

Embracing Diversity – A Future Together
Ballyhaunis Integration Seminar
on Friday 18th October 2019

Venue: Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Began, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo

Programme of Events

- 10:00 *Registration*
- Session 1** ***Chair – Paul Geraghty, Social Inclusion & Communities Unit,
Department of Rural & Community Development***
- 10:30 **Introduction to the day**
- 10:35 **Opening Address** - Minister David Stanton TD
Department of Justice and Equality
- 10:50 **“Our Ballyhaunis”**
Ann Cunnane, Mark Godfrey, Celesta Khosa, Ballyhaunis community
- 11:10 **Punjabi on the Hurling Pitch: Negotiations of Intercultural Engagement and
Diversity**
Dr Orla McGarry, Lecturer and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Political
Science and Sociology, NUI Galway
- 11:30 Break*
- Session 2** ***Chair – Evelyn O’Connor, Community Volunteer***
- 11:50 **Diverse Global Culture**
Dr Tony Barrett, Anthropologist
- 12:10 **Inter-cultural community development: potential and advantages**
Anastasia Crickley, Former Chair of UN Committee for Elimination of Racial
Discrimination (CERD) and former Head of Department Applied Social Studies, co-
founder Pavee Point and founding member of Migrants Rights Centre Ireland.
- 12:30 **Hospitality and storytelling as acts of reciprocity: Mellie sanctuary tales**
Dr Veronica Crosbie, Assistant Professor in Migration and Intercultural Studies in the
School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS), Dublin City
University. Chair of the University of Sanctuary Ireland network.

Julie Daniel, DCU SALIS PhD scholarship holder and manager of the DCU University of
Sanctuary Mellie project.
- 13:00 *Lunch a flavour of multi-ethnic foods*

Session 3 ***Chair – Gerry O’Neill, CEO, South West Mayo Development Company***

- 14:15 **Economic and Social Development – Potential of Diversity**
- Tom Forde, Chamber of Commerce: Economic advantages of Diversity
 - Mr Imran Sher Rafique: First major industry was founded by a migrant
 - David Minton, Director, North West Regional Assembly
- 14:45 **Sport – a universal language**
- Seán Óg Ó hAilpín - personal experiences
Seán is a Fijian-Irish hurler and Gaelic footballer. In an inter-county playing career that spanned three decades, Seán played for the Cork senior hurling and football teams, winning major honours with both.
 - Ballyhaunis GAA, 45 years inter-cultural sports
- 15:10 **Panel discussion - led by *Maria McHale* South West Mayo Development Company**
Includes Departments of Justice & Equality and Rural and Community Development, and speakers of the day
- 15:50 **Closing Address – Minister Michael Ring TD**
Minister for Rural and Community Development
- 16:10 **Wrap up and official Close of Forum - *Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council***

Light entertainment provided

Follow-up Day 2 – Date to be confirmed.

The second day of the event, most likely in Q1 2020, will be a presentation of a report of the integration seminar. The community of Ballyhaunis will be invited to consider the findings of the seminar and with the help of some academic and policy experts, will attempt to plot a course for an even more diverse and integrated future together.