

## DUBLIN WORKSHOP AGENDA

# TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NOVEMBER 25-26, 2025

This workshop is supported by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York

### Co-organizers:

#### **Mai'a K. Davis Cross**

Dean's Professor of Political Science, International Affairs, and Diplomacy  
Director of the Center for International Affairs and World Cultures  
Northeastern University

#### **Ben Tonra**

Professor of International Relations  
UCD School of Politics and International Relations

**25 November 2025**  
Workshop Breakout Sessions

Location: University College Dublin University Club

9:00 - 9:30am	Participants arrive at University College Dublin University Club
9:30 - 9:45am	Welcome and event introduction, Mai'a Cross and Ben Tonra
9:45 - 10am	Overview of workshop and themes, instructions for first break-out session
10 - 10:45am	First Breakout Session
10:45 - 11:00am	Coffee and Snacks
11:00 - 11:10am	Instructions for second break-out session
11:10 - Noon	Second Breakout Session
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch & instructions for third break-out session
1:00 - 1:45pm	Third Breakout Session
1:45 - 2:15pm	Presentation: "How Transnational Networks are Empowered to Make Cooperative Breakthroughs: Takeaways from Research," Mai'a K. Davis Cross
2:15 - 3:00pm	Draft 3-5 Policy Insights/Recommendations
3:00 - 3:15pm	Coffee Break
3:15 - 4:15pm	Informal presentations and feedback from larger group
6:30pm	Dinner at Hugo's, 6 Merrion Row

## 26 November 2025

### Public Plenaries

Location: Newman House, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland

8:30am	Arrival of participants and audience
9:00 - 9:05am	<b>Welcome</b> , Mai'a K. Davis Cross and Ben Tonra
9:05 - 9:15am	<b>Transnational Networks &amp; The Future of Global Order</b> Mai'a K. Davis Cross
9:15 - 10am	<b>Peace Promotion &amp; Youth Movements</b> First Plenary Session  Matthew F. Fleming (Moderator) <i>Graduate Fellow, Center for International Affairs and World Cultures</i>  Pat Hynes <i>Programme Manager, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation</i>  Naomh McNamee <i>Chief Executive Officer, The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation</i>  Graeme Simpson <i>Principal Representative, Interpeace (NY)</i>  Laura K. Taylor <i>Associate Professor in the School of Psychology, University College Dublin</i>
10 - 10:45am	<b>Sustainable Use of Space and the Dark &amp; Quiet Skies Movement</b> Second Plenary Session  Marianne Riddervold (Moderator) <i>Research Professor, the ARENA Center for European Studies</i>  Brian Espey <i>Associate Professor of Physics, Trinity College Dublin</i>  Lorraine Hanlon <i>Professor of Astronomy, University College Dublin</i>  Georgia MacMillan <i>Mayo Dark Sky Park Development Officer, National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service</i>  Robert Massey <i>Deputy Executive Director of the Royal Astronomical Society</i>  Niall Smith <i>Head of Research, Munster Technological University</i>

10:45 - 11am	Coffee Break
11 - 11:45am	<p><b>Nature Restoration &amp; Preservation</b> Third Plenary Session</p> <p>Mai'a K. Davis Cross (Moderator) <i>Professor &amp; Director, Center for International Affairs &amp; World Cultures</i></p> <p>Mary Dobbs <i>Associate Professor, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i></p> <p>Orla Kelleher <i>Assistant Professor, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i></p> <p>Jennie C. Stephens <i>Professor of Climate Justice, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i></p> <p>Patrícia Rinaldi <i>Associate Professor of International Relations, Faculdades de Campinas</i></p>
11:45am - 12:30pm	<p><b>Human Rights Defenders &amp; The Transnational Network of Prosecutors</b> Fourth Plenary Session</p> <p>Ben Tonra (Moderator) <i>Professor of International Relations, University College Dublin</i></p> <p>Martha Davis <i>Distinguished Professor of Law, Northeastern University</i></p> <p>Dennis Kwok <i>Former Pro-Democracy Hong Kong Legislator</i></p> <p>Claire Loftus <i>Former Director of Public Prosecutions, Ireland</i></p> <p>Ed O'Donovan <i>Senior Advisor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders</i></p> <p>Maksym Popovych <i>Senior Legal Officer, ARTICLE 19</i></p>
12:30 - 12:35pm	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> , Mai'a K. Davis Cross and Ben Tonra
12:35 - 2pm	<b>Lunch Reception</b> in Saloon (standing) – Guests welcome to view exhibits

## Themes

### **Theme 1: Sustainable Use of Space and the Dark & Quiet Skies Movement**

The ethical use of space, which includes the prevention of weaponization of space, requires new space regulations and norms of peaceful use. A key dimension of this is the [Dark & Quiet Skies Movement](#), a worldwide effort to protect the night sky from light and radio interference for the benefit of biodiversity, human knowledge, societal well-being, and astronomical research. This effort is inextricably linked to the need for cooperative breakthroughs in satellite use and space debris, among other challenges in space. How can scientists, policy-makers, space enthusiasts, and private space companies pave the way for international cooperation that supports sky and space conservation? This question is an entry point with connection to many other policy considerations.

### **Theme 2: Peace Promotion and Youth Movements**

Young people have often been at the forefront of pushing for peace in different contexts, from the ban-the-bomb movement to the European federalist movement. The reasons for this are numerous. Compared to the regular population, youth are often more likely to be engaged, have access to recent information, be inclusively oriented, and used to thinking critically through education and exchange. Examining the role of youth in past crises, such as the Northern Ireland Peace Process, the 2016 revolution in Sudan and the revolution in Yugoslavia that brought down Milosevic can help to inform strategies for peace today. For example, how can the role of youth agency catalyze an end to Russia's war in such a way that Ukraine's self-determination is respected? If more inclusive peace agreements are more likely to be sustainable over the longer term, how can youth involvement help to future proof cooperative breakthroughs?

### **Theme 3: Nature Preservation and Restoration**

Environmental and agricultural networks are working on plans to formally institute programs of nature restoration. The European Union is responsive to stakeholder engagement and the very forward-looking idea of *rights of nature* could be helpful in rethinking humankind's relationship with nature. If human exploitation of nature as a resource continues, environmental degradation is inevitable. But if society can reconceive of nature (ecosystems, biodiversity, rivers, oceans, etc.) as having rights to exist and flourish, it may be possible to protect these living systems for future generations. Drawing upon indigenous knowledge, some countries have already embedded the rights of nature in their constitutions. What might lead to a breakthrough in international recognition?

### **Theme 4: Defending Human Rights Defenders & the Prosecutors' Transnational Network**

Around the world, lawyers seek to protect the human rights of individuals through court cases and documenting violations. These lawyers also work together across borders to share best practices and support each other in cases that may have similarities. This network of lawyers/prosecutors is robust and spans a multitude of diverse countries. Sometimes human rights issues are aided by knowledge of international jurisprudence and international bodies, like the international criminal court. In pursuing these cases, human rights defenders also themselves face significant risks, even escalating to violence against them. In the field of human rights, how can transnational networks of prosecutors achieve a stronger global ecosystem of support for the important work that they do? And how can they make breakthroughs in human rights protections more generally?

## Participants

### Workshop Co-Leaders

**Mai'a K. Davis Cross** is the Dean's Professor of Political Science, International Affairs, and Diplomacy and Director of the Center for International Affairs and World Cultures at Northeastern University. She researches and writes about international cooperation, European security, and space policy. She is author or editor of eight books and special journal issues, including, *International Cooperation Against All Odds: The Ultrasocial World* (Oxford University Press, 2024), *Space Diplomacy* (Hague Journal of Diplomacy, 2023), *European-Russian Power Relations in Turbulent Times* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and *The Politics of Crisis in Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Her forthcoming book is *The European Union's Grand Strategy* (Oxford University Press). Her current research is supported by a major grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, which will result in more than 20 new case studies of how transnational networks foster breakthroughs in international cooperation. Professor Cross holds a PhD in Politics from Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in Government from Harvard University. She is also a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has served on its Task Force on US Space Policy in 2024-5.

**Ben Tonra** is a Full Professor of International Relations at University College Dublin's (UCD) School of Politics and International Relations. His academic focus includes European foreign, security, and defence policy; Irish foreign, security, and defence policy; and International Relations theory.

### Theme 1: Sustainable Use of Space and the Dark & Quiet Skies Movement

**Marianne Riddervold (rapporteur)** is research professor at the ARENA Center for European Studies, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), and Senior Fellow at the UC Berkeley Institute of European Studies. She has published extensively on European integration, transatlantic relations and international relations in the Global Commons.

**Brian Espey** is an Associate Professor of Physics at Trinity College Dublin and Chairperson of Dark Sky Ireland. Brian has been interested in astronomy since a child and has been a member of various astronomical societies since that time, including 46 years as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Brian obtained a BA in Experimental Physics from Trinity College Dublin in 1983, before working in the UK's Scientific Civil Service for the Science & Engineering Research Council at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Following a PhD in astronomy at the University of Cambridge, he worked as a Royal Society Science Exchange Fellow at the University of Leiden during 1990, before taking up postdoctoral positions at the University of Pittsburgh and the Johns Hopkins University (JHU). At JHU he participated in the Astro-2 Space Shuttle astronomy mission in 1995, before moving to the Space Telescope Science Institute in 1998 to work as an Assistant Astronomer for the European Space Agency. Since October 2001 Brian has been a permanent staff member in the School of Physics in Trinity College Dublin, developing the Monck optical and radio teaching observatory and overseeing the development of Trinity's Physics & Astrophysics degree. Since 2009 Brian has been active in research and

activism to reduce light pollution and protect the night-time environment so that future generations can be similarly inspired.

**Lorraine Hanlon** is a Dublin-born physicist and Full Professor of Astronomy at University College Dublin (UCD). She studied physics at UCD, and was a Research Fellow at the European Space Agency in the Netherlands. Returning to Ireland, she joined UCD's School of Physics in 1996, later becoming Head of School. Her research focuses on high-energy astrophysics, gamma-ray bursts, and space instrumentation. Lorraine is Programme Director for UCD's MSc in Space Science & Technology. She directs UCD's Centre for Space Research and was the academic lead of EIRSAT-1, Ireland's first satellite mission.

**Robert Massey** is Deputy Executive Director of the Royal Astronomical Society. His 37-year career in astronomy began at the University of Leicester, followed by a PhD at the University of Manchester, teaching in further education in Brighton, local politics in London, and public engagement at the Royal Observatory Greenwich. Robert joined the RAS in 2006, and now leads external affairs for the Society. He sits on the executive board of the Earth Space Sustainability Initiative, in the International Astronomical Union Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from Satellite Constellation Interference, and in groups attending the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In 2019 he co-authored *Moon: Art, Science, Culture* with art historian Alexandra Loske, and is the resident guest on the *RAS Supermassive* podcast. He also holds a visiting professorship at the University of Sussex.

**Georgia MacMillan** is a Mayo Dark Sky Park Development Officer at National Parks & Wildlife Service; an employment based PhD Scholarship from Research Ireland exploring Dark Skies in society, tourism and policy development. As a practitioner of dark sky tourism, her role within Mayo Dark Sky Park manages public engagement programming and education. In a voluntary capacity, Georgia is currently chair of the Friends of Mayo Dark Skies Community group, Deputy Chair and founding board member of Dark Sky Ireland – an NGO which seeks to Restore and Protect Dark Skies across Ireland. Her civil society work focuses on community engagement, policy planning and the promotion of dark sky friendly lighting strategies in Ireland. Georgia has 20+ years experience in operational and event management both in London and in Dublin, she has held numerous board and committee roles in the Private Sector and in Civil Society and the Environment. In 2008 she used redundancy as an opportunity to move to family roots in the West of Ireland and completely retrain. She holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Outdoor Education, a Post-Grad Teaching Diploma and is a qualified mountain leader, tour guide and registered teacher in Further Education.

**Niall Smith** has a PhD in astrophysics from University College Dublin and is presently Head of Research at Munster Technological University. He served as a member of the Expert Committee of the Government's *Creating Our Future* initiative which captured the views of 18,000 Irish citizens about how research can improve the future. Niall writes a monthly column in the *Irish Examiner* national newspaper called "Skymatters" and is a regular contributor to newspaper articles and radio programming. He is the Founder-Director of the award-winning Blackrock Castle Observatory, which has welcomed over 1.5 million visitors. Niall is a founder-Director of Dark Sky Ireland and Deputy Chair of the current National Steering Committee for the Space

R&I Strategy. He also serves as MTU's lead for the University's membership as Ireland's only Associate Technical Institute of CERN-ATLAS.

## **Theme 2: Peace Promotion & Youth Movements**

**Matthew F. Fleming (rapporteur)** is a Graduate Fellow at the Center for International Affairs and World Cultures, a Non-Resident James A. Kelly Korea Fellow at the Pacific Forum, and a PhD student at Northeastern University. His research focuses on Indo-Pacific strategies, minilateralism, and strategic competition in Northeast Asia, with an emphasis on U.S.-ROK-Japan, U.S.-Korea, and U.S.-Japan foreign relations. Fleming has previously served as a U.S. Delegate to the U.S.-ROK-Japan Trilateral Global Leadership Youth Summit, a U.S. Department of State initiative organized through the U.S. Embassies in Seoul and Tokyo, and hosted in 2024 by the East-West Center. He has interned with the Indo-Pacific Strategy Team in the Office of Regional and Security Policy at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP/RSP), as well as with the East Asia Institute, the North Korean Review, and the Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies. Fleming is an inaugural member of the U.S. State Department's Young Trilateral Leaders Network and has engaged in Next Gen programs with the Atlantic Council, Korea Foundation, and the Pacific Forum. Fleming holds a Master's in Global Affairs and Policy from Yonsei University in South Korea, specializing in international security and foreign policy, and a Master's in Media and Governance from Keio University in Japan, focusing on global governance and regional strategy.

**Pat Hynes:** Leading Glencree's Community & Political Dialogue Programme since 2015, Pat brings a wealth of experience from the political arena. Throughout the 1990s, Pat worked with various government ministers in the early years of the Peace Process, later participating in Glencree's Political Dialogue workshops leading up to the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement. His international work spans over 15 years, including participation in Glencree's Middle East Programme, working on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. More recently, Pat acted as Special Advisor to Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in his role as Chairman of the Bougainville Referendum Commission, working with the United Nations to bring to a conclusion the Papua New Guinea / Bougainville peace process.

**Naoimh McNamee** has been at the helm of the Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation since late 2017, during which time she has led significant organisational change with an emphasis on increasing stability and embedding a greater business focus within the organisation, to enable the peacebuilding programmes to thrive. She is an experienced leader, with a fervour for strategic human resource management and building high performing teams. Naoimh is an accredited mediator (MCI Arb), with qualifications in International Relations (DCU) and International Security & Global Governance (Birkbeck). She has held a number of roles in both London and Dublin in the not-for-profit, political, legal, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and management consultancy sectors. Naoimh has an innate passion for Glencree and the reconciliation work of the organisation.

**Laura K. Taylor** is an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology at University College Dublin. She integrates developmental and social psychology with peace studies to examine positive development and social inclusion among children and youth in conflict-affected settings,



such as Colombia, Croatia, Kosovo, and Northern Ireland. She uses the Developmental Peacebuilding Model (Taylor, 2020) to study how multiple factors (e.g., family, school, nation) influence child development. Laura also focuses on children's and youth's agency, more specifically, how outgroup prosociality toward conflict rivals may contribute to peacebuilding. Her current research is funded by Horizon Europe and Research Ireland.

**Graeme Simpson** is the Principal Representative of *Interpeace* (NY) and Senior Peacebuilding Adviser at *Interpeace*, a global peacebuilding organization headquartered in Geneva and working in multiple conflict and immediate post-conflict zones around the world. In Sept. 2016, Graeme was appointed by the UN Secretary General as the Independent Lead Author on the UN Security Council-mandated "Progress Study" on Youth, Peace and Security, under UN SCR 2250 (presented to the Security Council in April 2018 and to the UNGA in September 2018). He is also an Adjunct Lecturer in Law at Columbia University School of Law in New York City, where he has taught a seminar on transitional justice and peacebuilding for the past 20 years. Graeme Simpson has an LLB and an MA in History from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He was co-founder (1989) and from 1995-2005 Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), in Johannesburg, South Africa. He served as Civilian Adviser to the Minister of Safety and Security in the first Mandela cabinet, and in that capacity was one of the primary authors of the South African National Crime Prevention Strategy (May 1996). Graeme Simpson worked for five years at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), as the Director of Country Programs and thereafter of Thematic Programs, overseeing the organization's work on Transitional Justice in more than fifteen countries globally. Graeme Simpson serves on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Transitional Justice (IJTJ) published by Oxford University Press, and co-edited a Special Issue of the Journal on Youth and Transitional Justice. He has published widely taught at various Universities around the world, and sits on the Boards or advisory structures of several national and international civil society organizations. In 2023 and 2024, he also represented Interpeace as co-chair (with the UN PBO) of the CSO – UN Dialogue on Peace and Security.

### **Theme 3: Nature Preservation & Restoration**

#### **Mai'a K. Davis Cross (rapporteur)**

**Clodagh Daly** is Manager of Community Law and Mediation's Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ). The CEJ aims to ensure that no person or community is disproportionately impacted by environmental harms. They provide free legal advice on environmental issues, advocate for policy and law reform, and engage in community education and outreach on environmental justice.

**Mary Dobbs** is an Associate Professor in the School of Law and Criminology in Maynooth University, having joined from Queen's University Belfast in 2020. She specialises in environmental law and governance, including agri-environmental issues and Brexit. She has published widely in the field, including an award-winning co-authored book on *Brexit and Agriculture*. Mary has worked on several Horizon Europe projects and collaborative research with organisations such as the Northern Irish Human Rights Commission and environmental NGOs. She is a Special Advisor on agricultural policy for a Scottish Parliamentary Committee, a

member of the College of Experts for the UK's Office for Environmental Protection, and part of the Stakeholder Reference Group for the current NI review of environmental governance.

**Orla Kelleher** joined the School of Law and Criminology in August 2022. Orla specialises in climate change, environmental, and human rights law. Her current research focuses on environmental rights, climate law and litigation, climate justice, and just transitions. Orla was awarded her Ph.D. without corrections from UCD Sutherland School of Law in March 2022. Her Ph.D. examined the impact of climate change on legal reasoning in rights-based systemic climate change litigation in European countries. Her Ph.D. was awarded dual research scholarships: an IRC Government of Ireland Postgraduate scholarship (2019-2021) and a UCD School of Law Doctoral Scholarship (2017-2019). Her work has been published in outlets such as the *Journal of Environmental Law*, the *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, the *Review of European Comparative and International Environmental Law (RECIEL)*, the *Irish Jurist*, the *Irish Judicial Studies Journal*, and the *Irish Planning and Environmental Law Journal*. Orla has been funded to conduct engaged research with bodies such as the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Environmental Justice Network Ireland and Community Law and Mediation Centre for Environmental Justice. Prior to joining Maynooth, Orla lectured at the University of Limerick. She holds a Ph.D. from UCD, an LL.M. from the College of Europe (Bruges) and a BCL (Law and French) from UCC. Orla is also a qualified barrister, having been called to the Irish Bar in 2020.

**Jennie C. Stephens** is a feminist climate justice scholar-activist based in Dublin, Ireland. She is Professor of Climate Justice at National University of Ireland Maynooth, and co-convenor of the Climate Justice Universities Union. Her work explores societal responses to the climate crisis, energy justice, energy democracy, and how powerful actors obstruct transformative climate policy. She also studies large-scale transformation toward more just, healthy and climate-stable futures including exnovation away from fossil fuels, financial innovations for climate justice, and reclaiming the public good mission of universities. Before returning to Ireland in 2024, she was Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy at Northeastern University in Boston, she was a 2023-2024 Climate Justice Fellow at Harvard-Radcliffe, she was Director of Northeastern University's School of Public Policy (2018-2022), and she was faculty at the University of Vermont (2014-2016) and Clark University (2005-2014). She earned her PhD and MS at California Institute of Technology and her BA at Harvard. She is author of *Climate Justice and the University: Shaping a Hopeful Future for All* (Hopkins University Press, 2024) and *Diversifying Power: Why We Need Antiracist, Feminist Leadership on Climate and Energy* (Island Press, 2020), and *Smart Grid (R)Evolution: Electric Power Struggles* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

**Diarmuid Torney** is an associate professor in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University and Director of the DCU Institute for Climate and Society. His research focuses on climate change politics, policy, and governance. He coordinates the Horizon Europe project RETOOL: *Strengthening democratic governance for climate transitions*, and leads DCU's participation in the Co-Centre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water. He was a coordinating author of Ireland's first Climate Change Assessment Report and co-led Volume 4 on *Realising the benefits of transition and transformation*. Diarmuid is also a government-appointed independent

member of Ireland's Just Transition Commission and the National Economic and Social Council, and serves on the Governing Authority of DCU.

**Patricia Nogueira Rinaldi** is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Faculdades de Campinas (FACAMP, Brazil) and Director of its Center of Studies and Research in International Relations (CERI-FACAMP). She holds a Ph.D. (2018) and a Master's degree (2010) in Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations at the Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences at the State University of Campinas (IFCH-UNICAMP). She was a visiting scholar at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, City University of New York (2015). She is the Academic Coordinator of FACAMP Model United Nations, an educational project affiliated with the World Federation of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA) aimed at fostering a culture of peace among youth. She is also an expert on the Knowledge Network of the UN Harmony with Nature Programme, dedicated to strengthening the rights of Nature in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Her principal area of teaching is Theory of International Relations and International Development Cooperation, and she co-authors the book *Signature Pedagogies in International Relations (E-International Relations, 2021)*. Her research interests lie in exploring how the United Nations has supported South-South cooperation and an Earth-centered paradigm in policy transfer and diffusion for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Theme 4: Defending the Human Rights Defenders & the Transnational Network of Prosecutors**

##### **Ben Tonra (rapporteur)**

**Martha F. Davis** is a University Distinguished Professor at Northeastern University School of Law, where she co-directs the law school's Center on Global Law & Justice. She is affiliated scholar with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Lund University, Sweden, and a member of the expert committee of the Geneva-based organization, HumanRight2Water. Her research, writing, and legal advocacy focus on social justice and human rights issues, with particular emphasis on subnational laws and policies. Professor Davis's recent publications include the textbook *Human Rights Advocacy in the United States*, and a forthcoming co-edited volume titled *Human Rights Economies and Subnational Governance*. Before joining the Northeastern faculty, Professor Davis served as the Vice President and Legal Director of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. Specializing in poverty law, she argued the case of *Nguyen v. INS* before the U.S. Supreme Court and litigated women's rights cases nationwide.

**Dennis Kwok** was a pro-democracy lawmaker in Hong Kong elected as the sole representative of the legal profession in Hong Kong's legislature from 2012-2020. Dennis was elected by his legislative peers to serve as Deputy Chairman of the House Committee from 2016-2020. During his time in office, Dennis focused on defending the rule of law and freedom, combatting human trafficking and advocating for democracy. Due to his stance, Dennis was disqualified from elected office by the PRC National People's Congress in November 2020. After leaving public office, he served as senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School from 2021-2023, and he was appointed as a distinguished scholar at Georgetown University in 2021. He is currently teaching at Northeastern University.

**Ed O'Donovan** is Senior Advisor to Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. In that role, he is responsible for annual planning, shaping strategy, analysis of gaps and ensuring systematic monitoring, follow-up, and evaluation of initiatives. Prior to joining the Special Rapporteur's team in 2021, Ed worked for 12 years with Front Line Defenders, focusing on protection and security of human rights defenders at risk. He designed and implemented the organisation's East Asia programme before becoming Head of Protection in 2017, overseeing the organisation's global response. He is a guest researcher at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo.

**Claire Loftus:** Ireland's former director of public prosecutions, Claire Loftus qualified as a solicitor in 1992. She was a prosecutor for 28 years, holding senior leadership team positions from 2000, and serving ten years as Director of Public Prosecutions until late 2021. She has been a board member of international legal associations and also has served on a legal expert committee at the Council of Europe. She is a member of the board of directors of An Garda Síochána (Irish police service) and also of Cuan (state agency for response to domestic, sexual and gender based violence). She is an Independent Advisor to the First Minister of Scotland in relation to the Ministerial Code. Claire has an MSc in Public Sector Management from Trinity College Dublin (2002) and a Higher Diploma in European Law (1996)

**Maksym Popovych** is a Senior Legal Officer for Europe with the law and policy team of ARTICLE 19, a leading free speech NGO. Since the 1980s, ARTICLE 19 has produced a number of standard setting publications which outline international and comparative law and best practice areas such as defamation law, freedom of expression and equality, access to information and broadcast regulations. Maksym is a human rights lawyer with over 12 years of experience working for human rights organizations, think tanks, technical assistance projects and the UN system. At ARTICLE 19, Maksym leads the law and policy work on the situation with freedoms of expression and information in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. He focuses on human rights-based responses to information threats, such as disinformation and propaganda for war, as well as hate speech, defamation issues, media regulation, and freedom of expression in the situation of armed conflict. Maksym's work involves intervening in free speech cases in national, constitutional, and regional human rights courts; developing policy standards and recommendations for states, business, and other actors; advising on national regulatory frameworks and legislative proposals; delivering training on free speech issues to national authorities, including criminal investigators and prosecutors; and providing legal advisory on submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms.