



Irish Federation of University Women

Cónascadh Banchéimithe na hÉireann

Report to UWE AGM

Naples

8 November 2025

Irish Federation of University Women founded 1925

Represents Ireland and Northern Ireland

Since October 2024 the Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) has had several events to celebrate one hundred years of its existence.

Among the most memorable are the following

Website: www.irfuw.org





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On 11 October 2024, the opening event of the Centenary celebrations saw over one hundred members and guests assembled in Regent House, Trinity College.

We were pleased to be joined by UWE President Anne Nègre, GWI President Patrice Wellesley Cole, as well as former President of Ireland, Mary Mc Aleese. Speakers included Provost of Trinity, Linda Doyle, and President of UCD, Orla Feely.





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A conference the following day addressed the theme “Celebrating 100 Years of Irish University Women.”

This was followed by a celebratory dinner, at which the guest speaker was former MEP, Frances Fitzgerald.





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The publication of an illustrated volume based on Federation archives, records, personal memories and photos.

The edited volume, aptly called *100 Years of Empowering Women - Celebrating the Centenary of the Irish Federation of University Women*,

provides “a snapshot of the personalities, interests and activities of the Federation during the past one hundred years.”

It was launched in UCD at an International Women’s Day event in March 2025, with similar events hosted by other associations later.





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One of the aims of the Centenary Committee was that all associations in the IrFUW should host a special event during the year. It was decided therefore that the Public Speaking Final 2025 would be hosted in Galway, where the

competition had originated.

On the day of the Final, 22 March 2025, winning teams from all associations heard of the origins of the competition from Marie Flatley, daughter of the late Poppy Corbett, founder of the Public Speaking Competition for girls under the age of fifteen.



The competition is an important annual event in the IrFUW calendar. Many former competitors have later spoken of how valuable they have found it to be.



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An important event during the year was the very successful UWE Meet and Greet, hosted by Queen's Women Graduates in Belfast from 25-27 April.

The conference theme was “Legacy, Learning, Living” and one of the main events was an interview with Professor Mary Robinson, followed by a panel discussion.



A bus tour of Belfast key sites was led by Mark Devenport, N.I political editor and BBC journalist. A Gala Dinner at the iconic Titanic Building, with musical entertainment and dancing rounded off the evening





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Work towards re-establishing the UCC Women Graduates Association (Cork) is well under way, and the new Committee is working towards fulfilling requirements for membership of IrFUW, GWI and UWE.

With the aid of the Alumni Office, an official launch took place in September. Committee members, IrFUW and guests were welcomed by UCC President, Professor John O'Halloran. The UCC Committee is currently recruiting members and planning a programme of events.





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It is important to note that the annual programme of activities continued in conjunction with the centenary celebrations.

These included:

- Organisation of Regional Public Speaking heats

- Support for the Access programme for entry to third level courses

- Provision of scholarships for students

- Representation on the Board of the NWCI (National Women's Council of Ireland) and the

Women's Forum of Northern Ireland.

- Regular social events, including book clubs, film club, cultural outings, talks and

concerts.



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100 Years of Empowering Women

Celebrating the Centenary of the
Irish Federation of University Women

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