

The Future of the Welfare State

Tuesday, September 21st, 2010

Context

The future of the welfare state has been a topic of discussion and argument for more than 30 years on issues ranging from education to employment, from healthcare to social housing, from welfare rates to pensions to provision for people with disability. Some have claimed it cannot survive because the population is aging. Others have argued that globalisation will undermine it in due course. Recent economic upheavals and huge budget cutbacks in many countries have added to the questions faced by the welfare state. Is the welfare state really under threat? Has the era of the welfare state passed? Will people continue to support it? What are the major challenges faced by the welfare state at this time? Can the necessary funding be provided? If the welfare state is to survive how should it adjust to the changing economic situation? What are the implications of demographic developments? Can the nation state continue to be the basis for this kind of development model, this kind of social contract?

In these economically turbulent times it is essential to focus on the shape of the society we wish to see emerge. The welfare state has been in existence in Ireland for about a century. Do we wish to see it continue? If so, what form should it take? What are the key challenges it faces in Ireland? How might these be addressed effectively and efficiently? Should people's expectations of the welfare state change? How do Ireland's elected politicians propose to address these major challenges? This policy conference will address these and related questions from a variety of perspectives.

Date: Tuesday, September 21st, 2010
Registration: 9.15 a.m.
Conference: 9.45—5.00 p.m.
Venue: Tara Towers Hotel,
Dublin, Ireland.

Conference Chairperson: Ingrid Miley

Conference Fee: €75
- Members of Social Justice Ireland: €50

Advance booking is essential.

Please complete and return Application Form (below) with fee to:

Social Justice Ireland, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Ireland

Conference Papers

Paper One: The future of the welfare state – an overview

Speaker: Tony Fahey (Professor of Social Policy, UCD)

Paper Two: The welfare state across selected OECD countries: How much does it really cost and how good is it in reducing poverty?

Speaker: Willem Adema (Senior economist in the OECD Social Policy Division)

Paper Three: Shaping Public Policy: Is there a place for values-led debate and discourse in the public sphere.

Speaker: Daniel O'Connell (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick)

Paper Four: Shaping the future of the welfare state – What are the challenges and how might they be addressed?

Speakers: Seán Healy and Brigid Reynolds (Social Justice Ireland)

Political Round Table: How do political parties in Leinster House propose to address the challenges facing the welfare state?

This question will be addressed by speakers representing:
Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour, the Green Party and Sinn Fein.

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email address: _____

Dietary requirements:

Vegetarian: _____

Other, please specify: _____

Fee enclosed

(Please tick as appropriate)

Full conference fee: €75 []

Fee for *Social Justice*

***Ireland* Members: €50 []**

This includes lunch, teas/coffees and a copy of the book containing the conference papers which will be published on day of conference.