



Welcome to the

# Mental Health and Capacity Law Conference 2025



**5<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**Brookfield Health Sciences, UCC; Room: BHSC\_G01**



# Conference Agenda – Morning

- 9:45 am – 10:05am: Registration
- 10:05 am: Welcome from Director of the Centre of Criminal Justice and Human Rights

## Morning Panel

- Chair for Morning Panel: **Dr. Luke Noonan**
- **10:05 am:** Welcome by Chair for the morning session
- **10:10 am:** Dr. Nicola Maxwell, Gráinne Mulcahy, and Claire McCarthy (ID+ Futures, University College Cork)  
*“Co-Learning, Co-Research and people with intellectual disability”*
- **10:40 am:** Dr. Joanna Ralston BL  
*“Capacity Applications and Wardship Discharge Applications - A Practitioner’s Perspective”*

Comfort break from 11:10am to 11:20am with some tea and coffee provided (**Room: BHSC 1.22**)

- **11:20 am:** Ms. Áine Flynn (Director of the Decision Support Service)  
*“The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and the Decision Support Service: Overview and Updates”*
- **11:50 am:** Martha Griffin (Assistant Professor in Mental Health, DCU; Mad in Ireland) and Jennifer Hough (PhD Candidate, University of Galway; Mad in Ireland)  
*“Beyond the Current Paradigm: What Human Rights Really Means in Mental Health Law”*

12:30pm - 2:00pm Lunch (Room: **BHSC 1.22**)

# Conference Agenda – Afternoon

## Afternoon Panel

- Chair for Afternoon Panel: **Dr. Darius Whelan**
- **2:00 pm:** Welcome by the Dean of the School of Law, Prof. Conor O'Mahony
- **2:05 pm:** Welcome by Chair for the afternoon session
- **2:10 pm:** Ms. Orla Keane BL (Mental Health Commission)  
*“Is the Mental Health Bill person centred and human rights focused?”*
- **2:40 pm:** Professor Gautam Gulati (Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist)  
*“Prison Psychiatry- Myths, Realities and Solution”*
- **3:10 pm:** Audience Q&A
- **3:40 pm:** Closing address by **Dr. Luke Noonan**

# Conference Wi-Fi

**Text (SMS) keyword:**

**CCJHR**

**To phone number:**

**+353 863 876 076**

**Only valid on:**

**04 Sep - 06 Sep 2025**



**1**

**SMS**

Text (SMS) the indicated keyword with your mobile to the phone number.

**2**

**Receive**

You will immediately receive a return SMS containing your personal Wi-Fi username and password.

**3**

**Wi-Fi!**

Select the "eduroam" Wi-Fi network on your device and enter your username and password. You are now online!

# Additional Information

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- The conference hashtag for social media is **#MHCL25**
- The Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights can be found on X [@CCJHRlawucc](https://twitter.com/CCJHRlawucc)

## ASKING QUESTIONS

- As well as asking questions verbally, conference guests will also be able to submit questions via their device and a member of the conference team will read them out.
- To submit a question this way: go to **vevox.app** on your device.
- You will be prompted for a session ID. Enter the following code: **100-583-877** and click “JOIN SESSION”. At the top of the screen there is a discussion icon on the right-hand side. If you click on this, then you will be able to post your question. Please include the name of the speaker and as much detail as you can in the question.

## CPD POINTS

- We are able to provide confirmation of attendance for CPD purposes for Barristers and Solicitors. Please let a member of the conference team know at registration if you require this. Alternatively, contact [ccjhr@ucc.ie](mailto:ccjhr@ucc.ie) after the conference to arrange.
- Unfortunately, we are not able to provide this for other professions.