

The AONTAS Adult Education Summit:

Connecting Communities for Collective Action

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 • Learner representative
12.50pm	Learner Spotlight Cathy Clear, Adult Literacy Learner with Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board
1.00pm	Lunch

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1.40pm

Workshop 1: Making Learner Voice Visible in Practice

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

Workshop 2: Transformative Education in Times of Polarisation

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

Workshop 3: Collaborative Partnerships for Pathways into Education

- 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

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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 <i>The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education: The Adult Learner 2025</i> • Dr Tom Farrelly, Gasta Master, Host • Dr Rosemary Moreland, Editor of <i>The Adult Learner</i> • 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 <i>Popular Education in Historical and Contemporary Practice</i> Professor Peter Mayo, University of Malta
12.15pm	Learner Spotlight Chidiogo Blessing Ebeledike, AONTAS Board Member
12.30pm	Lunch

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Day 2

Thursday, 20th November

1.20pm

Workshop 1: Equality in Apprenticeships, Learning, and Work

- 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

Rosemary Kunene, Founder, Dignity Partnership

Workshop 3: Storytelling for Connecting Communities

- 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