

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

Press Statement
17 July 2014

Dóchas announces new Chairperson



Dóchas, the network of Ireland's Development NGOs, today announced that its 50 member organisations have elected Sharan Kelly, Chief Executive of Tearfund Ireland as the new Chairperson of Dóchas.

Ms. Kelly, who replaces the outgoing Chairperson, Jim Clarken CEO of Oxfam Ireland, will hold the office for three years. She has been an active and dynamic member of the Dóchas Board since her election at the Dóchas AGM in May 2013.

"I am proud to be working with Sharan Kelly, who brings extensive experience and great vision to our sector, at a time when Ireland is being challenged to come up with new and sustainable solutions to issues of poverty, inequality, hunger and climate chaos at both local and global level." said Olive Towey, Vice-Chair of Dóchas and Concern's Head of Advocacy.

Prior to her appointment as Chief Executive of Tearfund Ireland in September 2012, Sharan Kelly was the founding Chief Executive of 'The Base' (re-branded FamiliBase in 2014). She led the development of this flagship project of the EU/NDP URBAN II Programme in the Republic of Ireland (2000-2006) for ten years - a €6million capital build project and multi-disciplinary service working with children and young people. Sharan has 18 years' senior management experience working with NGOs supporting the most marginalised and vulnerable people in Ireland and overseas.

"I am delighted that the members of Dóchas have chosen me to lead the organisation into a new phase," said Sharan Kelly. "Dóchas offers a platform for Irish Development NGOs and others to come together to share their experiences - and to use those experiences to advance more effective ways to end all forms of poverty and injustice."

"I am looking forward to this new role, to help find new solutions to global problems, and to leverage the ideas and influence of all those who can make a difference – governments, companies, academia, media and civil society organisations," said Ms. Kelly.

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For more information, please contact:

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Notes:

- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and a platform to speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie
- A list of Dóchas members can be found at: <http://www.dochas.ie/membership/our-members/>