**TogetHER in Politics – Conference to promote Gender Equality**

**and Diversity in Local Government**

**Saturday 20th May 2023, 11a.m - 3p.m, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire**

**RUNNING ORDER**

**11a.m: MC Stephen Brady,** Director of Corporate Affairs, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council **to open conference**

**11:05a.m – 11.20a.m**: **Welcome Address: Councillor Mary Hanafin,** An Cathaoirleach, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council - **“Celebrating our women in politics to date in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the value of promoting equality and diversity of underepresented groups into the future”**

**11.25a.m – 11.45a.m:** **Keynote speaker: Professor Valesca Lima,** Assistant Professor of Political Science at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University ***- “Women's Success in Politics and the Contributions of Migrant Communities”***.

**11.50a.m – 12.10p.m: Johnny Fallon,** Strategy Director, Carr Communications Ltd.,

***“How to run for election – the process as a candidate and how to run a successful campaign”.***

**12.15p.m – 12.30p.m: Questions & Answers**

**12.35p.m – 1.00p.m: Lunch break – Light refreshments served &**

**information stands in the room**

**1.05p.m – 1.25p.m: Claire McGing,** Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Manager, IADT / Gender & Politics Researcher - ***“Promoting Women’s Equality in Irish Politics: Recruitment, Retention, Representation”***

**1.25p.m – 1.45p.m: Workshop & feedback from groups**

Questions to workshop participants:

* What are the challenges to women entering and staying in politics?
* How do we overcome these challenges?

**1.50.m – 2.35p.m: Panel Discussion chaired by Claire McGing,** Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Manager, IADT / Gender & Politics Researcher:

***“The importance of equality and diversity in Local Government for policy making and representation”* and responding to conference workshop findings on the challenges facing women entering politics**

* Marilyn Nyquist, Women’s Development & Education Worker, Women’s Programme, Southside Partnership Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
* Geraldine Dunne, Director, Southside Travellers Action Group
* Mary Collins, Disability Advocate, Member of the Board of Accessible Community Transport Southside (ACTS)
* Ciara McHugh, Leadership Officer, National Women’s Council
* Liliana Fernandez, Training and Integration Officer from Immigrant Council of Ireland

**2.35p.m – 2.50p.m:** **Questions & Answers**

**2.50p.m:** **MC Stephen Brady,** Director of Corporate Affairs, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council **to close conference**