



Press Release

Post Polio Conference & AGM

Guest speaker Mary O'Rourke to speak on resilience of Survivors

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Polio Survivors increasingly face challenges in their lives, yet overcome them. This is the theme of the keynote speech to be given by former Government Minister and TD, Mary O'Rourke at the Post Polio Support Group Annual Conference on Monday 18th May, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. An often forgotten population, the 7,000 survivors who overcame this devastating illness continue to face adversity, from lifelong disability to the Late Effects of Polio.

Among the concerns for Survivors to be discussed at the Conference is the ongoing funding issue, regarding the still unresolved Department of Environment, Community and Local Government funded Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO); the 20% reduction in statutory funding over the last five years and the aging population of PPSG members, who are less able to support themselves while their needs become greater.

Mrs O'Rourke will speak at 12pm, followed by lunch and the Annual General Meeting of the Post Polio Support Group. The afternoon session also consists of workshops, including discussion on best structures to support members of PPSG, vital information on orthotics plus a demonstration from Siel Bleu (exercise for older people).

7,000 Survivors of Polio are thought to live in Ireland today, with many people still living with disabilities brought on by the disease. Others are suffering with late effects, what's known as *Post Polio Syndrome*, significantly increasing their disability and causing pain and fatigue later in life.

About the Post Polio Support Group

The Post Polio Support Group was established for Polio Survivors by Polio Survivors in 1993. We are the only organisation in Ireland providing practical support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted Polio when babies or young children.

We provide stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs. We also help Survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Respite Breaks, as well as other supports. The group works to raise awareness, provide information on Polio and its late effects and to ensure Polio Survivors can live with dignity.

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