

## Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers Newsletter

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**Dear Noreen,**

Welcome to our June 2011 Newsletter. As you may note, we did not have a newsletter in the first half of this year. This was due to the absence and recruitment of a National Coordinator for the Coalition. We are happy to say that, that is no longer the case and Katie Fox was appointed on the 4th of May as the National Coordinator.

### New Appointment National Coordinator of the CIIC

I am delighted to be employed by the CIIC as the new National Coordinator. Having worked in the non-profit sector for nearly 15 years in a number of different countries, on a variety of issues, I am thrilled to be applying my skills with the Coalition to an issue close to my heart.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by my predecessor, Sheila Gleeson. Sheila guided the Coalition from its establishment to where it is today and I know that I have big shoes to fill.

I was lucky to meet most of the members of the Coalition at our recent Conference. I was impressed and enthused by the commitment and energy of all of the members and look forward to harnessing that going forward.

I, for my part, intend to match and surpass that commitment and energy to give the centers, who work so hard on the coal face the support and assistance they need to ensure their active participation in the Coalition.



Katie Fox, Newly  
Appointed Coordinator of  
the CIIC

I look forward to the challenges and rewards that I'm sure this position is going to bring.

Is Mise,  
Katie  
National Coordinator CIIC

## **CIIC National Conference**

**May 2011**

CIIC held a very successful National Conference in New York on May 16th & 17th this year. It is the Coalition's 15th Anniversary and a very interesting historical perspective of the Coalition lead the Conference off to a good start.

The program was very full and covered a variety of items relation to immigration, outreach & advocacy and social services.

Participants learned and developed practical tools to use in the day to day running of the centers through participation in workshops on detention, networking, dealing with walk-in emergencies and evaluation. A full morning was given to the Outcome Measures Initiative which all centers are hoping to roll out over the coming year



Consul General, Noel  
Kilkenny addresses CIIC  
Confere

The CIIC also passed some changes to the Coalition's bye-laws and elected a new Board of Directors. All in all it proved to be a very productive couple of days.

A full report of the conference will be produced and disseminated over the coming months.

## **White House Conference Call**

**Wednesday 18th, 2011**

The White House Office of Public Engagement arranged for a call-in for a briefing with Denis McDonough on the President's trip to Ireland. An outline was given of the President's visit and the issues he was going to discuss there. Then members of the Irish American community raised issues and posed questions regarding social and economic relations between Ireland & the U.S. and most importantly immigration reform for Irish people living in America. They were assured that their questions and issues would be relayed to the President prior to his visit to Ireland.

A follow-up email was circulated, post the President's visit, by Kyle Lierman - Ethnic Outreach Liaison with the White House, asking us to keep an eye out for information on a call the White House will be hosting soon to discuss immigration issues in the Irish American Community.

Watch this space!

## Webinar

### Lost Generations or Transnational Sojourners? Emerging perspectives on contemporary Irish and European (e)migration trends

As you know, emigration is back on the agenda in Ireland.

It is generating a lot of debate and some academics with an interest in the field would like to make a small contribution to these debates.

They are running a small round table on current Irish emigration in Cork on Monday 20th June. The idea is to (a) compare it with the last waves of strong Irish emigration, in the 1980s and 1950s (b) compare it with two of our neighbours also known as countries of strong migration traditions, Portugal and Poland.

They wish to explore a range of questions, from basic trends and figures to such issues as who is most likely to leave, what problems and challenges they may encounter, who is most likely to return and under what circumstances, what factors are most likely to influence their decisions, and how the debate is handled in public, political and media circles.

This symposium will draw together emerging perspectives on recent outmigration flows from and return flows to three European states - Ireland, Portugal and Poland - raising questions about the place of 'emigration' in contemporary European societies.

#### Confirmed Speakers:

Dr. Joana Azevedo, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, Lisbon

Dr. Mary Gilmartin, Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth  
Piaras Mac Éinrí, Department of Geography and ISS21, University College Cork

Joe O'Brien, Crosscare Migrant Project

Agata Piękosz, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

A report of the Webinar has been requested and will be reported on in the next issue of this newsletter



## President Obama visits Ireland

### Special Visit to his Ancestral Home in Offaly

As you are all aware President Obama made a quick visit to Ireland on his European tour. He managed to take in Moneygall, Co. Offaly in his whistle-stop tour as this is where his great, great, great, grandfather Falmouth Kearney left in 1850. While in Moneygall, the U.S. President had time to have a pint of the black stuff and also spent time speaking

with his eighth cousin, Henry Healy, who he later affectionately dubbed 'Henry VIII' during his speech in Dublin.

The President also met privately with the Irish President, Mary McAleese, at Áras an Uachtaráin and with the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, at Farmleigh, where they discussed, among other things, the question of the President's speech on immigration, which he made in El Paso, and the fact that the administration is continuing to work on that

The big event of the day was at College Green, Dublin, where a crowd of 60,000 people gathered to hear President Obama speak. He raised the spirit of the Irish people with his rousing speech culminating in his famous slogan, this time as Gaeilge "Is féidir linn. Yes, we can. Yes, we can. Is féidir linn."

[President Obama's Speech at College Green](#)

The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) is a national umbrella group for all of the Irish Immigration Centers in the US. The CIIC was established in 1996 to promote the welfare of Irish immigrants in the US at a national level.

If you wish to submit an article or wish to highlight something going on in your center to this newsletter, please submit to [katie.fox@ciic-usa.org](mailto:katie.fox@ciic-usa.org) before the 5th of the month.

**Sincerely,  
Katie Fox  
National Coordinator  
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers**

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