

## Dr Aideen Hayden: Chairperson Threshold

Throughout her time as Chair of Threshold Aideen has consistently sought to bring about permanent solutions to the difficulties experienced by vulnerable groups in accessing good quality permanent homes in Ireland – and ensure everyone has access to a safe, affordable and secure home.

A qualified solicitor, with a degree in Economics and History and a PhD in social policy from UCD where she was awarded an Ad Astra Scholarship - Aideen has worked in the field of housing for over two decades and through her tireless advocacy and policy work has made a significant contribution to improving the Private Rented Sector in Ireland.

Aideen`s key achievements as Chair of Threshold have included 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 the establishment of the Tenancy Protection Service, a partnership with the four Dublin Local Authorities and the Department of Social Protection in answer to the growing problem of homelessness in the region and legislation to secure rent certainty.

Appointed by an Taoiseach Aideen served as a member of Seanad Eireann from 2011 to 2016, during which time she also served as Vice Chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Finance Public Expenditure and Reform and Chief Whip for the Labour group in the Seanad.

Aideen is a founding member and group coordinator of the Working Group on Private rented markets in the Europe Network for Housing Research, promoting exchange of best practice at European level. She also served for 10 years on the Housing SPC of Dublin City Council. Aideen received a distinguished Alumni award in 2017 from UCD in recognition of her work in homeless prevention.

In addition to her work with Threshold, Aideen also serves on the Boards of the Housing Finance Agency, the Property Services Regulatory Authority. She previously served on the Residential Tenancies Board from its foundation until her appointment to the Seanad in 2011. Having received a PhD in Social Policy from UCD in 2012, Aideen has published a number of reports including a report on the Future of Council Housing with Professor Michelle Norris (2018) and on mixed tenure developments, -Rebuilding the Irish Neighbourhood with Bob Jordan (2019), she continues to work for a fairer housing system and a right to housing for all.

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