

CLAIMING OUR FUTURE  
SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**1. What is ‘Claiming our Future’?**

‘Claiming our Future’ aims to achieve a more equal, inclusive and sustainable Ireland.

‘Claiming our Future’ is an event to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October in the RDS in Dublin. The principles, policies and strategies needed to achieve a more equal, inclusive and sustainable Ireland will be discussed and identified at this event.

‘Claiming our Future’ is the first step in building a broad alliance of organisations committed to equality, inclusion, environmental sustainability and human dignity. This alliance would popularize the principles, policies and strategies identified at the event, would demonstrate the broad support for them, and would seek political commitment for their implementation.

**2. Who is involved?**

‘Claiming our Future’ is a civil society initiative.

‘Claiming our Future’ was developed by Is Feidir Linn, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership, the Community Platform, Social Justice Ireland and TASC. The idea grew from discussions between these organisations on how best to cooperate and coordinate endeavor for this more equal, inclusive and sustainable Ireland.

‘Claiming our Future’ now involves a wider range of civil society organisations in preparing for and organizing the event. These include trade unions, environmental groups, community groups, migrant worker organisations, youth groups, older peoples’ organisations, global justice groups, cultural groups, student groups, rural networks, women’s organisations, disability groups, social media and social justice groups.

**3. Why is this event being organized?**

‘Claiming our Future’ is being organized because of widespread anger, concern and dissatisfaction with the way the economic crisis is being managed.

The policy response to this economic crisis is environmentally unsustainable, increases inequality and exclusion and is ineffective:

- Irish society is being saddled with a huge debt to bail out the banks.
- Key public services are being cut.
- The standard of living of those experiencing poverty is being further diminished.

- Biodiversity and ecosystems continue to be destroyed.
- Natural resource use continues to be unsustainable.

This policy response is defended on the basis that ‘There is no alternative’. It is suggested that it is bearing fruit, that ‘the green shoots of recovery’ are visible.

There are alternatives. The ‘green shoots’ have all proven illusory. There are choices to be made.

‘Claiming our Future’ is being organized to enable a broad range of groups from across civil society to demand an alternative and to contribute to identifying choices for a different future based on equality, inclusion, sustainability and human dignity.

#### **4. What makes ‘Claiming our Future’ different?**

‘Claiming our Future’ seeks a transformed Ireland committed to the values of equality, inclusion, sustainability and human dignity. This transformation will be based on:

- Economic development that serves people
- A more effective response to environmental challenges
- Greater economic, social and cultural participation
- Public sector renewal
- Reformed taxation and income policies
- Democratic reform
- A more effective contribution to global justice

‘Claiming our Future’ is a broad based alliance of groups committed to equality, inclusion, sustainability and human dignity. It brings a range of different sectors together including trade unions, community groups and environmental organisations.

‘Claiming our Future’ provides a framework for a broad range of civil society groups to cooperate and to coordinate their work for equality, inclusion, sustainability and human dignity. It is independent and separate from the State. It is not a political party and does not include political parties.

#### **5. How is ‘Claiming our Future’ being organized?**

An event is being organized on the 30<sup>th</sup> October in the RDS in Dublin. This event will provide an opportunity for participants from a wide range of groups and sectors to discuss and deliberate on:

- The values that we share and espouse.

- The implications of these values for new policies and strategies.
- New ways we could cooperate and coordinate to advance these values and policy choices.

There will be a build up to the event. Meetings and activities are being organized around the country. Thirty local convenors have taken on to organize this build up. These local events and activities will:

- Get people involved in the event.
- Begin the debate on the policy choices that need to be made.
- Create inputs that would communicate local concerns and ideas at the national event.

## **6. What happens after the event?**

The event should create a momentum and an organizational strategy for ongoing action and activities to:

- Popularize the values, policies and strategies identified at the event.
- Demonstrate support for these.
- Seek political commitment for their implementation.

## **7. What does ‘Claiming our Future’ stand for?**

‘Claiming our Future’ stands for equality, inclusion, environmental sustainability and human dignity. ‘Claiming our Future’ stands for the right of civil society to put forward policy choices for a more equal, inclusive and sustainable Ireland and to have those policy choices implemented.

## **8. How can I get involved?**

Local convenors are organizing activities in each county in the build up to the event. Make contact with them now – their contact details are on the website.

Come to the event. You need to register. This can be done through the website.

Childcare is available on site but you need to book it on the website.

## **9. Where to contact ‘Claiming our Future’?**

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