

Invitation: Community Voices for a Renewed Ireland.

You are cordially invited to attend and participate: Please email tboland@wit.ie to confirm, as numbers are limited.

In 2013 President Michael D. Higgins announced ‘The President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative: Shaping Ireland’s Shared Future’. <http://www.president.ie/uncategorized/president-announces-nationwide-ethics-initiative/> As part of this larger program, a number of workshops, entitled “Community Voices for a Renewed Ireland,” are being organized.

The first Waterford “Community Voices for a Renewed Ireland” will be held in the Grosvenor Room, Edmund Rice Centre, Sion Hill on the 24th of November, hosted by the Waterford Unemployment Experiences Research Collaborative and the Centre for the Study of the Moral Foundations of Economy & Society. The workshop will feature people involved in the development of grassroots community organisations that rise to the challenges of life in contemporary Ireland, pursuing a better society and individual flourishing. The presentations and ensuing discussions will contribute to developing a new language that clearly links economic and social development and begins a new process of thinking about the ethics and values at the heart of our economy and society.

The forum meetings are intended to provide a platform for new initiatives engaged in community building and the development of social and environmental resilience. They will explore home, neighbourhood, and community as key foundations of our ethical identity - social spaces within which we can live better, more hopeful and meaningful lives. The forums will offer recognition to a variety of social initiatives; provide a space in which common themes can emerge and connections be made; and explore how academic researchers and community organizers can mutually enrich and assist each other in their work. The workshop will gather people’s views and communicate them to the President, and their gathered opinions will be heard within the broader conversation that is The President of Ireland’s Ethics Initiative.

Date: 24th of November

Time: 6pm to 9pm

Venue: Grosvenor Room, Edmund Rice Centre, Sion Hill

Schedule:

6 PM: Refreshments & Introductions

6.30- 8.30: ‘World café’ workshop, facilitated by **Chris McInerney, Kieran Keohane & Tom Boland**

Participants will include representatives from community, youth, art, ex-prisoner and drug rehabilitation groups, representatives from Waterford Crystal workers and the unemployed.

