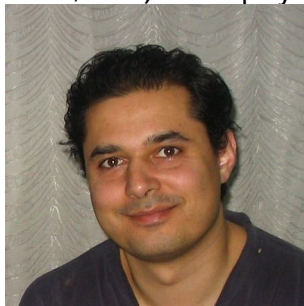


## Speaker Biographies and Synopsis:

**Arun Kundnani** Author of 'The End of Tolerance: racism in 21st century Britain' (Pluto Press, 2007) and deputy editor of 'Race & Class', published by the Institute of Race Relations.



**Covering:** What are the new challenges facing anti-racism in the twenty-first century in Britain, especially with regard to the settlement of new communities of migrant workers and refugees, and how do we respond to the rise of anti-Muslim racism linked to the 'war on terror'?

**Bernadette McAliskey** Coordinator of South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (S.T.E.P) Since her time as an MP Bernadette has devoted herself to the building of successful community infrastructure in her local area of South Tyrone. She has been a keen community activist on a number of subjects, as coordinator of STEP she has assumed management of the organisations four distinct but inherently linked departments – Community Development, Tutor Led Training, Online Learning and the Migrant Workers Programme.



**Covering:** There is a widespread perception that 'racism' is no more than unacceptable behaviour- an individual anti-social behaviour pattern often involving overtly violent behaviour, or organisational behaviour that reflects the individual racism. Recognition of institutional racism consequently focuses on 'improving' the individual attitudes of people working in the institutions. There remains a steadfast and almost universal denial that racism is the logical by-product of the widely accepted social construction of 'race.' There is an equally urgent need to review the concept that humanity can or should be categorised into separate and distinct 'races' determined by skin colour, country of origin, or faith system, and groups of people stereotyped and disadvantaged on this basis.

**Dr Robbie McVeigh** is research director with An Dúchán. He has written extensively on racism and his publications include: The Racialization of Irishness: Racism and Anti-racism in Ireland (Belfast: CRD, 1996); The Next Stephen Lawrence? Racist Violence and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland (NICEM, 2006) and Migrant Workers and their Families: A Trade Union Response (ICTU, 2006), Travellers, Refugees and Racism in Tallaght (with Alice Binchy, West Tallaght Resource Center, 1998); he also conducted economic impact research of migration to the Dungannon South Tyrone area.



**Covering:** Reconstituting Racism and Anti-Racism in Northern Ireland Moving from the official denial 15 years ago of the existence of racism to the present. Discussing contemporary and historic anti-migrant racism – particularly anti-Irish racism - as well as the reconstitution of racism and marginalisation of racism faced by Travellers, Black persons and those from the Majority world in the process. The talk focuses on the changing role of the Northern Ireland state in reconstituting racism and anti-racism with a particular focus on the evolving 'good relations' paradigm and the 'whitening' of migration.

**Benedicta Attoh** is an independent consultant on intercultural and anti racism issues. She is the Chairperson of the Board of the Africa Centre, a Director of the Refugee Information Service, the Public Relations Officer of the Louth African Women's Support Group, the Dundalk Branch Coordinator of the Integration of African Children (IACI) in Ireland, and Founder/Chairperson of Women from Minorities Network in Ireland. She was an Independent Candidate in Dundalk Urban and Louth County Councils at the local elections in June 2004.

**Colin Jack** is the head of the Good Relations and Reconciliation Division in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). This division includes the Departments' Racial Equality Unit.

#### **Workshop Inputs:**

##### **Workshop 1: Anti-Racism Officers**

**Ligia Parrizi** is the Anti-Racism Officer at Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council.

**Alfred Abolarin** is the Assistant Principal Community Cohesion Officer in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive with responsibility for race relations issues.

##### **Workshop 2: The role of the Assembly**

**Dr Aidan McGarry** is a Research Associate at the University of Ulster and has recently undertaken research into the engagement of elected representatives and political parties with black and minority ethnic communities.

##### **Workshop 3: Racism and Travellers**

**Seamus Donnelly** is coordinator of An Tearmann the Coalisland Traveller Support Group.

##### **Workshop 4: Racism in the Workplace**

**Trademark** is an ethically based not for profit organisation which works towards social change in which the principles of social justice, equality and pluralism are actively pursued. Trademark is an official partner of the ICTU delivering training, research and evaluation on anti-sectarianism, anti-racism, equality and human rights.

**Migrant Rights Centre Ireland-** a Dublin based non governmental organisation promoting migrant rights. Input to include focus on links between racism and exploitation.