



# Freelance Forum Autumn 2015

For Photographers and Writers



**Venue:** Buswells Hotel  
**Date:** Monday 19 October 2015  
**Cost:** €10 (tax-deductible) to NUJ members, non-members €25.  
**Registration:** 9.30am-10.00AM (Tea/Coffee on arrival)  
**Spaces are limited so register early**

Book your place online now at <http://dublinfreelance.org/freelance-forum-autumn-2015/>

Enquiries Gerard Cunningham [dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com](mailto:dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com) 086-6073060  
Or send your registration fee to: Helen Taylor, NUJ, Second Floor, Spencer House,  
Spencer Row, off Talbot Street, Dublin 1. Mark envelope Freelance Forum.

All sessions open to writers and photographers  
**NOTE: All speakers appear in a personal capacity.**

**Registration:** 9.30am – 10.00am

**Opening Address:** 10.00am – 10.30am  
**Reporting on Refugees**

**Speaker:** Jody Clarke, External Relations Associate, UNHCR

**Session 1:** 10.30am – 11.45am  
**Pitching for Broadcasting**

**Speaker:** John Byrne, Senior Programme Editor, Newstalk  
Pat O'Mahony, independent television and radio producer  
**Chair:** Aileen O Meara

**Session 2:** 11.45pm – 1.00pm  
**Commissioning Editors**

**Speaker:** Lois Kapila, Managing Editor, Dublin Inquirer  
Aoife Bannon Irish Sun Features Editor  
**Chair:** Kieran Fagan

**Lunch 1.00pm – 2.00pm**

Lunch is available in Buswells hotel, the National Library and Cafe La Cocotte in the Alliance Francaise also in Kildare Street, among other venues in the vicinity.

**Session 3:** 2.00pm – 3.15pm

**Contracts and negotiation: checking the fine print**

**Speaker:** Conor Kostick, Irish Writers Union  
**Chair:** Mary Caulfield

**Session 4:** 3.15pm – 4.30pm  
**Pensions and the Future**

**Speaker:** Sinead Ryan, Freelance journalist, financial columnist  
**Chair:** Gerard Cunningham

**We understand that as working journalists everyone may not be able to attend all sessions.**



**Jody Clarke** is the External Relations Officer with UNHCR. A former journalist, he spent two years based in Kenya where he was a stringer for the Irish Times and South Africa's Mail & Guardian. He's also written for the Financial Times, New Statesman and the Scotsman and once managed to squeeze work out of RTE.

**Sinead Ryan** spent 15 years working in financial services before chucking it all in for freelance journalism. Not wanting to be boxed in right away, she wrote about everything except financial matters as the country was on a roll and didn't seem to need any help from her. She has been a gossip columnist, television reviewer, opinion writer, court reporter and stringer for a local paper but now writes a Consumer Column for The Herald, a Property Finance column for the Irish Independent and is a frequent contributor to radio and television in this and other guises.

She founded Centsense, a not-for-profit organisation to teach kids about money. Her book "Cents & Sensibility" was published in 2010. She was appointed to the Pensions Board earlier this year, and in fact missed the Spring Freelance Forum because it took place on the same day as her first board meeting.

**Aoife Bannon** studied Journalism and Irish at DIT Aungier Street. During her time there she edited college magazine, The Biscuit. After graduating in 2007, she joined the Irish Sun as a picture desk researcher before becoming a features writer for the paper. She has been Features Editor since May 2014. She is a regular contributor to current affairs shows on RTE and TV3.

**Conor Kostick** is a novelist and historian based in Dublin. He is the Disputes Officer for the Irish Writers' Union, a member of the International Authors Federation Contracts Working Group, and Chairperson of the Irish Copyright Licensing Agency.

**Lois Kapila** is managing editor at Dublin Inquirer, a newish online publication that aims to offer quality coverage of city affairs – from local government, transport, planning, and social issues, to narrative profiles of Dubliners. Before Ireland, she worked as a journalist in India and as a trainee investigator in the US.

**John Byrne** has worked across print, radio, and television for 15 years. He founded and edited the satirical magazine The Slate. He worked as a reporter and news editor on Vincent Browne's Village magazine. He worked in Newstalk as a producer on the Breakfast Show and editor of the Pat Kenny Show. He is currently senior programme editor at Newstalk. He was born and educated in Dublin and lived for three years in Toronto where he worked in broadcast media.

**Pat O'Mahony** is a Dublin-based freelance TV and award-winning radio producer/director/presenter.

**Aileen O Meara** A former RTE Health correspondent, she has her own production company, producing radio and TV documentaries, makes podcasts and audio trails, and writes regular analysis of the Irish health service for the Daily Mail. She also does occasional training courses in smartphone video skills.

**Gerard Cunningham** has been a freelance journalist for 15 years, specialising in tribunals! He contributes a regular media analysis column to Village magazine.

**Kieran Fagan** is a freelance journalist and media consultant. Previously he worked for the Irish Times, Irish Independent and Sunday Tribune, and for Carr Communications. He is currently treasurer of Dublin Freelance branch of the National Union of Journalists.

**Mary Caulfield** is a former dancer, and a founding member of community radio station RICC Radio. She is interested in the social history of the villages of Dublin 4, social justice and human rights., and currently reports on and live-tweets on High Court Symphysiotomy Cases.