theme running through Seanad100 events, 'Minority Voices, Major Changes', the very first Seanad na nÓg sitting took place in 2022

The first-ever sitting of Seanad na nÓg in November offered youth delegates from across the island of Ireland the opportunity to debate issues and topics of interest to them in the Seanad chamber. Cathaoirleach of the Seanad, Senator Mark Daly, made a commitment that the theme prioritised for further discussion would be the subject of a Seanad debate with the relevant minister.

Some 60 youth delegates - from Comhairle na nÓg, Gaisce - The President's Award, and the Joint Award Initiative in Northern Ireland (formerly the Duke of Edinburgh Awards) - took their seats in the Upper House on 10 November to debate five themes, which were selected by them at earlier workshops.

The themes selected for discussion by the 14-18-year-old delegates were: The Cost of Student Living; Education for Life; Access to Healthcare; Social Life and Amenities; and Financial Inequality. Minister for Children, Equality, Disability and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD addressed delegates at the opening of the session. After debate and discussion, The Cost of Student Living theme was selected by the delegates to be debated by Senators with Minister O'Gorman.

Seanad na nÓg was co-chaired by Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Seanad, Senator Joe O'Reilly and youth delegate Etse Oshiohwemoh, representing Waterford

Comhairle na nÓg. Speaking ahead of Seanad na nÓg, Senator O'Reilly said: "The Seanad has championed minority voices since its foundation 100 years ago. It is fitting that in its centenary year the Seanad is empowering the voices of young people."

"The Seanad na nÓg delegates are aged between 14 and 18 years old. They have grown up in the pandemic, in lockdown, giving them experiences and perspectives that are unique to their age group. We will absorb their wisdom, reflect on their insights and act on their recommendations."

Speaking about the importance of young people being involved in politics, Oshiohwemoh said: "I think it's absolutely fantastic because we are being affected by policies that are being put in place by people who are not us, by people who aren't our age. Through Seanad na nÓg, we got to have a say about things that will affect our lives in the near future and for generations to come."

A consultative forum

Comhairle na nÓg, Gaisce - The President's Award, and The Joint Award Initiative are all supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability and Youth. Comhairle na nÓg comprises child and youth councils in the 31 local authority areas of the country, which give children and young people a voice in the development of local services and policies.



It enables young people's voices to be heard through working on topics of importance to them and acting as a consultative forum for adult decision-makers in their locality.

Gaisce - The President's Award is a self-development programme for young people between 14 and 25 years of age, which aims to improve their confidence, wellbeing, and



Youth delegates taking part in the first-ever Seanad na nÓg sitting in November



Young people from across the island of Ireland arriving to take part in the first-ever sitting of Seanad na nÓg in November



Youth delegate Etse Oshigwemoh and Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Seanad, Senator Joe O'Reilly



Youth delegates of Seanad na nÓg with Cathaoirleach Senator Mark Daly

outcomes through participation in personal, physical and community challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins to all young people to

“THROUGH SEANAD NA nÓG, WE GOT TO HAVE A SAY ABOUT THINGS THAT WILL AFFECT OUR LIVES IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.”

dream big and realise their potential. In Northern Ireland, Gaisce – The President’s Award and the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award work in partnership through the Joint Award Initiative (JAI) to offer participants there a choice of recognition for their achievements. They can choose a Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, a Gaisce – The President’s Award, or a Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Certificate. The award is the world’s leading youth achievement award, which gives 14–24-year olds the opportunity to be the best they can be. Minister O’Gorman said: “It’s so important that we provide young people with the support and outlet to engage with decision-makers and have their voices heard. It was an honour to attend Seanad na nÓg and I commend the delegates for their work, thought and time they have put into their deliberations.” The Cost of Student Living theme selected by delegates for debate by a full sitting of Seanad Éireann looks at the barriers this creates to access to higher and further education and how this limits where, what and whether young people can study. It will be debated by the Seanad with Minister O’Gorman.



A Seanad na nÓg workshop

PRESENT MEMBERS

Garret Ahearn, Fine Gael,
Administrative Panel



Catherine Ardagh, Fianna
Fáil, Industrial and
Commercial Panel



Paddy Burke, Fine Gael,
Agricultural Panel



Jerry Buttimer, Fine Gael,
Labour Panel



Lisa Chambers, Fianna
Fáil, Cultural and
Educational Panel



Lorraine Clifford-Lee,
Fianna Fáil, Nominated
by An Taoiseach



Emer Currie, Fine Gael,
Nominated by the
Taoiseach



Mark Daly, Fianna Fáil,
Administrative Panel



Paul Daly, Fianna Fáil,
Agricultural Panel



Aidan Davitt, Fianna
Fáil, Industrial and
Commercial Panel



Regina Doherty, Fine
Gael, Nominated by the
Taoiseach



Aisling Dolan, Fine
Gael, Nominated by the
Taoiseach



Timmy Dooley, Fianna
Fáil, Nominated by the
Taoiseach



Alice-Mary Higgins,
Independent, National
University of Ireland



Annie Hoey, Labour Party,
Agricultural Panel



Gerry Horkan, Fianna
Fáil, Industrial and
Commercial Panel



Sharon Keogan,
Independent, Industrial
and Commercial Panel



Seán Kyne, Fine Gael,
Cultural and Educational
Panel



Tim Lombard, Fine Gael,
Agricultural Panel



Vincent P. Martin, Green
Party, Nominated by the
Taoiseach



David P.B. Norris,
Independent, University
of Dublin



Denis O'Donovan, Fianna
Fáil, Agricultural Panel



Fiona O'Loughlin, Fianna
Fáil, Administrative Panel



Joe O'Reilly, Fine Gael,
Labour Panel



Pauline O'Reilly, Green
Party, Labour Panel



Ned O'Sullivan, Fianna
Fáil, Labour Panel



Lynn Ruane, Independent,
University of Dublin

Staying current

At present, there are 60 people serving as members of Seanad Éireann. In theory, the Seanad does not recognise political party membership. In practice, however the make-up of the Seanad generally reflects the strength of the parties in the Dáil





Group shot of senators
in the current Seanad



Malcolm Byrne, Fianna Fáil, Cultural and Educational Panel



Frances Black, Independent, Industrial and Commercial Panel



Niall Blaney, Fianna Fáil, Agricultural Panel



Victor Boyhan, Independent, Agricultural Panel



Lynn Boylan, Sinn Féin, Agricultural Panel



Tom Clonan, Independent, University of Dublin



Maria Byrne, Fine Gael, Agricultural Panel



Micheál Carrigy, Fine Gael, Industrial and Commercial Panel



Pat Casey, Fianna Fáil, Labour Panel



Shane Cassells, Fianna Fáil, Labour Panel



Eileen Flynn, Independent, Nominated by the Taoiseach



Martin Conway, Fine Gael, Administrative Panel



Gerard P. Craughwell, Independent, Labour Panel



Oillie Crowe, Fianna Fáil, Industrial and Commercial Panel



John Cummins, Fine Gael, Labour Panel



Mary Fitzpatrick, Fianna Fáil, Nominated by the Taoiseach



Michael McDowell, Independent, National University of Ireland



John McGahon, Fine Gael, Cultural and Educational Panel



Robbie Gallagher, Fianna Fáil, Labour Panel



Róisín Garvey, Green Party, Nominated by the Taoiseach



Paul Gavan, Sinn Féin, Labour Panel



Pippa Hackett, Green Party, Agricultural Panel

“OF THE 60 PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SEANAD, 11 WERE NOMINATED BY THE TAOISEACH MICHEÁL MARTIN, 23 ARE WOMEN AND 50% ARE FIRST-TIME SENATORS.”



Erin McGreehan, Fianna Fáil, Nominated by the Taoiseach



Rebecca Moynihan, Labour Party, Administrative Panel



Rónán Mullen, Independent, National University of Ireland



Eugene Murphy, Fianna Fáil, Agricultural Panel



Mary Seery Kearney, Fine Gael, Nominated by the Taoiseach



Marie Sherlock, Labour Party, Labour Panel



Mark Wall, Labour Party, Industrial and Commercial Panel



Barry Ward, Fine Gael, Industrial and Commercial Panel



Fintan Warfield, Sinn Féin, Cultural and Educational Panel



Diarmuid Wilson, Fianna Fáil, Administrative Panel



Niall O'Donnghaile, Sinn Féin, Administrative Panel

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil, atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
 Buíon dár slua thar toinn do ráinig chugainn,
 Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
 Seantír ár sinsear feasta,
 Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
 Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil,
 Le gearr ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil,
 Le gunna-scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
 Seo libh canaig' amhrán na bhFiann.



Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

National Anthem Public Consultation Results in Protocol and Sign Language Version

Seanad Éireann has conducted many public consultations. One of these was a consultation on the national anthem. Following this, and in keeping with Seanad Éireann's role in promoting minority issues, an Irish Sign Language version of the national anthem was produced as a result of the Seanad-led Irish Sign Language Act 2018 being signed into law.

A protocol for the national anthem has been developed, which includes the headings 'Respect and Dignity', 'Standing', 'Conduct During Playing', 'Presidential Salute', 'Sporting Occasions' and 'Use in Advertising'. The full protocol can be found here: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/32/seanad-public-consultation-committee/>
 The national anthem musical notes appear in the Irish passport.