



National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference

Call for papers



Opens: 1st February 2023. **Closes:** 21st April 2023. **Decisions** end of May 2023.

CONFERENCE THEME:

Child Protection and Children's Rights: Learning, Achievements, and Where to Next?

About us

The 9th *National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference* will take place on the **27th of October 2023** at UCC. This conference is a not-for-profit partnership between frontline child protection and welfare staff in TUSLA, the Irish Association of Social Workers, and University College Cork (@UCCsocialwork, School of Applied Social Studies). To find out more about the conference and to review videos of our previous keynote speakers [click here](#).

About this conference

Social work practice in child protection, child welfare and alternative care is a constantly evolving field of professional practice with rapid changes in policy, practice, legislation, technology, and statutory systems. Child protection and welfare social workers collaborate with professionals, services, and representative groups to identify and promote the health, development and welfare of children and families. Ireland is incrementally becoming a better place for children to live, but there is always more to do to ensure that all children have a positive, safe and healthy childhood.

We welcome papers on the conference's main theme - ***Child Protection and Children's Rights: Learning, Achievements, and Where to Next?*** – and related sub-themes:

- **10 years on from the establishment of the Child & Family Agency: what are the challenges, opportunities, and implications for children's rights and child protection?**
- **Reflections on achievements and strengths in the Irish model of child protection, children's rights and child welfare.**
- **Where to next for the development of child protection practice?**
- **New innovations in practice, interventions, research, law, policy, advocacy, and technology.**
- **Does the profession need to be revitalised and, if so, how?**
- **Who undertakes assessments? Multi-disciplinary teams in child protection and welfare.**

Invitation

The conference committee invites experts by experience, practitioners, academics, researchers, managers, representative groups, policy-makers, community groups, and social commentators to submit on the theme for this conference. **The conference is open to all disciplines and services.** We especially welcome papers from practitioners that reflect upon challenges and innovations arising in everyday practice in child protection and welfare. **Abstracts must explicitly address the conference theme.**

Your abstract will be peer-reviewed by one academic, one practitioner and the chairperson of the SWCONF23 Scientific Committee. Preference will be given to abstracts that present a unique study, practice innovation, policy etc. that has not been presented previously, and which is aligned with the theme of the conference. The decision of the SWCONF23 Scientific Committee will be final.

Presentation formats

Oral Papers: The conference committee is inviting abstracts which can be presented in the form of an oral paper. The duration of the oral paper presentation is 15 minutes + 5 mins for questions, and can relate to practice, experiences of using the child protection system, research, education, system development, technologies, advocacy, and policy issues relevant to the conference theme. Time will be allowed for audience discussion in the session. **Papers will be face-to-face at UCC** – online presentations cannot be facilitated.

Symposia: The conference committee is also inviting proposals for symposia. We have limited capacity to host symposia, therefore a very strong rationale will need to be presented as to why a symposium is required rather than an oral paper. The symposia will take place over a 90-minute period and the committee is open to all proposals, including; debates, research data-collection, practice skills sessions, development of position papers on topics and so on. Presenters are expected to structure the symposia to allow for audience participation and input. Please submit one summary abstract per symposium on the abstract submission site. Symposium organisers should also email a more detailed proposal to the Scientific Committee Chairperson Caroline Shore (c.shore@ucc.ie) with more information on contributors, the rationale for the symposium, details on the format and structure of the symposium, the link between the symposium topic and the conference theme, an abstract for each paper if there are more than one, and a description of how delegate participation will be encouraged. **Symposia will be face-to-face at UCC** – online presentations cannot be facilitated.

All symposia abstracts should include a summary of the background and rationale specific to the conference theme, and implications for practice. If you intend to present research, please include a brief summary of methodology, findings and conclusions.

Enquiries

All enquiries about the SWCONF23 call for papers process to the Scientific Committee Chairperson Caroline Shore: c.shore@ucc.ie

Submit your paper here: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/swconf/abstracts/>

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/swconf/>

Twitter: [@SWCONFUCC](https://twitter.com/SWCONFUCC)

