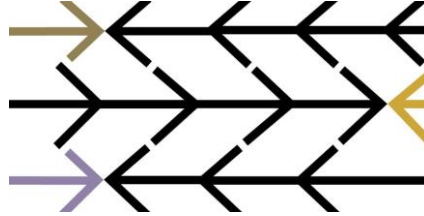




HOW SHOULD A LIBERAL DEMOCRACY REACT TO CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION CLAIMS?



Panel Four: Reacting to Conscience Claims in the Public Square

17:15

This panel, with ISL interpreting, will discuss how legislators and governments in liberal democracies should react to claims of conscience. Speakers will address questions such as: Do republican political traditions have particular difficulty in accommodating claims of conscience, given the importance such traditions place on providing reasons for actions that impact the public sphere, and submitting these reasons to some form of public assessment?

17:15	Chair:	Mr Bryan Dobson, RTÉ
17:20	Panellists:	Dr John Adentire, Queen Mary University of London
17:30		Professor Fiona de Londras, University of Birmingham
17:40		Senator Michael McDowell, Houses of the Oireachtas
17:50		Discussion/Q&A
18:15		Conference closing by Professor Maeve Cooke MRIA, Chair, RIA Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies Committee

John Adentire PhD is a Strategic Lecturer in the School of Law, Queen Mary, University of London. Prior to joining Queen Mary, he was a Lecturer in Law at the University of Birmingham and a doctoral student at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. He is the author of *A General Right to Conscientious Exemption: beyond Religious Privilege* (CUP 2020) and editor of *Religious Beliefs and Conscientious Exemptions in a Liberal State* (Hart 2019).

Fiona de Londras is Professor of Global Legal Studies in the University of Birmingham and Honorary Professor at the Australian National University. Author or editor of 10 books and dozens of articles, her work focuses on human rights, transnationalism and constitutionalism in contentious policy fields, including reproductive rights. She has provided consultancy to politicians and international organisations, including the World Health Organisation. Her work has been funded by the Leverhulme Trust, European Commission, Arts and Humanities Research Council, British Academy and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. She is a current holder of the Philip Leverhulme Prize in Law, and alumna of University College Cork.

Bryan Dobson is a presenter of the RTÉ Radio News at One. Previously he was a presenter of RTÉ's Morning Ireland programme. He has worked for RTÉ News and Current Affairs for more than thirty years covering news stories at home and abroad for both radio and television, and was for many years co-anchor of the RTÉ Six-One Television News.

Michael McDowell was appointed Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in the Fianna Fáil-Progressive Democrats Coalition Government formed in June 2002. He served as Minister for

Justice, Equality and Law Reform until June 2007, and as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) from September 2006 to June 2007. In July 1999 he was appointed Attorney General of Ireland and served in that post until June 2002. He practises as a Senior Counsel in the Law Library, Dublin. He was elected as an independent member to Seanad Éireann, the Irish Senate, by the graduates of the National University of Ireland in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, where he is a member of the Justice Committee, the Committee on European Affairs, the Committee on Procedure and Privilege and of the Members' Interests Committee.

