



## National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference

# Call for papers



**Opens:** 21st February 2025. **Closes:** 11th April 2025. **Decisions:** end of May 2025.

### CONFERENCE THEME:

## Child Protection and Children's Rights: The Future of Social Work

### About us

The 10th *National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference* will take place on the **24<sup>th</sup> of October 2025** at UCC. This conference is a not-for-profit partnership between frontline child protection and welfare staff in TUSLA, the Irish Association of Social Workers, and University College Cork (@UCCsocialwork, School of Applied Social Studies). To find out more about the conference and to review videos of our previous keynote speakers, [click here](#).

### About this conference

Social work practice in child protection, child welfare and alternative care is a constantly evolving field of professional practice with rapid changes in policy, practice, legislation, structures, and statutory systems. Child protection and welfare social workers collaborate with professionals, services, and representative groups to identify and promote the health, development and welfare of children and families, and to enhance social justice.

We welcome papers on the conference's main theme: ***Child Protection and Children's Rights: The Future of Social Work***, and related sub-themes:

- Education; Diversity and Inclusion; Participatory Practice; Voice of Children and Families; Learning and Development; Policy; Innovative Practice; Legal Issues; Research; Social Justice; Lived Experience; Technology; Artificial Intelligence; Advocacy; Multidisciplinary Working.

### Invitation

The conference committee invites experts by experience, practitioners, academics, researchers, managers, representative groups, policy-makers, community groups, and social commentators to submit on the theme for this conference. **The conference is open to all disciplines and services.** We especially welcome papers from practitioners that reflect upon challenges and innovations arising in everyday practice in child protection and welfare. **Abstracts must explicitly address the conference theme.**



**Successful authors will be required to attend the conference in full and to present their paper twice as parallel sessions will occur both morning and afternoon.**

Your abstract will be peer-reviewed by one academic, one practitioner and the chairperson of the SWCONF25 Scientific Committee. Preference will be given to abstracts that present a unique study, practice innovation, policy, piece of research, etc., that has not been presented previously and which is aligned with the theme of the conference. General commentaries will not be eligible. The decision of the SWCONF25 Scientific Committee will be final.

#### **Presentation formats**

*Oral Papers:* The conference committee is inviting abstracts which can be presented in the form of an oral paper. The duration of the oral paper presentation is 15 minutes plus 5 mins for questions and can relate to practice, experiences of using the child protection system, research, education, user experiences, system development, technologies, advocacy, and policy issues relevant to the conference theme. If in doubt about whether your topic fits the theme, please submit. Time will be allowed for audience discussion in the session.

**Papers will be face-to-face at UCC** – online presentations cannot be facilitated. **Successful authors will be required to register to attend the conference in full and present their paper twice as parallel session will occur both morning and afternoon.**

*Symposia:* We are not inviting applications for symposia for SWCONF25.

#### **Enquiries**

All enquiries about the SWCONF25 call for papers process should be sent to the Scientific Committee Chairperson, Rachel McCormack: [rachel.mccormack@tusla.ie](mailto:rachel.mccormack@tusla.ie)

Submit your paper here: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/swconf/abstracts/>

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/swconf/>

Bluesky: @swconfucc.bsky.social

