

# Speakers

## Baroness May Blood



May Blood, Baroness Blood, was born and raised in Belfast, working in a linen mill from 1952-90 where she became an active trade unionist. She was involved in creating the women's committee in the Trade Union and promoting equality for women at work. Later she worked as a manager of Cairn Martin Wood Products from 1991-94.

Since 1994, she has been an Information Officer of the Greater Shankill Partnership and is a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. She was appointed MBE in the 1995 Birthday Honours. Created Baroness Blood of Blackwatertown in the County of Armagh on 31 July 1999, she was the first woman in Northern Ireland to be made a life peer.

She received honorary Degrees from the University of Ulster (1998), Queen's University of Belfast (2000), and the Open University (2001). In 2007, she published her autobiography, *Watch my Lips, I'm Speaking*. In January 2013, Blood was awarded the Grassroot Diplomat Initiative Award under the Social Driver category for her tireless campaign for integrated education in Northern Ireland, helping to raise over £15 million.

## Jim Roddy, City Centre Manager, Derry~Londonderry



Jim served for twenty years in the Fire and Rescue Service and was Commercial Manager and later Chair of Derry City Football Club as well as Chief Executive of Bohemians FC in Dublin.

In February 2009 he was recruited by the City Centre Initiative as City Centre manager for Derry-Londonderry. Jim's aim is a city centre where people want to live, visit and work. He believes that the most effective way of achieving this goal is to build and sustain strong partnerships. The city centre has evolved significantly over recent years and Jim and his team continue its development through practical visible projects, most recently ReStore, a project helping traders renovate their shop fronts and remove external shutters. This project, now in its fourth year, has spent in excess of £1 million. CCI also manages public space CCTV. In 2012, CCI obtained Purple Flag accreditation for the city, renewed in 2016. This is awarded for excellence in management of the evening and night time economy to provide an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out.

Last summer, Jim was one of the mediators involved in resolving the Twaddell Avenue dispute in Belfast.

## Kathleen Carragher, BBC NI



Kathleen Carragher, currently Head of News BBC NI is responsible for the television, radio and news online output of the Belfast newsroom. She manages a team of 140 journalists, administrative and technical staff. She started her journalistic career in newspapers and worked in Banbury, Oxfordshire and in Leicester before joining the BBC in 1983 as a reporter with BBC Radio Foyle. She then moved to London to work as a producer on a variety of Radio 4 programmes, including the *World at One*, the *World this Weekend*, the documentary series *File on Four* and *Woman's Hour*. She covered some of the major stories of the late eighties and early nineties including the fall of the Berlin Wall and the release of Nelson Mandela. Kathleen moved back to NI in 1993 and worked in general feature programmes before returning to news as RADIO News Editor in 1998. She has been involved in the coverage of every major NI story since then including all the ups and downs of the peace process, elections, establishment of the Assembly and the changes brought about by devolution. She was appointed Head of News BBC NI in Jan 2011.



## THE 51st ANNUAL JOINT NORTH/SOUTH CONFERENCE

Friday 19th May - Sunday 21st May 2017  
in the City Hotel, Derry/Londonderry



*Challenge ~ Change ~ Cherish*



*Respect ~ Rejoice ~ Recruit*





Dear Members and Guests,

On behalf of Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland, I wish to extend to you a warm welcome to Derry for this our North/South Conference. I hope you will renew old friendships and make new ones on this occasion. We have an exciting weekend to look forward to and sincere thanks to President Mary and SI Derry Club for all their hard work in making this possible.

Yours in friendship,  
Maria Finnegan

As Regional President SI NI it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Maiden City for our 51st Joint North/South Conference in the City Hotel. My club has worked hard to make this what we hope will be an enjoyable weekend with plenty of fun and friendship. We hope you all have a great time.

In friendship,  
Mary McKinney

## Accommodation

**Conference Hotel:** The City Hotel Derry~Londonderry  
Queens Quay, Londonderry, BT48 7AS | 028 7136 5800

### Other Hotels

**Maldron Hotel Derry** | 2 Butcher Street, Derry, BT48 6HL | 028 7137 1000  
**Waterfoot Hotel** | 14 Clooney Road, Londonderry, BT47 6TB  
**Bishop's Gate Hotel** | 24 Bishop St, Londonderry, BT48 6PP | 028 7114 0300  
**Hastings Everglades Hotel** | Prehen Road, Londonderry, BT47 2NH | 028 7132 1066  
**Beech Hill Country House Hotel** | 32 Ardmore Road, L'derry, BT47 3QP | 028 7134 9279  
**Best Western White Horse Hotel** | 68 Clooney Road, L'derry, BT47 3PA | 028 7186 0606  
**Travelodge Derry** | 22-24 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7AB | 0871 984 6234  
**Ramada Da Vinci's Hotel Derry** | 15 Culmore Rd, Derry, BT48 8JB | 02871 279111

## Friday 19th May 2017

- 10:00** Golf - City of Derry Golf Club
- 02:00** Registration - City Hotel [will be on-going]
- 04:30** Regional and National Association Executive meetings
- 06:30** Civic Reception – Guildhall
- 08:00** Evening meal  
Presentation of Golf prizes.

## Saturday 20th May 2017

- 09:00** Regional and National Association AGMs.
- 10:15** Coffee/Tea (until 11:00)
- 11:00** Our joint meeting:  
Public speaking competition winners 2017  
Baroness May Blood  
Mr Jim Roddy – City Centre Initiative  
Kathleen Carragher - BBC NI

### LUNCH

The afternoon is left free for our guests to explore the City or shop.

- 19:00** Reception
- 19:30** Banquet

## Sunday 21st May 2017

- 10:30** Ecumenical Service, City Hotel - retiring collection for Benevolent Fund  
Tea/Coffee  
Close of conference and farewells.