

Guest Speaker: Maxine Mpofu

Starting her formal volunteering journey at the age of eight as a Girl Guide, Maxine Mpofu has dedicated herself to exploring the power of volunteering in shaping global development. She has supported advocacy and resource mobilisation within the World Organization of the Scout Movement, reaching millions of young people worldwide. Now a PhD researcher at Northumbria University's Centre for Global Development, her work examines just and decolonial approaches to volunteerism. Guided by Ubuntu, she also partners with young people with disabilities in Zimbabwe to reimagine youth participation in development



Storyteller: Ruth Powell



Ruth Powell is an Irish-Welsh writer, living in Dublin. Several of her short stories have been published in magazines and she self-published a selection of flash fiction and vignettes, with the Brazilian photographer, Carolina Murari, in 2019. Ruth writes for her blog, "Shorter than me" and was a member of the Dublin Writer's Forum from 2013 - 2019. She reads often at the Sunflower Sessions, on the last Thursday of the month at the Lord Edward, and contributes to a regular book club for writers.

Storyteller: Bulelani Mfaco

Bulelani Mfaco is a former spokesperson for the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI). MASI is a grassroots campaign group which campaigns for an end to the abhorrent system of direct provision and deportations, defends the fundamental right to seek asylum, and agitates for a more humane asylum process. Bulelani cut his campaigning teeth in his native South Africa where from an early age he was involved in protests for adequate housing, access to land, and healthcare. Bulelani is currently on the board of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, and the Hope and Courage Collective.



Storyteller: Oein DeBhairduin



Oein DeBhairduin is a writer, activist and educator with a passion for preserving the beauty of Traveller tales, sayings, retellings and historic exchanges. Oein is the author of the award-winning *Why the moon travels*. His other works are *Weave*, *The Slug and the Snail* and *Twiggy Woman*. He is the Inclusive Histories Curator of Traveller Culture with the National Museum of Ireland and seeks to pair community activism with cultural celebration, recalling old tales with fresh modern connections and, most of all, he wishes to rekindle the hearth fires of a shared kinship.

Storyteller: Sr. Jo Kennedy

Jo Kennedy is a Mercy Sister and a feminist with a background in Family Therapy and Community Development. She has lived and worked for many years in a marginalised community in the South West area of Dublin City. She set up several key local projects, such as The Family Resource Centre, St. Michael's Youth Project, and Hessed House Counselling service. She is currently a member of The Regeneration Team.



Storyteller: Kelvyn Fields

Kelvyn has been volunteering since his teenage years, and has been an active member of UCDVO since 2019. Over his final academic year, he was the Auditor of the UCDVO Student Society, and sat on UCDVO's Board, whilst he was completing his MA degree in Gender, Sexuality, and Culture. The previous academic year he took part in UCDVO's Volunteering Programme, volunteering with partner organisations AKD and MOEI in Cambodia. That same year he also began to organise with UCD Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions, and United Against Racism Ireland.

Storyteller: Safia Hassan

Safia Hassan has 12 years experience working with NGOs and UN humanitarian agencies in Somalia. She recently graduated from UCD Access lifelong Art, Humanities Social Sciences and Law in UCD and is part of the Women's Network Program at Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Ireland. She is passionate about poetry, and says "as a Somali we have a profound and inseparable relationship with poetry". She has participated in a Muslim Women's Storytelling Workshop with the poet and facilitator Fíona Bolger.



Musician: Seamas Hyland

Seamas Hyland is a multi-instrumentalist and composer who focuses on both traditional and experimental music. He enjoys exploring the varied sonic capabilities of the button accordion and creating tonal landscapes using field recordings he collects. Seamas recently released his debut solo album 'Maidin Domhnaigh' and was nominated for an RTÉ Folk award for best emerging artist in 2025. He has also collaborated with artists like John Francis Flynn, Jennie Moran and Eimear Walshe, and is particularly intrigued by the contrasting nature of traditional and contemporary music and how/if these can be presented together.