**DAY 01**

**Social Security 2010–2020: A Changed and Changing Landscape**

Opening with an address from the Minister for Communities, day one will look at the impact that ten years of welfare reform has had on people in NI, hearing perspectives on children and young people, housing, human rights and more.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:20</td>
<td>Conference opening</td>
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<td>Ursula O'Hare</td>
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<td>10:20 - 11:10</td>
<td>Plenary session</td>
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<td>Koulla Yiassouma</td>
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<td>11:10 - 11:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:15 - 12:00</td>
<td>Practitioner workshops</td>
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<td>Housing benefit vs universal credit</td>
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<td>12:05 - 12:15</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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**DAY 02**

**Current Priorities**

Day two will look at current priorities around poverty, Covid-19 and PIP. Delegates will hear about the Covid-19 review by the Social Security Advisory Committee and have the option to attend workshops on poverty, PIP and NRPF.

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<td>10:00 - 10:20</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; keynote speech</td>
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<td>Linda McAuley</td>
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<td>Plenary session</td>
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<td>Marie Cavanagh</td>
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<td>Practitioner workshops</td>
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<td>Ending food poverty</td>
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<td>12:05 - 12:15</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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**DAY 03**

**Addressing the Challenges Ahead**

Day three is a packed day looking at how we provide a better social security system for the future. It includes an exciting keynote speech from Patrick Butler on social policy, a packed plenary session, workshops and an MLA focused session.

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<td>Kerry Logan</td>
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<td>Practitioner workshops</td>
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<td>Cross border issues</td>
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<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>MLA session</td>
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<td>Andy Allen MLA</td>
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<td>13:00 - 13:10</td>
<td>Conference close</td>
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<td>Ursula O'Hare</td>
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Cáral Ní Chuilín MLA
Minister for Communities

Cáral has been a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly for Belfast North since 2007 and served in the Northern Ireland Executive as Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure until 2016. She was appointed as Minister for Communities in June 2020.

Koulla Yiasouma
NI Commissioner for Children and Young People

Koulla took up appointment as NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) in March 2015. She trained as a social worker and previously worked in probation NI, Women’s Aid and prior to her appointment was the Director of Include Youth for almost 17 years.

Janet Hunter
Director, Housing Rights

Janet has been the Director of Housing Rights since 1994. She sits on the Promoting Social Inclusion partnership, a cross departmental group aimed at tackling homelessness in Northern Ireland. She is also a long term member and former Chair of Law Centre NI.

Les Allamby
NI Human Rights Commissioner

Les took up the post of NI Human Rights Commissioner in September 2014. His second term will last for two years until 31 August 2021. A former Director of Law Centre NI, Les also chaired an advisory group putting forward proposals for economic and social rights within a Bill of Rights for NI.

Housing Benefit Vs Universal Credit
Denise Callaghan and Laura Reilly, Housing Rights

This workshop will explore the differences in receiving housing costs through universal credit compared with housing benefit. It will discuss ways in which different groups of claimants may have gained or lost out due to changes and explore pitfalls and tips for advisers to look out for.

Current Legal Issues
Owen McCloskey, Law Centre NI

This workshop will focus on some of the current legal issues impacting clients, claimants and advisers, making particular reference to the impact that ten years of welfare reform has had on people’s rights in relation to social security.

Tackling Disparate Impact: The Impact on Women
Siobhán Harding, Women’s Support Network

This workshop will focus on the impact that ten years of welfare reform has had on women. The workshop will be informed by research carried out by the Women’s Support Network, including lived experiences and case stories.
Iain Porter
Social Security Policy and Partnerships Manager, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Iain leads the development of social security policy at JRF. This includes developing credible solutions and partnerships with others to contribute to JRF’s goal of enabling more people to move out of poverty through a better system of social security.

Marie Cavanagh
Second Independent PIP Reviewer

Marie has over thirty years’ experience in the voluntary and community sector, working with women and families on social welfare and rights based issues in areas of socio-economic disadvantage. She is formerly Chair NICVA and is currently Chair of Children in NI

Margaret Kelly
NI Public Services Ombudsman

Margaret was appointed as the NI Public Services Ombudsman in July 2020. She has worked extensively in the voluntary and community sector for over 30 years and gained a range of experience in leading and managing services, developing policy and working in partnership with the public sector.

Professor Gráinne McKeever
Social Security Advisory Committee

Gráinne is a Professor of Law and Social Justice and Co-Director of the Ulster University Law Clinic. She is the Assistant Editor for the Journal of Social Security Law, a member of the SSAC and a member of the UK Administrative Justice Institute.

Ending Food Poverty
Sinéad McKinley, North Belfast Advice Partnership

This workshop will give a frontline perspective on poverty and its causes, specifically focusing on food poverty. It will look at some of the current priorities in responding on the frontline, including dealing with the impact of Covid-19.

Personal Independence Payment
Bridget Corr, Law Centre NI | Mary Anne Webb, Mencap NI

This workshop will look at the current priorities in relation to PIP, with a brief outline from the Law Centre NI Welfare Reform Support Project. It will also look at the All Party Group on Learning Disability’s research project on people’s experiences of PIP. This project sought to understand more about peoples’ lived experience, with the view to informing the review process and best practice.

Advising NRPF Clients
Liz Griffith, Law Centre NI | Ronnie Vellem, NICRAS

This workshop reminds advisers of the significance and implications of the No Recourse to Public Funds condition and will provide some useful tips to advisers working with migrants.
Patrick Butler
Social Policy Editor, The Guardian

Patrick is the Guardian's social policy editor. His writing has often exposed the real life impact of welfare reform policies and the barriers to benefit entitlement. He has recently written articles on child poverty and reduced living standards during Covid-19.

Kerry Logan
The Cliff Edge Coalition

Kerry is Policy and Public Affairs Coordinator for Housing Rights, a co-convener of the Cliff Edge Coalition. The Cliff Edge Coalition brings together over 100 organisations campaigning to extend and strengthen welfare reform mitigations in NI.

Dr Natalie Byrom
Director of Research, The Legal Education Foundation

Natalie leads the LEF’s work on their Smarter Justice programme. In 2020, LEF announced the development of a new strategic initiative, the UK Access to Justice Lab. In 2020 Natalie led a rapid consultation for the Civil Justice Council which aimed to explore the impact of COVID-19 on the Civil Justice System.

Dr Jim McCormick
Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Jim is Associate Director for Scotland with JRF, an independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty through research, policy, collaboration and practical solutions. He is chair of the independent Disability and Carers Benefits advisory group reporting to the Scottish Government, and a member of the SSAC.

Cross Border Issues
Annmarie O’Kane, Centre for Cross Border Studies

This workshop will look at the current cross border issues facing social security claimants in NI, paying particular attention to Brexit and Covid-19.

Disability Benefits: The Scottish Experience
Bill Scott, Inclusion Scotland

This workshop will look at disability benefits in Scotland, including ways in which Scotland is leading in policy and practice.

Reforming UC: Experts Through Experience
Dr Geoff Page, University of York

This is a claimant experience led workshop that will discuss ways of reforming universal credit. It will also explore the importance of lived experience in the social security policy making process and will include contributions from UC:Us participants Deirdre and Maria.

Andy Allen MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Kellie Armstrong MLA
Alliance Party

Paula Bradley MLA
DUP

Gerry Carroll MLA
People Before Profit

Rachel Woods MLA
Green Party NI
Law Centre NI provides free and independent legal advice and assistance to the public and to advisers on issues relating to employment, social security, immigration and asylum.

**Call us on:**
- (028) 9024 4401

**Email us on:**
- employmentadvice@lawcentreni.org
- benefitsadvice@lawcentreni.org
- admin@lawcentreni.org

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**TRAINING EVENTS**

*For further information or bookings, please contact the training manager Louise Togneri | (028) 9024 4401 | louise.togneri@lawcentreni.org*

- **Employment Law: Furlough, Redundancy and Rights During a Pandemic**
  - 29 Oct | Online webinar | Free

- **Beyond the Commissioner: Judicial Review and Identifying Potential Test Cases**
  - 06 Nov | Online masterclass | £45

- **Financial Support for Clients**
  - 08 Dec | Online webinar | £35

- **Preparing for your OISC Level 1 Assessment**
  - 12 & 13 Jan 2021 (tbc) | Online | £350

- **OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Generalist Advice**
  - Cohort begins 25 Jan 2021 | Online blended learning | £450 (plus optional £75 for certificate)

- **OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Tribunal Representation**
  - Cohort begins on 08 Feb 2021 | Online blended learning | £350 (plus optional £25 for certificate)
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY
LAW CENTRE NI WORKSHOP

The Commission on Social Security, led by people with lived experience of benefits, has proposed eight ideas to improve the social security system in the UK.

They now want to hear what you think and are inviting you to a workshop hosted by Law Centre NI. Please email anna.hughes@lawcentreni.org if you are interested in being a part of this discussion.

You can find out more about the Commission and the proposals here.

NEW ONLINE LEGAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

Law Centre NI, supported by the Department for Communities, is developing an online legal information resource for social security advisers in Northern Ireland. Our online resource will provide frontline advisers with accurate and up to date guidance on law and practice in NI. By providing comprehensive, reliable and easily accessible guidance, we will help equip advisers with the tools and confidence to carry out their vital roles.

Over the next few months, we will be consulting with managers and advisers to hear their views and experiences of other legal information resources and to find out what they would like to see in our new online resource. If you would like to help shape the development of our online resource or you just want to hear more about the project, please contact Margaret Carson, Legal Information Resource Officer, on (028) 9024 4401, or by emailing margaret.carson@lawcentreni.org.