The National Adult Learning Organisation
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Ranelagh, Dublin 6, D06 E0H1
T: +353 1 406 8220
mail@aontas.com
www.aontas.com
RCN 20013042

An Open Letter To Our Members

From AONTAS Chief Executive Officer

Dear Members,

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm that our commitment to our members, learners and the future of adult learning in Ireland remains as strong as ever.

At AONTAS, our mission is to advocate for and empower adult learning that drives social equality, justice, and collective action across the island of Ireland. We remain completely committed to that mission and working towards our vision of a world where the pursuit of learning for all adults is valued, equal, and strengthens communities.

We are conscious of the recent media coverage and commentary around the community and voluntary sector, of which AONTAS is a part of. The community and voluntary sector play a vital role in Irish society by advocating for human rights and equality, providing care-based services, addressing gaps in State provision, and driving positive social change.

We recognise that this coverage may raise questions among our members and understand the importance of providing reassurance about the values and principles that underpin our work.

Commitment to our members

I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that our commitment to you and to our shared purpose remains as strong as ever.

At AONTAS, our focus continues to be on representing the interests of our members, advocating for equal and accessible education for all, and working collectively to strengthen the adult and community education sector. These priorities are central to who we are and what we do.

We believe that the community and voluntary sector plays a vital role in advocating for the needs, rights and interests of the people and communities it represents, particularly in advancing equality. Its independence, collective voice and ability to challenge and question decision-makers are essential to a healthy democracy.

Company Directors: **John D'Arcy** – Chairperson, **Lilian Nwanze** – Vice Chairperson, **Anne Whelan** – Director, **Charis Hughes** – Director, **Deirdre Arnold** – Director, **Fergus Craddock** – Director, **Paula O'Shea** – Director**, Cora Rafter –** Director, **Imelda Gaffney** – Director, **Pamela Latimer** – Director, **Lynn Simpson** – Director, **Stephanie Kirwan** – Director, **Chidiogo Blessing Ebeledike** – Director.

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Transparency

At AONTAS, we are committed to being open and transparent in how we work, making decisions responsibly, and following strong governance practices. We take our responsibilities to our members, learners and the wider adult learning community seriously. Whatever the external commentary, at AONTAS, our focus remains firmly on our over 500 members, the learners our work impacts and the positive difference adult learning makes to individuals, communities and society.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and commitment to AONTAS. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

Yours Sincerely,



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Dearbháil Lawless
AONTAS CEO

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