

Attacks on human rights defenders in Northern Ireland in 2018

Tuesday 11 December 2018, 11am-1pm, UNISON, Galway House, Belfast
GFA@20 Human Rights Festival Panel Discussion

The Panel:

Patricia McKeown
Regional Secretary,
UNISON & Equality
Coalition Co-Convenor
(Panel Chair)

Gavin Boyd
Director, Participation and
the Practice of Rights
(PPR)

Goretti Horgan
Activist & Academic

Caroline Maguire
Equality Duty Enforcement
Project Coordinator,
Committee on the
Administration of Justice
(CAJ)

Barry McCaffrey
Journalist, The Detail

Niall Murphy
Human Rights Lawyer,
KRW Law

As part of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Festival 2018, the Equality Coalition invite you to a panel discussion on the increasingly hostile environment faced by human rights defenders.

Online abuse, trolling and threats have become common place in the digital age for human rights defenders. Women rights activists and LGBT activists often face the brunt of online attacks, with relatively little remedy or intervention from public authorities.

The last year in NI has also seen a worrying resumption of political attacks in Westminster and in the UK tabloids against human rights lawyers, reminiscent of the climate that preceded the assassinations of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson.

In a chilling development for media freedom, journalists Barry McCaffrey and Trevor Birney were arrested and the offices of several media organisations raided by police in relation to their 'No Stone Unturned' film, which revealed further evidence of state involvement in the 1994 Loughinisland massacre.

This panel discussion will deal with these experiences, reflect on the current climate and ask what can collectively be done to address such attacks. Lunch will be served at the end of the event. Please RSVP to Robyn Scott on equalitycoalition@caj.org.uk.