

Introduction

This pack is to help you to prepare for and contribute to '*Claiming our Future*' which takes place in the Industries Hall of the RDS in Dublin on 30th October 2010. The event aims to stimulate the emergence of a cross sectoral community of interest and action for a more equal, inclusive and sustainable Ireland.

We¹ are deeply dissatisfied with the direction of Government policy in response to the economic recession and do not accept that there is no alternative to these policies. There are choices to be made and civil society has a vital contribution to make in identifying and progressing new policy choices.

To progress these alternatives we aim to gather a thousand people from all parts of civil society and all corners of Ireland to discuss and deliberate on the values that we share and espouse, the implications of these values for new policy choices and new ways of cooperating and coordinating across civil society to advance these values and policy choices.

Part of the preparation for the event is to encourage and enable local meetings and activities throughout the country to lead up and contribute to this event.

This introductory pack aims to help you organize and support these local activities in the run up to the event. The pack aims to give you ideas and let you know what might be involved. The introductory pack includes:

- A discussion document '*Claiming our Future*' to be used to support debate in the build up to the event.
- A flier to give notice of the event.
- A preliminary list of possible local activities you could start or support.
- A questions and answers sheet on 'Claiming our Future'.
- A draft press release you could use for your local activities
- A draft agenda for Oct 30th

For more information and support you can contact: Co-ordinator: Bríd Nolan // Tel: 01-8870726 // Mob: 086 8474466, O'Lehane House, 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1 Email: info@claimingourfuture.ie // Web: www.claimingourfuture.ie

¹ 'We' began as Is Feidir Linn, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership, the Community Platform, Social Justice Ireland and TASC. By summer 2010 'we' had grown into a wider range of civil society organisations including trade unions, environmental groups, community groups, migrant worker organisations, youth groups, older people's organisations, cultural groups, student groups, developing world groups, rural networks, women's organisations, disability groups, social media and social justice organisations