

# Who's News?



A Training Workshop for people  
working in the press, radio and  
TV in the North West Region

To explore how stories  
of ethnic minorities are  
portrayed in the media and  
build expertise for analysing  
and reporting on incidents that  
involve minority communities.

**Venue:**

*Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo*

**Date:**

*Thursday 2nd September 2010*

**Time:**

*10am » 4pm*

How do we portray people who are 'different' in the news and from whose perspective are we telling the news? ...Newspapers, radio and television bear a heavy responsibility for the way in which different sectors of society view each other.

Taking care, therefore, when selecting and reporting on stories which involve members of ethnic minority communities is crucial.

Over the past number of years, Ireland and Northern Ireland have experienced significant inward migration. Included in this group have been asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants. Travellers are also an indigenous minority group who are reported in the media.

How do we, as journalists, ensure that we don't transform assumptions about particular groups of people into 'realities'. Nobody involved in the process of news reporting does so with overt prejudice. However it is almost impossible not to approach a news story without seeing it through our own 'lens', which has been informed by our own history, gender, sexual orientation, religious background and membership of the dominant cultural group.



This one-day workshop will seek to address the above issues.

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the following questions ...

- Q How are stories of ethnic minorities covered, does any 'bias' exist?
- Q Who is 'different' and who is 'normal' – what informs our perspective?
- Q To explore the media's rights and responsibilities in reporting stories involving members of ethnic minorities
- Q To explore our own views on the issue as journalists and build awareness
- Q To build skills to recognise and challenge racist opinions in interviews

## The Trainers

### Vicky Donnelly

Vicky Donnelly is an experienced trainer in interculturalism and anti racism for over ten years. In addition to this she is the co-director of an independent film company 'Seanchas Films' and has been involved in the production of a number of documentaries for TG4 and RTE. As an intercultural trainer she has delivered training for the Department of Foreign Affairs, World Wise (Leargas), the HSE, NUI Galway and many others. She currently works as a consultant for the Galway One World Centre.

### Michael McCaughan

Michael McCaughan is a journalist and spent many years working as the Latin America Correspondent for the Irish Times. He is also the author of 'The Price of our Souls', an investigation into the Corrib gas controversy. He now writes a bi-weekly column on development issues for the local media and works as an education outreach worker for the Galway One World Centre.

### Sharon Murphy

Sharon Murphy has been working in the area of anti-racism education and activism for many years, and as a well regarded singer-songwriter also addresses these issues in her music. Sharon has also built up experience of working with the media, contributing to RTE documentaries made for radio and television on the themes of diversity and equality.

The training will be delivered in a fun and interactive way, in a non-judgemental environment. The trainers will be able to bring their expertise in interculturalism and journalism to the discussion. The training will include looking at case studies, undertaking small group work and discussion. It promises to be an informative and enjoyable day.

# Who is the workshop for?

The workshop is designed for anybody working in the newspaper or radio business in the North West Region. Journalists from Sligo, Donegal, Fermanagh, Cavan and Leitrim will be invited to attend.

## Registration Form

**Who's News?** Training Workshop, Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo,  
*Thursday 2nd September 2010, 10am >> 4pm.*

Name:
Organisation:
Address:
Email Address:
Phone Number:
Mobile Number:
Any dietary requirements?

Closing Date for Registration is Monday 30th August 2010. Registration forms should be sent to Sligo Community Forum, Development Centre, Cleveragh Road, Sligo or email [cbrennan@sligococo.ie](mailto:cbrennan@sligococo.ie)

Refreshments and lunch will be provided on the day. Participation in the Workshop is free, however places will be limited.

For further details contact Claire Galligan, Sligo Forum, Development Centre, Cleveragh Road, Sligo, 071-9111814 or 086-6081598

*Funding for this initiative has been provided by Sligo County Community Forum through the Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee.*

