
Women in Leadership

Polish-Irish webinar to celebrate International Women's Day 2021

Friday, 5 March 2021, 12GMT



Hazel Chu, Lord Mayor of Dublin

The 352nd Lord Mayor of Dublin and the 9th woman to hold the office. Studied politics and history in UCD and trained to be a barrister at Kings Inns. She first became involved in politics in 2014. In 2019, she became the first Green Party councillor to be elected in the local elections for the ward of Pembroke when she topped the poll with over 4,000 first preference vote, in the same year she was elected Chair of the Party. Lends her voice to promoting diversity and equality and is a regular media contributor.

Wanda BUK, VP of PGE Capital Group

Vice President of the Polish Energy Group (PGE) the largest power producing company in Poland. In 2018 nominated as one of the youngest Undersecretaries of State, for 2 years she served as a Deputy Minister of Digitalization in charge of the Department of Telecommunications, International Policy and the Office of the Minister. Before that she served as a director at the Digital Poland Project Center, institution responsible for the implementation of European funds allocated to the digitization of the country. She has a very rich academic background, including law degree from the University of Łódź and Université de Poitiers in France.



Prof. Yvonne Galligan, Director, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, TU Dublin

Professor, Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Ireland's first technological university, TU Dublin. She is a political scientist specialising in gender and politics, and has written widely in that area. She enjoys attending cultural events of all kinds, and is looking forward to meeting friends old and new when it is safe to do so again.

Anna Schmidt, Secretary of the State, Ministry of Family and Social Policy

MEP, Sociologist, graduate of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Catholic University of Lublin. Previously, she served as the Secretary of State, Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister for International Dialogue. During her first term as MEP she was Chairwoman of the Committee for Communication with Poles Abroad, member of the Committee on Social Policy and Family, and member of the Standing Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities, as well as Vice-President of the Polish-British Bilateral Group and member of the Polish-Lithuanian, Polish-French and Polish-Israeli Parliamentary Bilateral Groups. In her free time, Anna Schmidt is a pianist, graduate of the State Music School.



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Anita Kijanka, CEO of Come Creations Group

Ph.D, CEO at Come Creations Group, a communication hub specialised in new technologies. Founder of Strong Women in IT, initiative. Her main goal is to connect female leaders in startups as well as in corporations to work together and learn from each other. Awarded with the Lioness in Business title in the field of Innovation and nominated as Person of the Year in the category of Women's Entrepreneurship (Brief Magazine, 2015). She is always in motion and loves to create, integrate and communicate.

Helen McEntee, Minister for Justice

Member of Irish Parliament, in June 2020 appointed as the Minister for Justice. Commenced Coco's Law - the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act. In 2017 as Minister of State for EU Affairs, she was a leading voice in Brexit negotiations between Ireland and the UK. She was also chair of the government's youth mental health task force, an organisation that works to increase awareness of mental health issues among young people.



Anna Sochańska, Ambassador of Poland to Ireland

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Ireland. Career diplomat. Graduate from Warsaw University and College of Europe in Bruges. From the very beginning of her diplomatic work she dealt with EU policies and EU cooperation. For several years she was dedicated to developing relations of Poland with the EU's south-eastern neighbors – Western Balkans Six and Turkey. Supporter of regional cooperation. Could not survive without family, books, music and sweets.

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