

Eoin Collins: An Archive of His Life, Activism, and Legacy

Born: August, 19th 1963

Died: February 1st 2022

Overview: “Eoin Collins, a leading rights activist and one of the architects of same-sex marriage in Ireland. He had an unshakeable commitment to social justice and was a leading proponent of community movements that tackled discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation. Eoin had been a director of Nexus research co-operative, one of the foremost facilitators of community development in Ireland, where his capacity for empathy and vision for change placed him at the heart of many human rights struggles.” – Brian Sheehan

“[...] I have found working on Lesbian and Gay Visions of Ireland so exciting. Many of the contributors, whether they know it or not, have had a profound impact on my life and have enabled me to reconcile my identity as Irish and Gay in a way which makes me proud of both. It is my belief that the tremendous fondness for our community which comes through in all contributions has been key to the changes that have taken place for our community in Ireland. Long may the change continue!” – Eoin Collins, ‘Introduction from Visions And Gay Vision Of Ireland’

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Image bio: Eoin Collins, Director of Policy Change GLEN, addressing a conference about the legal status of same-sex couples Photo by Derek Speirs





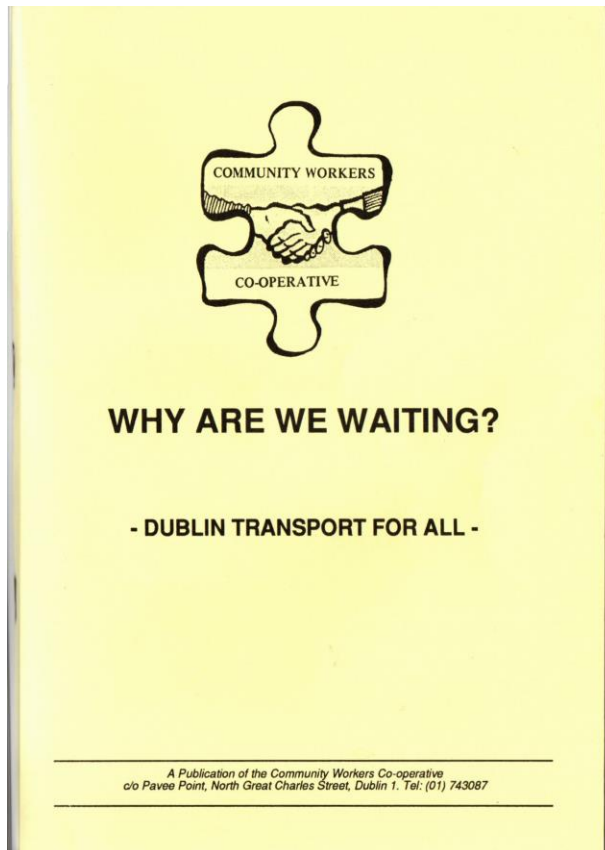




Civil Partnership Bill passed by Seanad: Brian Kearney-Grieve (The Atlantic Philanthropies), Christopher Robson, Marie Hamilton (hidden), Senator Ivana Bacik, Odhran Allen, Kieran Rose, Eoin Collins (hidden), Sandra Irwin-Gowran, Brian Sheehan, Tiernan Brady and Senator Gerry Buttimer. Photo courtesy of GLEN.

Timeline

1991



Title: 'Why Are We Waiting? Dublin Transport for All', Community Workers Co-operative, February 1991

Summary: 'Why Are We Waiting? Dublin Transport for All' is a result of research work carried out by Nexus Cooperative, discussions between representatives of various Dublin based community groups, and consultation with a number of individuals who have a specific expertise in transportation. Many members of the Community Workers Co-operative worked with specific groups, including those who are disabled, part of the Traveller community, women, and elderly. Based on their lived experience working with different communities, the Co-operative presented this report to the Dublin Transportation Review Group.

An extract of the 'Why Are We Waiting? Dublin Transport for All' report reads, "The Community Workers Co-operative acknowledges in the particular the contribution of Nexus,

especially Eoin Collins, in drawing up this submission and in providing research and resource support.”

1992

Title: Eoin Collins and Cathal Kerrigan visit Brendi McClenagh in Long Kesh, February 1992

Summary: Following contact from Sinn Fein informing them that a republican prisoner came out as gay in prison and wanted to make contact with gay activists, Kieran Rose and Cathal Kerrigan visited Brendí McClenaghan in Long Kesh during November 1991.

In February 1992, Cathal Kerrigan again visited Brendí McClenaghan in Long Kesh, this time accompanied by Eoin Collins. A photograph taken of the three of them was published alongside a GCN article in April 1992.

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

"Invisible Comrades: Gays and Lesbians in the Struggle" by Brendi McClenagh in the last issue of *An Glór Gafa* was excellent. We acknowledge the courage of Brendi in "coming out" in such difficult circumstances and we fully endorse his cheerfulness and critical analysis of anti-gay discrimination. We commend the editors of *An Glór Gafa* for publishing what has been, no doubt, a controversial article. You have contributed to a practical way of improving the lives of lesbians and gay men. We are only too aware of the many sub-marginalised as we know all the excuses for inaction: "we don't have the membership isn't ready", "there isn't enough space/time/money", "what have lesbians and gay rights got to do with it?", "get back to us next year".

Brendi's article is a significant contribution to the debate about lesbian/gay issues and a landmark in terms of generating considerable interest internationally. It is being translated into Spanish and is being circulated in Latin America. It has been covered widely in the progressive media and was reprinted immediately in a number of papers including *Gay Community News* (Dublin) and *Socialist Organiser* (Britain).

Brendi's activism is an important contribution to the development of an international awareness of how anti-imperialist and lesbian/gay rights are linked. Previously Simon Nall, a gay anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, and Lupita Siquiera, a lesbian Sandinista in Nicaragua, had done much to raise these issues and went through difficult times as a result.

We should all be open to challenge and we particularly appreciated Brendi's honesty in stating that, along with the social and economic oppression suffered by people in the whole of Ireland and the added burden of British occupation in the North, lesbians and gays 'have had to endure further oppression within our families, local community and within the Republican Movement'.

There has been a lesbian and gay movement in Ireland since the early 1970s. Over the years we have struggled hard, made some progress and learnt a lot. We know that, in the words of a feminist, 'nothing short of equality will do it in a society marked by injustice and cruelty, equality will never be enough'. We are definite that the lesbian/gay struggle should not be seen as a problem, but as an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how to undermine oppression and build a better society here and now.

Leadership is vital in subverting prejudice. It has been our experience in the trade unions and elsewhere that progress is made when people in positions of power decide that prejudice must be challenged and positive action taken now. We hope that the Republican leadership will take the initiative to develop an anti-discrimination action programme in consultation with the lesbian/gay community. Such a principled stand would clearly show that the anti-imperialist struggle, in Brendi's words 'is indeed about the freedom and equality of all those who are oppressed'.

— Kieran Rose, Donal Sheehan, Mick Quinlan, Eoin Collins, Cathal O'Ciarragáin, Arthur Leahy.

Crossword

Across

1. Confusion (4)
2. Out of date, old-fashioned (8)
3. Bloody Sunday apologise (7)
10. Wash the following graduate (5)
11. Not here (5)
12. Taking brief details (4)
14. Confused Terry lives in a university initially in rubber (13)
17. Great infectious disease (5)
19. Wild Jambhuti is one (5)
22. Musical instrument (5)
23. Suffer greatly (7)
24. RE in mist around clergymen (8)
25. Is this a fifty place to eat? (4)

Down

1. Numb (8)
2. Small insect (5)
3. Socially unacceptable (6, 3, 4)
4. The moon's path, for example (5)
5. Baltic state (7)
7. Smooth Pde after the first women (4)
8. Breakfast food (6)
13. European mountain range (8)
15. Soundless side in vain (7)
16. Better than 7 down in the bookies (4,2)
18. Vulgar, obscene (5)
20. Join together (5)
21. Tuned mood (4)

Answers:

1. Confusion 18. Grouse 20. Throat 21. Throat 22. Numb 23. Suffer 24. RE in mist around clergymen 25. Is this a fifty place to eat? 1. Numb 2. Small insect 3. Socially unacceptable 4. The moon's path, for example 5. Baltic state 7. Smooth Pde after the first women 8. Breakfast food 13. European mountain range 15. Soundless side in vain 16. Better than 7 down in the bookies 18. Vulgar, obscene 20. Join together 21. Tuned mood

Invisible Comrades: Gays and lesbians in the struggle

Brendi McClenagh (Long Kesh)

Gay men and lesbian women have been involved in the struggle for national liberation and independence as long as any other section of our people. You might claim that you have never known nor met one or more — today, last week, last year, 22 years ago — for they have been there among us, in struggle alongside you. The primary reason you have not noticed them is that the prevailing culture in our society in relation to sexuality in general, and to homosexuality in particular, compels gay/lesbians to conform, thus their sexuality becomes invisible.

Women as a whole were also once virtually invisible in the national struggle. In recent years, however, they have argued forcefully that women's liberation must be an integral part of the struggle in order that the concept of women's liberation be recognised and accepted as an equal, valid component, women comrades confront their male counterparts with the contradictions of sexist words and actions. While there is still a long way to go to overcome male chauvinism and sexism, at least today women have succeeded in putting feminist issues on the agenda of the anti-imperialist fight.

It is now time, indeed long past time, to open up debate among republicans on the issue of gays and lesbians, our oppression and in racism, and on our right to visible equal partners. I believe that national liberation by its very nature incorporates gay/lesbian liberation as an integral part, and leading to an understanding of gay/lesbian experience that our equality in struggle can be made a reality.

Racial and economic oppression is something the people in the whole of Ireland have suffered, and in the North the weight of British occupation is an added burden. As gay/lesbians we are doubly oppressed for we have had to endure further oppression within our families, local communities and within the Republican Movement because of our sexuality. This manifests itself in many ways and affects every part of our lives.

The legal status of gay/lesbians reflects attitudes in the wider society. All the Churches promote traditional, authoritarian views in relation to people and the rights of women in marriage. The needs to maintain its control over our lives and our sexuality, and it has spawned organisations such as Family Solidarity whose views on homosexuality range from the patronising and homophobic to the downright chilling.

The state's laws deny equality in marriage, education, social welfare, employment, adoption, life insurance — the list is endless. The state denies gay/lesbian relationships the same recognition as heterosexual law. While British law allows for consensual relationships between men over 21 the position in the 26 Counties remains that gay men of any age are of their sexuality — and this in spite of the fact that the Dublin government has accepted, in theory, the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that present legislation is in breach of the rights of gay men.

Both the British and Irish states have appalling records in the area of gay/lesbian rights, especially when compared to other countries in Europe. The legal age of consent, for example, is 16 in Portugal, Switzerland and Holland.

The legal status of gay/lesbians reflects attitudes in the wider society. All the Churches promote traditional, authoritarian views in relation to people and the rights of women in marriage. The needs to maintain its control over our lives and our sexuality, and it has spawned organisations such as Family Solidarity whose views on homosexuality range from the patronising and homophobic to the downright chilling.

It is a long past time to open the debate among Republicans on the issue of gays and lesbians. If homosexual acts are legalised, the likelihood is that this will be interpreted as a major reversal in social policy, and as recognition by society that for those who are so inclined, engaging in these unnatural, unhealthy and immoral acts is now to be seen as a right. [Legislative reform would send shock waves through every part of society, the structure of marriage and the family would be shattered with the rights of children and their parents eroded, and the freedom and autonomy of religious institutions and schools would be seriously breached.] (Family Solidarity News, Spring 1991)

In short, the end of civilization as we know it because of men loving men and women loving women! Such attitudes, which are based on intolerance, misinformation and fear, serve only to demotivate gays and lesbians in the minds of the Irish people, making images of us as depressed men and women weakling havoc throughout society.

While oppression from the state and the institutions of society adversely affects the quality of life for gay/lesbians, there are other forms of oppression which are as much, if not more, detrimental. Gays and lesbians face oppression daily from family, comrades, neighbours and friends due to the irrational fear of and deep prejudice against homosexuality.

The most direct expressions of such homophobia are verbal, al violence. Indirect expressions are sometimes harder to pin down but are nonetheless just as offensive the pressures to 'be what you are but keep it secret and don't read the book'. This is nothing short of moral blackmail as it is usually accompanied by comments like 'What will the family think?', or 'It will the family think?', or 'It will the family think?'

Title: 'Letters to the Editor', Kieran Rose, Donal Sheehan, Mick Quinlan, Eoin Collins, Cathal O'Ciarragáin, Arthur Leahy, Spring 1992, An Glór Gafa

Summary: In Spring 1992, An Glór Gafa printed a letter from gay activists (including members of the Cork Gay Collective). They were responding to Brendí McClenaghan's article, titled 'Invisible Comrades: Gays and lesbians in the struggle'. Brendí wrote his article as an Irish republican prisoner in Long Kesh, Northern Ireland. He came out while in prison, a monumental move towards shining a light on the hidden queer experience within the Irish republican movement. An Glór Gafa (The Captive Voice) was a magazine written by Irish republican prisoners - 26 issues were produced between 1989 and 1999.

Link: <https://corklgbtarchive.com/items/show/194>

1993



Title: Dublin Aids Alliance banner with John Brady, Eoin Collins, Bill Foley and Kieran Rose, Dublin Pride March 1993, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000750310>



Title: GLEN banner with Suzy Byrne, John Brady and Eoin Collins, Dublin Pride March 1993, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000750337>



Title: Close up of Bill Foley, Kieran Rose and Eoin Collins, Dublin Pride March 1993, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000750855>

1995



Title: 'Lesbian and gay visions of Ireland: Towards the twenty-first century', edited by Ide O'Carroll and Eoin Collins, November 1995

Summary: A diverse range of voices addresses significant social and cultural events impacting the future of LGBTQIA+ people across Ireland. Contributors include Senator David Norris, Mary Dorcey, Emma Donoghue, Louise Walsh, Father Bernard Lynch, Cherry Smyth, Eibhear Walsh, Jonie Crone, Kieran Rose and Anne Maguire.

Transcript:

Introduction from Visions And Gay Vision Of Ireland-Eoin Collins

When I was growing up my first positive sense of what it might mean to be gay came from studying economics in school, when one of our more progressive teachers told us that John Maynard Keynes had had a relationship with a man. I almost hit the floor with excitement, and with assistance from the teacher, who was probably surprised by my sudden interest, began to read about Keynes and his association with The Bloomsbury Group. From this point on, my reference points for 'gayness' were to be British and American: Bloomsbury, Berlin decadence and, eventually, Stonewall and Gay Liberation. To be gay was to be urban, intellectual, and sophisticated. With all these notions in mind, I went to London in 1987 to recreate myself in the image of those I had read so much about. However, the GLC had recently been abolished, Clause 28 was about to be introduced and most of the people I worked with talked of the

escalating price of property and the profits to be made in buying shares in the recently privatized British Gas. It was a depressing time to be in Britain: the Welfare State, the trade unions and local democracy were all under the attack. In this environment, and faced with attitudes of some gay men who felt moved to commiserate with me on the backwardness of Ireland, I reacted with anger: I then found myself defending the Catholic Church on the basis that it, unlike Margaret Thatcher, believed in 'society' and the concept of the common good. I took great offence at the notion that we were 'priest ridden' or almost physically reactionary and conservative. In argument, I pointed out that in the town I come from people identified strongly with the Catholic Church, but many remembered the times when Catholics could not obtain loans from the local bank and worked for low pay in the local mill without any possibility of advancement. That such people could simply be dismissed as unreconstructed bigots seemed inaccurate and unfair. Some time after returning to Ireland I attended a debate at University College Dublin. My memory of the motion is impressionistic and went something like; 'Lesbians and gay men deserve equal rights in the new Ireland'. The first speaker was a rather crude and silly homophobe who presented a particularly nauseating case against the motion. I was sitting in the audience, aching to express my anger and hurt. Then Kieran Rose moved to the podium and calmly dismissed the motion, refusing to debate about rights which he believed were inalienable and self-evident. Instead, he talked about what the lesbian and gay community was doing in Ireland, the years of activism, the progress made in redressing prejudice, the strength of the community and its contribution to Irish society. His only concession to what the first speaker had said was that the views she had expressed would find little favour among the people of Ireland who, with a renewed confidence, were rediscovering and embracing more progressive parts of their political and cultural heritage. I relate these experiences because they explain why I have found working on Lesbian and Gay Visions of Ireland so exciting. Many of the contributors, whether they know it or not, have had a profound impact on my life and have enabled me to reconcile my identity as Irish and Gay in a way which makes me proud of both. It is my belief that the tremendous fondness for our community which comes through in all contributions has been key to the changes that have taken place for our community in Ireland. Long may the change continue.

Link: <https://www.worldcat.org/title/lesbian-and-gay-visions-of-ireland-towards-the-twenty-first-century/oclc/34140168>

1996



Title: Close up of Kieran Rose and Eoin Collins on march, Dublin Lesbian and Gay Pride March 1996, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000752023>



Title: Photo of Ciaran Rose, Eoin Collins and Bill Foley, Dublin Lesbian and Gay Pride March 1996, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000751887>



Title: Close up of Eoin Collins on march, Dublin Lesbian and Gay Pride March 1996, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000752022>

1997



Title: Close up of marchers with flags featuring Eoin Collins, Dublin Lesbian and Gay Pride March 1997, Christopher Robson Photographic Collection, NLI

Link: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000752109>

1998

Title: 'OutYouth: A Report on the Dublin Gay and Lesbian Youth Group Pilot Project', Carol-Anne O'Brien, 1998-10, Nexus Research

Summary: The report details results from a pilot project of support for OutYouth, the gay and lesbian youth group. This project was sponsored by Gay Switchboard Dublin and funded by the Eastern Health Board as part of a HIV prevention strategy development process. An excerpt from the report's preface chapter reads, "We are deeply indebted to Carol Anne O'Brien, Eoin Collins and Bob Jordan of Nexus Research for their thorough research and considered recommendations, and particularly for their personal commitment to the project."

Link: <https://www.lenus.ie/bitstream/handle/10147/630328/OutYouth%20Report%20-%20Oyfinal.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

1999

Title: 'Vatican And Homosexuality', Eoin Collins, Aug 14, 1999, The Irish Times

Transcript:

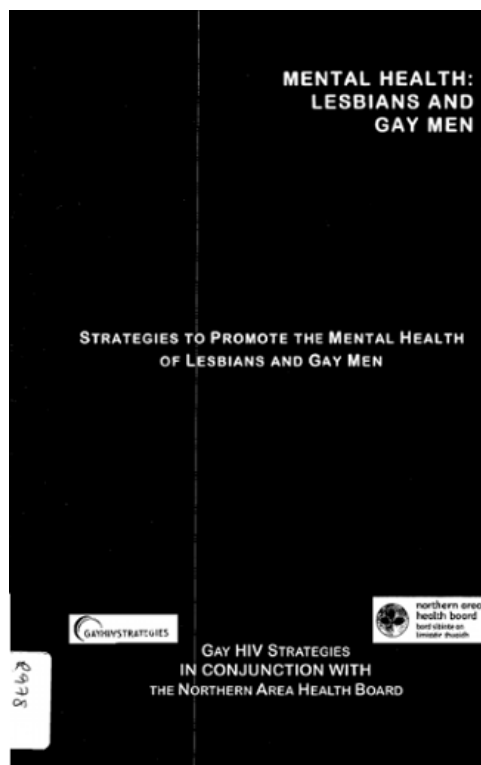
I expect that many gay people in Ireland, like me, have been troubled by the recent debate in your newspaper on whether the expression of our desires and love constitutes "intrinsic moral evil". In trying to cope with this offensive onslaught, it is somewhat heartening to refer to the Combat Poverty Agency report, "Poverty: Lesbians and Gay Men" (1995), which found that lesbians and gay men who "came out" or, as Rev Peter Callaghan (August 10th) might put it, "chose a gay lifestyle", considerably improved their lives as a result. This occurred despite persistently high levels of anti-gay discrimination which for many of us has meant isolation and bullying at school, loss of employment and experiences of violence and harassment on the street.

Even more heartening is the fact that many of these problems are now finally being addressed by the State. Existing and proposed equality legislation will, one hopes, combat prejudice and intolerance, the real "intrinsic moral evils" of our society. - Yours, etc.,

Eoin Collins

Link: <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/vatican-and-homosexuality-1.216633>

2004



Title: 'Strategies to promote the health of lesbians and gay men', Brian Dillon and Eoin Collins, June 2004, Nexus Research Co-operative

Summary: According to the Foreword by the Gay HIV Strategies and Health Promotion Department (NAHB), "'Mental Health: Lesbians and Gay Men - Strategies to Promote the Mental Health of Lesbians and Gay Men' is the first Irish report to concentrate solely on the experience of gay men and lesbians with regard to mental health. The impetus for this research initiative came from a number of representations made to both Gay HIV Strategies and the Northern Area Health Board (NAHB) in 1999. The NAHB had been contacted by members of the gay community about concerns regarding the rate of suicide amongst this group. The work completed by Gay HIV Strategies on areas such as HIV prevention and education also identified mental health as a key area of concern."

Link: <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/266932>

Title: 'Access to Health Services for Transsexual People', Eoin Collins and Brian Sheehan, Nexus Research and Brian Sheehan, December 2004

Summary: As stated in the Introduction chapter, "This report outlines the results of a study commissioned by the Equality Authority to advance understanding of the health needs of

transsexual people and current health service responses to these needs in an Irish context. The Authority commissioned the research in response to representations from the Transgender Equality Network, Ireland. The specific aims of the research were

- To identify what specific health services are available to transsexual people in Ireland, including differences across health board areas, and planned future developments in this area.
- To document transsexual people's perspectives on access to health services including the perspectives of male to female and female to male transsexual people.
- Drawing on this work, to identify recommendations in relation to transsexual people's access to health services, involving consultation and partnership between health boards, health professionals and transsexual people."

Link: https://www.ihrec.ie/download/pdf/access_to_health_services_for_transsexual_people.pdf

2006

Title: 'Taoiseach to officially open GLEN offices', Author Unknown, GCN No.196, April 2006

Summary: A GCN print article covers the story of then An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern opening of GLEN's new offices. Eoin Collins is quoted in the article: "Over the past while, the Taoiseach has been making very strong statements about Ireland's position in the world, the need to attract the highest quality people in Ireland. He has also talked about being very ambitious for Ireland. That's one of the things GLEN are about, being very ambitious for the gay community. We're talking about building us into that mainstream agenda, so that diversity and equality for gay people are actually part of Ireland's success story."

Link: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/11815859/gcn-cover-196>

Title: 'Reviewing progress on Equality for Lesbians, Gay and Bisexual People', Eoin Collins, Equality News, Spring 2006

Summary: In an Equality News article, Eoin Collins calls for the Equality Authority's 2002 publication 'Implementing Equality for Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals' to be revisited. While Eoin highlights positive changes occurring within Irish society for queer people, he also addresses the lack of legal recognition given to lesbian, gay and bisexual couples.

He writes, “These and other changes have increased confidence among LGB people and raised expectations of people’s entitlements as full and equal citizens. LGB people, especially younger people who have come to adulthood with criminalisation part of a distant history, expect to be valued by their families and friends, expect to be valued in school free of bullying and harassment and expect to pursue any career option open to their heterosexual peers. LGB people expect to be safe on the streets or in the areas in which they socialise or live. Probably most importantly, they expect to have their relationships and families recognised and treated equally before the law.”

Link: https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/download/pdf/equality_news_spring_2006.pdf

Title: ‘More than 4,000 register opposition to gay marriage by letter to working group’, Conor Ryan, Irish Examiner, August 23 2006

Summary: MORE than 4,000 people have registered their opposition to legalising gay marriages by letters to the Working Group on Domestic Partnership, according to an Irish Examiner article. “It is an open process and people are entitled to give their views whatever they may be, but this must be framed in the context of all-party political support for legislation to recognise gay relationships,” Eoin Collins states in the article.

Link: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-20011471.html>

Title: ‘Same-Sex Recognition 2006’, RTÉ Archives

Summary: A video clip in the RTÉ Archives covers the launch of a Irish Human Right Commission (IHRC) report titled ‘The Rights of Defacto Couples’, which makes a case for the State to allow civil partnerships for same-sex couples. However, in the video, Eoin Collins expresses his disappointment that the IHRC did not come out in favour of full equality. He said, “We are a little bit disappointed, I suppose, that the Human Rights Commission haven’t taken the opportunity to come out in favour of the full human rights outcome of civil marriage. That’s something we are very clear and have been clear about.”

Link: <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2021/0429/1212764-same-sex-partnerships/>

2007

Title: 'Activists demand legal recognition of same sex couples', Author Unknown, Irish Examiner, 08 June 2007

Summary: During Dublin's LGBTQIA+ Pride Festival, queer activists call on the Government to prioritise legalisation recognising same-sex couples. In an Irish Examiner article, Eoin states, "The Programme for a new government provides a key opportunity to act on this consensus for change. The Government Working Group on Domestic Partnership (the Colley Group) has identified the way forward, coming out strongly for equality based legal recognition of same-sex couples. GLEN urges all parties to support the implementation of the Colley Working Group report in the next programme for government and to enact legislation at the earliest opportunity."

Link: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-30314266.html>

Title: 'Curbs on partners a barrier for gay exiles hoping to come home', Edel Kennedy, Independent.ie, December 10 2007

Summary: An Independent.ie article outlines a growing number of queer emigrants expressing concern about returning to Ireland because their partners will not be able to secure work and face other difficulties. Eoin Collin shares, "It's definitely turning people off returning to Ireland. They fear that if they do return, that their partners' status will cause tension in the relationship."

Link: <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/curbs-on-partners-a-barrier-for-gay-exiles-hoping-to-come-home-26337820.html>

Title: 'A Useful Opportunity', Eoin Collins, Rights News: Rights in Action Independence and the Irish Judiciary, Winter 2007

Summary: In a Rights News article, Eoin details a visit to various institutions of the Council of Europe. He writes, "In many ways the trip provided a very interesting reminder of the progress that has taken place in Ireland, certainly from the perspective of lesbian and gay people. In 1993, the then Government went beyond the minimal requirements of the ECHR and legislated for a broadly equal age of consent."

"Since then Ireland has gone beyond most members of the Council of Europe in naming sexual orientation as a protected ground in equality legislation. Legal recognition of same-sex relationships is also on the agenda of the Government here – notwithstanding the recent negative

decision of the High Court in the right to marry case taken by Katherine Zappone and Ann Louise Gilligan. Alas, such progress is less evident in some countries of the Council of Europe, where lesbian and gay people still face basic legal sanctions including barriers to the right to assembly,” Eoin concludes.

Link: <https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Rights-News-2-Winter-2007.pdf>

Title: ‘Interview: Irish gay rights group takes on partnerships’, Joe Roberts, PinkNews, December 04 2007

Summary: Eoin Collins was interviewed by PinkNews about the changing attitudes to the queer community in Ireland since decriminalisation. He said, “I think there is a lot of discussion about whether or not civil partnership is enough and whether we should be holding out for full civil marriage. Certainly from our perspective we want civil marriage but we think something very serious, full civil partnership, is a very, very important step forward.”

“I think our society has an incredible capacity to change and accommodate change,” he adds optimistically. It’s amazing how from all parties support can be generated,” Eoin continues.

Link: <https://www.thepinknews.com/2007/12/04/interview-irish-gay-rights-group-takes-on-partnerships/>

2008

Title: ‘Ireland recognises de facto same-sex families’, media release by GLEN (17 April 2007)
Euro-Letter No. 152 April 2008

Summary: Euro-Letter is ILGA-Europe’s monthly electronic LGBT political and legal news bulletin. The April issue includes a press release from GLEN, who are responding to ‘the judgement by Mr. Justice Hedigan that a lesbian couple and their child are a de facto family, in common with other Irish de facto families, under the European Convention on Human Rights.’

Speaking about this judgement, Eoin Collins states, “This is a very significant acknowledgement of the existence of, and growing numbers of, same-sex couples parenting children in Ireland. These families want and need their family life recognised to protect the interests and welfare of their children.”

He goes on to say, “Providing a legal framework for parenting with the welfare of children the paramount guiding principle will also help clarify obligations and responsibilities from the outset. Such a legal framework, as noted by Justice Hedigan should help to avoid in the future the emotional trauma to which all the parties in this case have been subjected.”

Link: [https://s3.eu-west-](https://s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/bishopsgate/Archives/Collections/eur_152.pdf?mtime=20210416175834)

[1.amazonaws.com/bishopsgate/Archives/Collections/eur_152.pdf?mtime=20210416175834](https://s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/bishopsgate/Archives/Collections/eur_152.pdf?mtime=20210416175834)

Title: ‘Opinion: Proposed civil partnership is a great achievement’, Eoin Collins, The Irish Times (June 26 2008)

Transcript:

The dry language of the Civil Partnership Bill belies the enormous breakthrough it represents for gay people, writes Eoin Collins.

GLEN, the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, strongly welcomes the proposals in the heads of a Civil Partnership Bill published yesterday by the Government. For the first time, lesbian and gay relationships will be recognised, supported and protected by the State.

While set out in the dry language of statutes, this Bill is about relationships of love, mutual care and commitment and extending out legal recognition and supports to those who are in these relationships.

This is a reform whose time has come. All political parties have played a role in getting us to this point and there is huge public support for change. The latest opinion poll conducted by Lansdowne Market Research in April showed that an overwhelming 84 per cent of people believed that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry or to form civil partnerships. The proposed civil partnership is a great achievement for Irish society and another sign of a confident and open Ireland. In somewhat gloomy times, this is good news, a confident initiative that should boost our spirits.

Thousands of lesbian and gay couples throughout Ireland will be delighted that they soon will have legal solutions to their urgent and real-life problems. Equally, their families, their friends and their colleagues will also be delighted at this new legal status.

The proposed civil partnership will extend many of the rights and responsibilities available through marriage to same-sex couples. It will lead to recognition and protection in a whole

range of areas including succession, domestic protections and pensions. Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Dermot Ahern has stated that civil partnership will provide for equal rights in taxation and related issues.

The Equal Status and Employment Equality Acts will be amended to provide for protection for civil partners, representing a very significant extension of the equality legislation. Civil partnership will also provide for equal treatment with married couples in immigration legislation and regulations. This is a critical issue for many same-sex couples where one partner is from outside the EU.

A significant area of concern for Glen is the limited progress made in providing legal recognition for the growing number of same-sex couples, especially women, who are co-parenting children. Currently these couples lack any means of establishing a joint legal connection and responsibility for the child or children they are raising. We hope that our legislators will examine this issue over the coming months and develop practical proposals to address this key legal gap.

The proposals for comprehensive civil partnership follow a long period of national dialogue and debate on the issues involved. The issues have also been scrutinised by a range of bodies including the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution, the Law Reform Commission and, in particular, the Colley Working Group.

Glen was represented on the Colley Working Group and fully endorses its conclusions that access to civil marriage would achieve equality of status with opposite-sex couples and would underpin a wider equality for gay and lesbian people. Glen's goal is access to full equality through civil marriage and this Bill is a fundamental step towards that goal.

Glen also supported the emphasis of the Colley Group on the need for urgent progress for same-sex couples, which it believed could be delivered through full civil partnership, providing same-sex couples with rights and responsibilities equivalent to married couples.

With the notable exception of recognition of same-sex couples and their children, the Government's civil partnership proposals deliver on this option and provide an essential platform for future progress. We look forward to the early passage of the Bill.

Glen also strongly welcomes the proposals in the heads of the Bill for a redress scheme to offer certain protections to co-habiting couples who do not marry or avail of civil partnership, which

will be provided to both opposite-sex and same-sex couples on an equal basis on the ending of a relationship or on the death of a partner.

Bertie Ahern as Taoiseach spoke eloquently of the critical psychological milestones in the development of a more confident, open and dynamic Ireland. This Bill is another critical psychological milestone.

Anyone who was in the Dáil and Seanad for the debates in 1993 on decriminalisation will agree that the sense from our legislators was that they were celebrating a national achievement with delight. This Bill is a similarly powerful and historic law reform measure. In the 1993 debates, the minister for equality and law reform Mervyn Taylor stated: "What could be more important for us as legislators than to create a climate and space where two people who have chosen each other can express their love."

Eoin Collins is director of policy change at Glen, the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, and is a member of the Colley Working Group

Link: <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/proposed-civil-partnership-is-a-great-achievement-1.1272179>

2009

Title: 'Supporting LGBT Lives: A Study of the Mental Health and Well-Being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People', Paula Mayock, Audrey Bryan, Nicola Carr, and Karl Kitching, The Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) and BeLonG To Youth Service (2009)

Summary: This research report builds upon recommendations of Reach Out – the National Strategy for Action on Suicide Prevention. It studies the harmful effects of stigmatisation and discrimination upon queer people. The research was supported by a Research Advisory Group, which brought together seventeen individuals from different voluntary groups, academic settings, and state agencies. Eoin Collins was part of this group.

Link: https://lgbt.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/attachment_233_SUPPORTING_LGBT_LIVES_-_Final_Full_Report_As_Published.pdf

2010

Title: 'Law on civil partnership enacted by summer', Dan Buckley, Irish Examiner (April 05 2010)

Summary: An Irish Examiner article reports on the upcoming enactment of The Civil Partnership Bill, which would provide people in long-term relationships many of the statutory rights of married couples. In this article, Eoin Collins states, "The bill is a very big step forward and provides a very extensive range of rights and obligations for same-sex couples but our goal is still full marital equality."

"There has been a major level of consensus in the Oireachtas, reflecting, I think, more liberal values in Ireland than existed even a relatively short time ago. We have, in the space of 15 years, gone from a position where sex between men was regarded as a crime to one of the most comprehensive antidiscrimination laws, that includes sexual orientation, in the world," Eoin continues.

Link: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-20116337.html>

Title: 'Field Dispatches: Winning Civil Partnerships in Ireland Q & A with the Gay & Lesbian Equality Network', Author Unknown, The Atlantic Philanthropies (September 20 2010)

Summary: The Atlantic Philanthropies spoke with Kieran Rose and Eoin Collins about the significance of Irish Parliament passing a landmark Civil Partnerships law, guaranteeing new rights to same-sex couples. Speaking on this historic victory, they said, "Civil partnership is of major practical and symbolic value to LGB people. It extends most of the rights and obligations of civil marriage to same-sex couples. It provides for legal recognition in many areas not covered in state level marriage in the U.S. such as recognition on a par to married couples in immigration, social security and national taxation. Civil Partnership also involves the same public registration process as civil marriage."

They continued, "Civil partnership has been enacted with the support of all political parties in the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament). Recognition of children/same-sex parenting is a major gap in the legislation, but there was agreement from all parties in the debates on civil partnership that this can be addressed through further change in family law."

Link: <https://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/news/q-winning-civil-partnerships-ireland>

Title: 'Equality in Ireland – A 20 20 vision speech', Eoin Collins (October 29 2010)

Summary: Equality in Ireland - A 20 20 Vision conference was held to mark a decade of Equality Legislation in Dublin Castle during 2010. Eoin was speaking on Civil Partnership in Ireland.

Transcript:

“Thank you very much for the invitation to speak here today and I just want to, before he rushes off, to congratulate the minister on the enactment of Civil Partnership legislation. It means a huge deal. It's a huge advance and will make an enormous difference to many, many people in the ordinary days of their lives. So, I just want to congratulate you for getting it through at this time. Thank you and I also want to particularly thank the Equality Authority for the invitation. I think the Equality Authority has been hugely part of the campaign for legal recognition and has played a central role in getting us to this point. There's just three things I want to very briefly talk through. One is what's in Civil Partnership because it has broad implications, not just for same-sex couples but also for non-married cohabitants. The second thing is just to acknowledge and to go over just some of the role that the Equality Authority has played since the early 2000s in advancing change. And finally, some very brief lessons that may be useful for discussions over the next few days at this conference.

So, very quickly, the Civil Partnership, it's the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights of Cohabitants Act, was passed with the support of all parties, without a vote in the Dáil, as the minister said, and then after a nail biting debate in the Seanad, by 48 votes to 24. And it was nail biting because a series of amendments had been tabled to weaken it and to water down its effects. They were all rejected and it was very important that happened. The Civil Partnership and Certain Rights of Cohabitants Act has two separate schemes. And sometimes because the focus has been on same-sex couples, the two schemes get a bit mixed up. The first is a civil partnership, a registered scheme where when same-sex couples will register their relationships using the same procedures as civil marriage. And from that registration, derive many of the same rights and legally enforced obligations of civil marriage. They cover a wide range of issues from taxation through to immigration to protection of shared home.

The second is the cohabitation scheme and this applies to opposite sex and same sex couples who do not marry or do not register their relationships. People who qualify to be a cohabitant after five years living together and two years if they have children. From that, this is a presumptive

scheme, the economically dependent partner can apply to the court for a series of remedies. This could have huge implications, maybe on the gender ground. Very often it is women who are economically dependent because they are looking after children and this may provide much needed remedies.

There has also been a significant expansion of the Equality Legislation. There is now a new ground for civil status, which includes marital status but also makes it an offense to discriminate against civil partners whether in employment or the provisions of goods and services. Just because this session is about the Employment Equality Act, some sense of the impact of civil partnership you can see when we look at employment. Registered civil partners will be treated the same for pensions as married spouses. Under the Employment Equality Act, a new civil status will make it illegal to discriminate against civil partners in employment. And any work place benefits that are offered to a spouse must now also be offered to a civil partner.

Equally, the definition of member of the family in the Employment Equality Act has been extended. So, any benefit offered to the child of a spouse must also be offered to the child of a civil partner.

And, if income tax is going to be amended to again deliver equal treatment with married spouses, this means again people in vulnerable situations, that you can transfer your tax credits to the person who is earning less in the relationship and that will mean a lot for a lot of people. And the Immigration Bill will be amended to deliver equality with married couples but already the act being enacted has led to changes in de facto recognition in immigration regulations. And that has been a huge thing because a huge amount of calls to GLEN over the past five years has been from couples where one party is from outside the EU and they are trying to stay and live here in Ireland on the base of their relationship. They now have some protection under this de facto recognition as a result of the Bill coming through.

I think one thing to acknowledge as well is that I met somebody from New York recently. He was over and he was quite astonished. A gay man looking legislatively at where Ireland was compared to New York. The sheer amount of progress that has happened here and as you can see right from '93, from unfair dismissals, right through to decriminalisation in '93, the refugee act '96, we have just had a very, very significant progress of our protections for lesbian and gay people that have propelled Ireland into one of the top countries in the world around protection for lesbian and gay people.

And the Civil Partnership Act is a huge, very serious step forward on that and in a way the other legislation was about that right not to be fired, not to be refused a service. This is the first bill that really looked at the right to something and it is the right of couples to have their relationships recognised, to have those relationships acknowledged by the State and by their communities.

As I said I think the Equality Authority has been a central player in a great deal of this progress. Going back to 2002, as Angela said, the Equality Authority was the first body to come out for civil marriage for same-sex couples and that was quite a long time ago. Since then, it has played a very central role. The previous CEO Neil Crowley and Eilish Barry, the legal officer at that time, played a significant role in participation on the Colley Group and then also leading a major international conference in 2006, which really defined the issues and really I think made a major contribution to clarifying the issues to the Irish public. From that Colley was able to make its proposals, as I said, which clarify the issues, clarify the issues that same-sex couples in particular were looking for marriage and what had been offered to same-sex couples is a very, very limited partnership model that would have been open to anyone. The Colley Group changed that and the Equality Authority played a significant in that.

But equally under Angela Kerins, the Authority has continued to play a very, very substantial role. The Authority came out in favour of the Civil Partnership Bill when it was published but they didn't lose sight of the goal of marriage, which is the goal of GLEN, and equally made very, very strong statement, Angela Kerins did an op-ed piece in the Irish Times, very, very strong statements on the opt-outs that had been put forward by religious groups in the legislation, which would have hugely weakened its effects. That played a very, very strong in making sure that those opt-outs weren't taken. So, I really think that input needs to be acknowledged and equally the Authority has continued to acknowledge a key gap in the legislation which is lack of any recognition of children being parented by same-sex couples. The Authority, as we have, made a very substantial submission to the Law Reform Commission, which is examining these issues currently.

Just very quickly and lastly, just to look at some of the emerging lessons of the work that has taken place over the past two decades to advance all of this progress from our own experience and working with the Equality Authority and with the other equality infrastructure, including our work with the Department of Justice and lower form. The first one is building institutional

support, that has been critical. As I said, the role of the Authority and the Colley Working Group have been central in framing the debate, in clarifying the issues around legal recognition. The second one, and more importantly even, has been building political consensus for change and I think we are very pleased that not only has the legislation been passed with the support of all parties but I think there's a real sense of ownership among all politicians and Oireachtas of the legislation, every party can see the role they've played. From the Labour Party, which had tabled its civil unions bill twice in 2007, to the Green Party, which has a policy of supporting marriage, and right through to Fine Gael, which was one of the first parties to propose civil partnership legislation. So, I think our Oireachtas and members of the Oireachtas needs to be congratulated. The quality of the debates was really superb and GLEN has published the Seanad and all debates on that basis. Because the quality of the input from all parties was very, very significant. And also what's evident from the debates is there seems to be an appetite for further progress. The issues and the gaps around children have been emphasised by politicians across all parties. We're hoping now that as a result of Law Reform Commission's proposal we can move legislatively on further progress.

And the support of the Authority has been and always will be very welcome in that respect. The third point is that it is still possible to make progress at a time of huge economic crisis. I think that is a hopeful point around what has happened. Even despite the worst economic crisis of a generation, this progress has still been made. We hope, as the Minister has said, I thought it was an interesting point to say is that equality isn't some frippery, it's not some kind of luxury of the boom, it's actually intrinsic part of our capacity to recover as an economy. Economics and social development do go hand in hand. So, the equality infrastructure in that sense can be considered as part of our economic infrastructure. The two are very linked.

Another point from me has been the critical importance of delivering change in people's lives. Five year's ago, people rang me when I started this job in GLEN, they had immigration cases, a whole range of issues that affected them, and we had literally nothing to offer them. In some cases, people had to leave the country and their relationship ended or they had to both emigrate. In other cases, a business might have had to be sold because of the death of a partner and their livelihood gone as a result. For some people, it's too late. The partner has died and, even in some cases, they don't want anything but retrospective recognition. I think the need and urgency of this legislation has been very apparent from that. But I think we always need to keep a critical

mind when we're framing the eventual goal of what we want to achieve. We also have to bear in mind the progress along that goal is extremely important for people in their lives.

The last thing is, just to finish on, I put it as unanimity in the goal and indifferences in strategy.

Certainly there has been unanimity among lesbian and gay groups that marriage is a goal.

Sometimes that hasn't all often been apparent because there have been very significant differences in strategy and I think we need to be able to look rationally, given we're talking over the next two days about the equality agenda. I think we need to be able to reflect on what strategies do work and rather than going back to rearticulate our goals, I think it is very useful to think well how do we achieve that, what are the lessons we learnt along the way, and how can we continue to move as fast to the goal as we possibly can. I will just finish on that and as I said I am delighted to be here today. I just want to again pay tribute to the Equality Authority for their significant work past and present on this issue. Thank you very much."

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5FaT3J21mA>

Title: 'Irish civil partners to be included in immigration laws', Staff Writer, PinkNews, November 11 2010

Summary: A PinkNews article reporting on proposed amendments to provide civil partners equal treatment in Ireland's immigration laws. Eoin Collins is quoted saying, "This is a very important advance and will help deliver greater security for same-sex couples worried about separation due to immigration difficulties."

Link: <https://www.thepinknews.com/2010/11/11/irish-civil-partners-to-be-included-in-immigration-laws/>

2012

Title: 'Column It's time for Ireland to follow Obama on gay marriage. Here's why', Kieran Rose, Journal.ie, May 16 2012

Summary: In a Journal.ie opinion piece, Kieran Rose calls on Ireland to support same-sex marriage. He references recommendations from the Government-appointed Colley Group, of which Eoin Collins was a member. A quote from the Group's report reads, "The introduction of civil marriage for same – sex couples would achieve equality of status with opposite sex couples and such recognition that would underpin a wider equality for gay and lesbian people."

Link: <https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/column-its-time-for-ireland-to-follow-obama-on-gay-marriage-heres-why/>

2013

Title: 'ActKnowledge Webinar: Fundamentals of Theory of Change', David Colby and Eoin Collins, June 2013

Summary: This webinar looks at the theory of change, exploring how and why a change process will happen in a particular context.

Link: https://www.theoryofchange.org/wp-content/uploads/toco_library/pdf/TheoryofChangeFundamentalsWebinarJune2013.pdf2014

2014

Title: "The Remarkable Journey towards Equality and Civil Marriage for Lesbian and Gay People in Ireland", Kieran Rose, Centre for Theory of Change, New York (March 2014)

Summary: This presentation was delivered to Centre for Criminal Justice & Human Rights in UCC. It documents significant changes in Irish society for queer people from decriminalization of same-sex relations to the referendum on the right to marry. Eoin Collins contribution to the Colley Group is mentioned.

Link: <https://www.theoryofchange.org/library/presentations/>



Title: 'In the Name of Love: The Movement for Marriage Equality in Ireland, An Oral History', Una Mullally, The History Press Ireland (November 03 2014)

Summary: In response to the 2015 referendum on extending marriage rights to same-sex people across Ireland, Una Mullally maps the development of the debate from its origins to the present day. Among the interviews with key figures involved, she spoke with Eoin Collins. In response to her question, ‘One abiding memory of all of that work and all of that time, what would that be?’, he said, “I remember the Pride in 1992 and myself and Prionsias De Rossa, Kieran Rose were walking on it and I remember it seemed big at the time, and the one next year where we could all fit in literally into the court yard of the Central Bank plaza. But we felt huge. And now seeing Pride where it’s just so ginormous. That’s one thing I want to get across: it’s just amazing how quickly things changed. Sometimes people don’t realise things shifted. It’s extraordinary. And I think the quest for marriage has been a really important one in that shift.”

2015

Title: ‘The Reminiscences of Eoin Collins’, Atlantic Philanthropies Oral History Project, Columbia University (2015)

Summary: As part of the Atlantic Philanthropies Oral History Project, Eoin Collins was interviewed by George Gavrilis on August 27, and on September 15, 2015. During this interview, he shared, “When I came back to live in Dublin, I was determined to kind of rediscover something more positive about my Irish identity. I think I found that in GLEN. I think it’s why, partly, GLEN has been so successful, is that Kieran Rose and Chris, in particular, both had that strong sense of being gay and being of Ireland, and that what you had to do in order to get change society was to kind of look for the best in your traditions and not the worst of them, and to try and be at ease with some of them and go with them.”

2019

Title: ‘Eoin Collins in conversation with Michael Barron, Reflecting on LGBT+ Civil Society’s impact on Irish Public Policy 1993-2015’ (August 2019)

Summary: Michael Barron conducted numerous interviews with key people who contributed to policy changes from decriminalization to marriage equality. Eoin Collins was among those interview. During the interview, Eoin recalled, “People forget that it was impossible to live in

Ireland and be out and live in main stream in the society. You had to completely explode it in a way and that was exciting and we all did so much. We didn't buy into people saving up for their future and you know and achievement in that way. Our strategy of getting everyone to believe that everyone had a part in society - that's worked so well. So, well that the history is rewritten and then so many people are written out of the history and the courage it took, and the sacrifice it took. You know, that you didn't sacrifice your principle of doing things for your career or whatever. And now here I am, 55 years old. I have no pension.”

Eoin continues to share, “I'm seeing people now in Ireland now who are totally out of the closet and I remember them years ago and one is a high court judge and it's great for them. But they didn't help when we needed it and they wouldn't be where they are now if they did. But the thing is they are now powerful and fine. And I feel somehow that maybe there should be a fund for older activists. I don't know what that looks like exactly, but the worst is when you're written out of the history because it's now easy for others and people criticise and forget the context. It's easier for people to not to talk about how bad things were. I'm just talking about all the people we would have known who did things unsung things, like George Robottom.”

Link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/628e38841fdffa64ceec893c/t/63497971f507c0345d173fa2/1665759601921/Eoin+Collins+in+conversation+with+Michael+Barron+August+2019.pdf>

2020

Title: ‘Report to include 311 East Broadway on the registry for protected buildings’, Eoin Collins (2020)

Summary: Eoin Collins calls for 311 East Broadway to be included on the registry for protected buildings. He outlines this building's historic connections to immigrant communities within this Lower East Side neighborhood.

Transcript:

5. Statement of Significance: 311 East Broadway

The striking building at 311 East Broadway stands out as a singular presence in a Lower East Side neighborhood that has been largely reconstructed since its historic immigrant past. As such, it provides a vital link to, and visual reminder of, a highly significant period in New York City history, while maintaining its cultural association to the Jewish community that filled this area in

the late 19th and early 20th century. It is worthy of landmark designation for both its architectural and cultural significance.

(I) Overview

“The spirit of neighborhood endeavor which has raised this club-house in East Broadway is a grateful manifestation of the uplift idea upon which the final hope must rest of a general city betterment”. The Evening World, 1905 (May 2)

Sitting prominently on the curve of the intersection between East Broadway and Grand Street, the unusual building at 311 East Broadway has been a center for Jewish community life on the Lower East Side since 1905.

Built from small contributions of working people, 311 East Broadway has an architectural distinction enhanced by its mixture of styles, which incorporate elements of Flemish Revival—with the use of red brick, contrasting white trim, and stepped gables—as well as an elaborate stone base with flourishes of the Beaux Arts movement. Almost immediately upon its opening, the building served as a venue for political action, social services, and community organizing. It is here that the Jewish Defense Association organized mass meetings and protests across New York against pogroms in Ukraine. (The Sun, Nov. 19, 1905) The building’s founding organization, The Young Men’s Benevolent Association, shared many links with the settlement house movement through its educational and recreational programs for the community. The next occupant was a more traditional settlement house, based on a model for social programs and economic protection first promulgated by British economist Arnold Toynbee. This resident organization was called Arnold Toynbee House in honor of its predecessor. The abbreviation, “ATH” is still found carved in a stone medallion at the center base of the middle second floor window. Toynbee House eventually evolved into the Grand Street Settlement and later moved to larger premises. The final, and present occupant maintains the building’s function as a center for Jewish life, housing a ‘mikvah’ bathhouse for ritual purification according to Orthodox Jewish traditions.

(II) Architectural Development

“Largely overlooked today, Sass & Smallheiser were prolific in the Lower East Side at the time, producing for the most part tenement structures. But their design for the Young Men’s Benevolent Association would dazzle”. (Daytonian in Manhattan, 2015)

The 311 East Broadway building was designed by the firm of Sass and Smallheiser as a ‘club-house’ for the Young Men’s Benevolent Association and included a library, meeting rooms and other facilities that furthered its educational and social service goals for the Jewish population in the area. This architectural firm also designed many tenement buildings and has been praised for the solid quality of their designs and their Classically-inspired decorative elements. Francis Morrone notes that Sass and Smallheiser was not the sort of Beaux-Arts firm that garnered civic commissions, rather, “their instructions were to impress the average person, and at that they excelled.” However, their tenement projects would not prepare one for the elaborate design of 311 East Broadway. As noted by Daytonian in Manhattan (2015): “For more than a decade the Flemish Revival style had been popular in Manhattan, most evidently on the Upper West Side. But Sass & Smallheiser brought it downtown to East Broadway; adding touches of the equally-popular Beaux Arts style for good measure. An exuberant concoction of red brick and granite, it featured all the decorative elements of Flemish Revival—the stepped side gables, playful dormers poking through the steep tile-covered mansard, and bold stone voussoirs that fanned out over the openings—all on a rusticated Beaux Arts base supporting a Beaux Art stone balcony.” “The New York Times called it ‘one of the handsomest buildings in that section of the city.’ The New-York Tribune said it ‘is now one of the show places of the East Side.’ “While the entrance porch, cornice and tall decorative element atop the building were removed at some point, the overall impact of 311 East Broadway has not substantially changed, and it remains a striking architectural centerpiece at the intersection of East Broadway and Grand Street. Its prominence is enhanced by an open approach from Grand Street, which includes a triangular park space.

Young Men’s Benevolent Association, 1905

(III) Prominent Cultural Associations

“The new building is the occupying association’s [Young Men’s Benevolent Association] very own in every way. It is the fruit of sixteen years joint planning and harmonious effort. The

\$50,000 which the establishment cost came in contributions from four hundred very earnest and hard-working young men; not in gifts from any great and rich friends. In this fact is the special pride and exemplary worth of the institution. (The Evening World, 1905, May 2)

The cultural significance of 311 East Broadway can be traced through the three main stages of its ownership and use by the Jewish community. The dedication of the new building of the Young Men's Benevolent Association in 1905 was attended by Manhattan Borough President John F. Ahearn, Congressmen Henry Goldfogle and William Sulzer, as noted by the New York Tribune (Notice, 1905, April 26). The Evening World welcomed it as a successful example of local organizing and observed that the clubhouse contained a circulating library, buffet, bowling alleys, gymnasium, billiard room, lecture room and meeting rooms (1905, May 2). Almost immediately upon its opening, 311 East Broadway became a center not just for learning but also for political action to protect Jewish people in the United States and abroad. This included resistance to stricter immigration laws and prejudice against Jews in naturalization, as well as the organization of city-wide protests against the Odessa pogroms in 1905.

The second phase in the life of the building began in 1918, when it became the site of Arnold Toynbee House, a settlement named after the British social reformer and economic historian. New York's Toynbee House was founded by Rose Gruening with some colleagues from Madison House, another Lower East Side settlement.

While little-known today, Rose Gruening, born in New York City in 1876, deserves much wider recognition for her contribution to the settlement house movement. She follows in the line of such distinguished women pioneers as Lillian Wald of Henry Street Settlement, Mary Simkovich of Greenwich house, and Jane Addams of Chicago's Hull House. Her obituary in The New York Times lauded Gruening as, "known and loved by thousands of the East Side's poor," going on to point out that she had "founded the settlement with her own funds and worked for it without compensation." She died in 1934 at the summer camp she had founded for neighborhood children. When Toynbee House moved into 311 East Broadway from their first location on Division Street, the settlement was the base of operations for the same mix of social services and political activity as the Young Men's Benevolent Association. This was in line with the mission

of the American settlement house movement, which, as noted by Da Costa Nunez and Scribnick (2013), often put more focus on the social and economic forces that were creating dehumanizing conditions and less on the individual person than was the case in the UK, where the movement began. Arnold Toynbee House was subsequently renamed Grand Street Settlement (for the building's location at the corner of East Broadway and Grand Street) and continued to grow. In addition to social services like childcare, summer camp, and showers for the community, it housed a women's college—the Hebrew Teachers Training School for Girls, later part of Yeshiva University. It also hosted performances of works like “Macbeth” and “Julius Caesar,” and clubs and classes dedicated to art and literature. (Newman, 2013) For her contributions to the neighborhood, Gruening became known as the “Angel of Grand Street.”

In 1941, the Grand Street Settlement moved to larger premises and is still thriving today, serving the Lower East Side and Brooklyn in over thirty locations. The building at 311 East Broadway was converted by the Jewish Association of Family Purity to a mikvah, or a bathhouse for ritual purification according to Orthodox Jewish requirements. It was again renovated in 1966 to meet the latest requirements and to provide updated plumbing.

As noted by Kate Newman (2013), the fact that the building is still used as a mikvah is significant: “Without community use and support, the mikvah would likely have gone the way of the neighborhood's kosher restaurants and yarmulke shops — shuttered, or at the very least Brooklyn-bound”.

Lastly, it is notable that 311 East Broadway is one of only three exceptional buildings representing the Lower East Side in the volume, *Five Hundred Buildings of New York*, 2002 (Text by Bill Harris). The other two—Bialystoker Synagogue and Henry Street Settlement—are already designated New York City landmarks.



Title: Eoin Collins in conversation with Margaret Kelleher, Anne Doyle, and Sheelin Wilson
(March 2020 - November 2021)

Summary: Margaret Kelleher, Anne Doyle, and Sheelin Wilson describes this list as, “(some of) Eoin’s favourite things came about as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Eoin loved to walk in Central Park and we (Anne, Sheelin and Margaret) loved to walk with him. He often quoted Desert Island Discs and, one day in late March 2020, set us all the challenge of compiling ours. Eoin’s list (which you’ll find at the end here) was characteristically brilliant, and original, and very detailed!

When Margaret moved back to Ireland in April 2020 and had to quarantine for a fortnight, Eoin decided we four should zoom to keep her company and that we should have a quiz topic for our zoom. Over the next year and a half, until November 2021 and Eoin’s own return to Ireland, followed many zooms and many topics (favourite pieces of art, cities, museums....). We decided to keep a record of our choices, initially in case one of us missed that evening, and later because we knew this was an exceptional time. We didn’t know just how precious it would be to have this now. Our hope is that Eoin’s family and friends enjoy reading this, and that it evokes your own special memories with him.”

Transcript:

Irish art

1. Dorothy Cross

<https://youtu.be/e54FBch7Qks>

2. Shane Berkery

<https://www.nationalgallery.ie/art-and-artists/zurich-portrait-prize-2019/shane-berkery>

3. Louis Le Brocquy

<https://imma.ie/collection/the-tain-battle-field/>

American Painters

1. Keith Haring
2. Jackson Pollock, One: Number 31, MOMA
3. Edward Hopper, Room in Brooklyn
4. Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World

Favourite Museums

1. New Getty, LA
2. Met, NY esp Friday evenings
3. National Gallery London – including Holbein's The Ambassadors:

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/hans-holbein-the-younger-the-ambassadors>

Top Meals

1. Sushi Heaven with the Queens' gang
2. Chartier, Paris
3. Fallons and Byrne winebar with small group of friends

Favourite witty lines

1. PG Wodehouse

“Aunt calling Aunt like mastodons bellowing across premieval swamps”

2. All About Eve

Birdie: “There's a message from the bartender. Does Miss Channing know she ordered domestic gin by mistake?”

Margo: “The only thing I ordered by mistake is the guests. They're domestic, too, and they don't care what they drink as long as it burns!”

3. Woody Allen “Love and Death”; Sonja

“I never want to get married, I only want to get divorced.”

4. Addams Family

Morticia: “My baby is ill, and my husband is dying. Oh, Mama, what shall I do?”

Grandma: “Well, you have a black dress.”

Eoin’s top (and worst) cities/towns

5. Top: Florence; Leuven/Louvain; Lisbon; London

6. Least liked: Belfast, Limerick

Most admired philosophers/thinkers

1. Bertrand Russell: Advise the future generations - See this YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/s7HOMfcRFmY>

2. Arthur Schopenhauer “Mostly it is loss which teaches us about the worth of things.”

3. Wittgenstein: “Death is not an event in life: we do not live to experience death. If we take eternity to mean not infinite temporal duration but timelessness, then eternal life belongs to those who live in the present. Our life has no end in the way in which our visual field has no limits.”

Eoin’s advice to the young (and to our younger/older selves)

1) don’t be so fearful all the time

2) come out the moment it’s feasible (otherwise you will regret the potential connections lost) and draw strength from your honesty rather than others’ prejudice

3) take your future life seriously: strike the balance between living for today and preparing for the future financially; don’t sniff at money: you’ll need it in your older life

People we’d like to have met/have to dinner

1. Dorothy Parker

2. John Kenneth Gilbraith

3. John Mortimer. John Mortimer in conversation with Ludovic Kennedy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grQAkMi8QQM>

Eoin on the topic of ‘beautiful people’

1. Paule Baillargeon from “I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing”: “something amazing about her looks and earrings in the movie”
2. Alain Delon in “The Yellow Rolls Royce”.
3. Jean Sorel from Day of the Jackal

House Tips

1. Don’t skimp if you can avoid it
2. Believe in your own taste

Eoin’s Art Choices

1. The work of Ragnar Kjartansson at the Met - the circular video and song made him feel like he was in Iceland
2. Wilhelm Hammershoi - Eoin loved hearing that he was Michael Palio’s favorite artist too.
3. David Hockney – Eoin loved his work growing up, including his CA stuff and also his landscapes of Northern England

Books that politicians should read

1. Ozymandias – Shelley; poem available at
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46565/ozymandias>
2. The Affluent Society – John K Galbraith; Eoin suggested his free edition
<http://pinguet.free.fr/affluent58.pdf>

Best Eurovision moments

1. Severine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJ8V7-oS6yk>
2. Vicky Leandros <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTPVYktRI-I>
3. Anne Marie David <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPB3RhznYrA>

Irish foods Eoin loves

1. Christmas Pudding
2. Fresh white soda bread with strawberry jam and butter, and cup of tea
3. White batch bread/turnover with cheddar cheese
4. King's crisps

Irish foods Eoin dislikes

1. Food with lots of fish sauce
2. Pig's blood stew
3. Tripe!
4. Kidneys
5. Banana sandwich

Eoin's Favourite walks

1. Central Park
2. South Wall, Dublin

Favourite podcasts

1. In Our Time esp philosophy 'Continental vs Analytic' (Beatrice Han-Pile)
2. Bowery Boys
3. Sean Carroll Mindscape Podcast
4. Youtube – Jonathan Miller, Short History of Disbelief; the Atheism tapes:
interviews with Arthur Miller, Richard Dawkins, Denis Turner

Our heroes

- 1) Mary Robinson
- 2) Tony Blair
- 3) Barack Obama

Favourite TV programs

- 1) Brideshead Revisited (with Jeremy Irons)
- 2) Sex and the City (“but I hated the movies”)
- 3) Queer as Folk (UK version)

Eoin’s favourite films

- 1) All About Eve
- 2) Moonlight
- 3) Edie
- 4) Radio Days - Eoin recommended it, saying “it evokes New York to me more than anything else I know”
- 5) ‘The King’s Choice’ about King Haakon of Norway and his response to the German invasion in 1941: “Really wonderful”.

Favourite lines from books – Eoin’s choices

- 1) JK Galbraith: The Affluent Society - The opening line to The Affluent Society. Galbraith is my economist hero, dismissed by the left as being too moderate and by the right as being too socialist. “Wealth is not without its advantages, and the case to the contrary, although it has often been made, has never proved widely persuasive.”
- 2) Emily Bronte: Wuthering Heights - Nellie, servant for the Earnshaws and the Lintons, at the end of the novel, reflects at the graves of Catherine, Edgar Linton and Heathcliff: “I lingered round them, under that benign sky: watched the moths fluttering among the heath and harebells, listened to the soft wind breathing through the grass, and wondered how any one could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that quiet earth.”
- 3) James Joyce: The Dead - At the end as Gabriel agonizes about love, death and the passage of time: “Yes, the newspapers were right: snow was general all over Ireland. It was falling softly upon the Bog of Allen and, further westwards, softly falling into the dark mutinous Shannon waves. It was falling too upon every part of the lonely churchyard where Michael Furey lay buried. It lay thickly drifted on the crooked crosses and headstones, on the spears of the little gate, on the barren thorns. His soul swooned

slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead”.

- 4) Virginia Woolf: Mrs. Dalloway - At the start as Clarissa walks around London – putting in words the exhilaration of being in a city: “In people’s eyes, in the swing, tramp, and trudge; in the bellow and the uproar; the carriages, motor cars, omnibuses, vans, sandwich men shuffling and swinging; brass bands; barrel organs; in the triumph and the jingle and the strange high singing of some aeroplane overhead was what she loved; life; London; this moment of June.”

Eoin’s Desert Island discs

1. Man with the Child in his eyes, Kate Bush

“I was passionately in love with a guy who worked for my father and used to think of him listening to this when our family toured around Cork in the summer of 1978. I realized that if I could feel this kind of love for someone, then being gay could never be wrong and that I could only have a happy life if I was true to this love. When I hear the lyrics of Kate Bush’s song now I feel huge compassion for my young self, especially when I hear the words: ‘Suddenly I find myself, listening to man I’ve never known before, telling me about the sea and his loves to eternity’ ‘Nobody knows my man’.”

<https://youtu.be/NAj8suae3WY>

2. Duet from the Pearlfishers, Bizet and sung by Jussi Bjorling and Robert Merrill

“My mother has a huge passion for all kinds of music and is convinced that Jussi Bjorling is the best tenor that ever lived. I particularly love this duet and think of her every time I hear it.”

<https://youtu.be/5PYt2HlBuyI>

3. Last Time I saw Richard, Joni Mitchell.

“My cure for despondency. It sounds mournful, but ultimately it’s about hope and how even the worst of times pass. Ends with ‘Dark cafes, only a dark cocoon, Before I get my gorgeous wings and fly away, Only a phase, these dark café days’.”

<https://youtu.be/igj20M84hbo>

4. Gnossienne, Eric Satie

“When my father died, my mother bought a grand piano to help deal with her grief. This is one of the first pieces of music I heard her play on the new piano. It would remind me of her and of the seriousness and absurdity of my situation on the desert island.”

<https://youtu.be/IUAF3abGY2M>

5. Sandstorm, Darude

“Some of the most intensely happy times of my life were dancing at raves in Dublin in the 1990s. Ecstasy was a big thing then and the music was built around the phases of the body’s reaction to it. This music reminds me of the almost spiritual pleasure of being synchronized in pleasure with a large crowd on the dance floor at the point when we were ‘up on our drugs’, the lingo for the most intense phase of its effect.”

<https://youtu.be/y6120QOlsfU>

6. Song to the Siren

“This, I confess, is something I originally heard on Desert Island Discs when it was played by Dawn French. I listened to it walking home to our apartment from work when I first moved to New York. On one bad day however, when I was feeling very negative about the city, I thought of Josep as a siren who had lured me on to the Manhattan rocks.”

<https://youtu.be/HFWKJ2FUiAQ>

7. Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Christy Moore, sung by prisoners from H-Block

“In 1990 the British Government allowed IRA and loyalist prisoners out on ‘week releases’, a first step in what eventually became the peace process. A friend of mine had been in contact for some time with an IRA prisoner who had come out as gay in Long Kesh, and agreed to host him on a trip to Dublin when he was released in the Christmas of 1990. I hadn’t been a supporter of Irish Republicanism at all and was reluctant to meet him but relented and went along to the pub expecting someone hard, with long hair and a beard. Instead, I was introduced to a man with short cut, jet black hair and wearing a pair of dark sunglasses as he was quite light sensitive after being in prison for so long. He smiled at me, said hello in a very soft accent and then took off his glasses to reveal intensely blue eyes. I fell in love in that instant.

For more than three years I visited Brendi in Long Kesh every second weekend, taking the train to Belfast and then a bus provided by Sinn Fein for all the other war ‘widows’. Brendi loved music and played the guitar on this tape which was smuggled out in 1991. I find it almost unbearably sad to hear men perceived to be so hard, sound so vulnerable.”

<https://youtu.be/SQbPQIFdHtI>

8. Ne andrò lontana, La Wally, Wilhemina higgins Fernandez, from the movie Diva. “Diva was a such a cult hit in the 1980s. When I eventually saw it made me really understand the power of opera for the first time. I have played this aria over and over again.”

<https://youtu.be/vLrgaYtDJXI>

Book Selection

“I think a book to help me navigate the stars at nighttime. I would imagine the sky would be very clear.”

Luxury

“I think a life supply of assorted drugs to help me face sad or fearful times.”

2022

Title: ‘Community remembers visionary LGBTQ+ activist Eoin Collins following his untimely death’, Brian Sheehan and Michael Barron, GCN (February 4 2022)

Summary: In an online GCN article, Brian Sheehan and Michael Barron mourn the passing of Eoin Collins while also remembering his monumental legacy. They write, “Eoin is widely remembered beyond the extraordinary progress of which he was a crucial driver. Everyone who knew him speaks of his wonderfully irreverent humour, of often ‘being in stitches’ with him and how being with Eoin was like taking a wild ride through a sparkling mind. He was a truly wonderful friend.”

“He leaves an extraordinary legacy of hard-won progress for LGBTQ+ people and a legion of activists and policymakers who are better at what they do because they had the opportunity to

work shoulder to shoulder with Eoin. While we still have significant work to do, our task is made easier through the transformational change he was a major part of bringing about,” they conclude.

Link: <https://gcn.ie/community-remembers-eoin-collins-untimely-death/>

Title: ‘Labour LGBT Statement regarding the death of Eoin Collins’ (February 04 2022)

Summary: Labour LGBT is a society connected to the Labour Party. They released a statement to pay tribute to Eoin Collins, who passed on Tuesday February 1 2022. Labour LGBT Co Chairs James Joy and Catherine Arnold said “Eoin Collins was an enormous influence in changing Irelands’ laws on LGBT Equality and how Ireland treated LGBT people. He served as Director of Policy Change in the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network from 2005 to 2011 and worked in Nexus Research from 1991. In his role in GLEN he undertook an extensive amount of work lobbying and preparing the legal ground for Civil Partnership and indeed Marriage Equality in Ireland. He was appointed by the Irish Government to the Working Group chaired by Anne Colley in 2006, the report of which provided the basis for the enactment of a civil partnership model based on marriage. Eoin was instrumental in its final report recommending Marriage Equality. During this time Eoin was also member of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform Working Group on Equality Proofing and was liaison to the Department of Justice on sexual orientation issues.

Prior to this Eoin also worked extensively in the areas of policy change on LGBT issues. He co authored a report with Brian Sheehan in 2004 for the Equality Authority “Access to health services for transsexual people”. This report was influential as a strong impetus to bring legal change for Irish Transgender people. During his time in Nexus research he was involved in extensive policy research affecting LGBT people. He contributed extensively to researching poverty amongst Irelands gay and lesbian community in the 1990s. In 2000 He also wrote a report for Nexus Research “Promoting Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men: Scoping Study on International Best Practice”. In 1995 Eoin also co edited a ground breaking book “Lesbian and Gay Visions of Ireland” a rich socio political reflection on where Irish Gay Men and Lesbians were and their then hopes for Irelands future”

We send condolences to Eoin's family at this time and salute his work in creating a more equal Ireland for his LGBT peers and generations to come."

Link: <https://labour.ie/news/2022/02/04/labour-lgbt-statement-regarding-the-death-of-eoin-collins/>

Title: 'Eoin Collins obituary: Rights activist and 'key strategist' of same-sex marriage in Ireland', The Irish Times (February 26 2022)

Summary: The Irish Times published an obituary for Eoin Collins. It reads, "Not only was Collins a committed, dedicated and humble activist, he also had enormous wit, warmth and candour. His huge love of life along with an ability never to be judgmental made him a terrific friend with abundant friendships sustained throughout his life."

Link: <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/eoin-collins-obituary-rights-activist-and-key-strategist-of-same-sex-marriage-in-ireland-1.4812126>

Title: 'In Memory of Eoin Collins', Brian Sheehan and Michael Barron, GCN 370 (March 2022)

Summary: Brian Sheehan and Michael Barron's tribute is printed in issue 370 of the GCN magazine. The tribute further shares, "Eoin's partner of 20 years was Josep Adalla. They met in Dublin when Josep was studying nursing. Eoin followed Josep to New York in 2013, where Josep was a specialist renal nurse and where his family were, though Eoin was always a Dubliner at heart. They married as soon as it became legally available there. They had rich lives in New York, and Josep worked on the frontlines throughout the pandemic. Josep died of a sudden heart attack on November 1, shortly after Eoin's illness had been diagnosed. Eoin was heartbroken at the loss of Josep, the love of his life, and came back to his very loving family in Lucan just before Christmas, where he died on February 1."

Link: <https://gcn.ie/magazine/march-2022/>

Title: Senator Annie Hoey pays tribute to Eoin Collins in the Seanad

Transcript:

"Today I want to take a moment to mark the tragic death of Eoin Collins after a short illness. He passed away on the first of February in the care of his family in Lucan, and just three months

after the untimely and sudden death of his husband Josep Adalla in November. Eoin was one of the principal architects of the extraordinary progress and change for LGBTQI people over the last few decades. As one of the founders of GLEN (the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network) he was a key driver of legislative reform and progress towards equality for LGBTQI people, and his fingerprints are across much of the ground-breaking change we have seen over the last 20 years. Eoin and his colleagues campaigned for many years for decriminalisation, and having achieved that in 1993, then campaigned for wide ranging, multi-ground equality legislation in close collaboration with a range of other equality organisations, and then worked with the Rainbow Coalition and Labour Minister for Equality and Law Reform, Mervyn Taylor TD., to bring forward the Employment Equality and Equal Status Bills which were crucial in building a fairer, more equal Ireland for LGBTQIA people, and for all those included in the nine grounds of that legislation. Throughout this period, and prior to working on the staff of GLEN, Eoin worked with Nexus Research Cooperative for over two decades, and they were key figures in community development across Ireland. As a facilitator, writer and activist, his capacity for vision and empathy for change placed him at the heart of so many human rights struggles; and his work was always tempered by critical self-scrutiny and a genuine humility. His work allowed him opportunities and spaces to make lasting changes in dealing with issues of discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation. With the support of Atlantic Philanthropies, Eoin then worked as GLEN staff, building on the foundation of legislative progress to drive real, meaningful change in the lives of LGBTQIA people. He worked with Governments, politicians – including many in this House - civil and public servants and civil society bodies to ensure that LGBTQIA people could be free and equal. This work included transformative change in education, physical, mental and sexual health, workplace, immigration reform, the first research in Ireland on trans equality, and in particular, the equal recognition and protection of LGBTQI relationships and families. Eoin was a member of the Government's 'Colley Group' that charted a way to marriage and constitutional equality for same-sex couples and was instrumental in the groups' finding that only marriage would deliver that equality. He was one of the principal drivers of the work to secure comprehensive Civil Partnership legislation which was possible without a referendum, and the foundations of family recognition legislation, both of which paved the way for the eventual success of that extraordinary referendum in 2015. He leaves an extraordinary legacy of hard-won progress for LGBTQIA people. While we still have significant work to do, our task is

made easier through the transformational change he was a major part of bringing about. So I would like to pass on my condolences to the family of Eoin Collins and express my personal profound gratitude as a member of the LGBTQIA community for all the work he did to make Ireland a better place for all. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. (May his soul rest at the right hand side of God.)”

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFInQf4M3z8>