

Dr. Aideen Hayden

Chairperson, Threshold

Originally from Carlow, Dr Aideen Hayden lives in Glenageary with her husband Chris O'Malley and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Joanna.

A former solicitor who graduated from UCD in 1981 with a BA in Economics and History, Aideen has worked in the field of housing for the last three decades. Best known as chair of the national housing charity Threshold, she was a Taoiseach nominee to the Seanad in 2011, in recognition of her exemplary work and advocacy on housing and social justice issues. During her time in office as a Senator, Aideen worked closely with the then Minister for the Environment on legislation to introduce a deposit protection scheme to protect tenants' deposits in the private rented sector and to limit the extent of rent increases at a time of significant rent rises in rented housing nationally.

For almost three decades, Aideen has served as Chair of Threshold, the leading advice and advocacy organisation working on behalf of tenants in the private rented sector. Her key achievements in this role include leading the campaign to improve security of tenure for tenants in Ireland which ultimately resulted in the introduction of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 and lead role in the establishment of the Tenancy Protection Service, a partnership with the four Dublin Local Authorities and the Department of Social Protection to prevent homelessness in the region. This service has prevented over 10,000 people experiencing homelessness since June 2014.

Today Dr Hayden, who also holds a PhD from UCD, continues to build on her track record on seeking solutions to the housing crisis and on mitigating difficulties experienced by vulnerable groups in Irish society today – the homeless and tenants in private rented accommodation.

