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Press Release

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Smashing Times are in the process of setting up a new **Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Human Rights** and we are delighted to announce our new website supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Arts and Culture Capital Scheme. The new website provides information on the arts, human rights and gender equality, and features the new **Women in an Equal Europe Book** which is available to access [here](#).

Smashing Times were delighted to launch our new website, book and documentary this August at the Mansion House, Dublin. Our evening featured speeches, music and a sneak preview of our documentary and discussed the role of women in Ireland today and in the past, the incredible work of women fighting for equal rights and the new resources available on our International Centre for the Arts and Human Rights website.

We were delighted to have speaking at our launch, head of the National Women's Council of Ireland, **Orla O'Connor**, Broadcaster and Motivational Speaker, **Vanessa Ogida**, Smashing Times Artistic Director, **Mary Moynihan** and our special guest speaker, **Sabina Higgins**, Patron of Smashing Times. The evening featuring an original arrangement of Nina Simone's *Feelin' Good* sung by Carla Ryan and accompanied by Ellen O'Mahony and the audience was treated to the first sneak preview of our new Women in an Equal Europe Documentary. The sold-out event was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

About the Women in an Equal Europe Book

As part of the European project **Women in an Equal Europe**, twenty-one women were interviewed – six from Ireland, five from Spain, five from Croatia and five from Serbia. The interviews are contained in the **Women in an Equal Europe Book**, which can be read by everybody, to promote a remembrance of women's equality and experiences of life in Europe, ensuring women's voices and stories are equally heard and acknowledged. The interviews are a fascinating insight into women's experiences, capturing the uniqueness and strength of the women as they speak about their lives and the importance of gender equality for all.

Read interviews with influential women working in Ireland today, including **Olwen Fouéré**, Actor, Director and Creative Artist; **Senator Ivana Bacik**, Barrister and Reid Professor of Criminal Law at Trinity College Dublin and Labour Party Senator; **Mary Lawlor**, Human Rights Activist, Founder and current board member of Front Line Defenders and Adjunct Professor, School of Business, Trinity College Dublin; **Dil Wickremasinghe**, journalist, broadcaster and co-founder of Insight Matters; **Mary Moynihan**, Writer, theatre and filmmaker, Artistic Director, Smashing Times and Lecturer, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama; and **Sinéad Burke**, writer and activist. The book is created and edited by Mary Moynihan and contains a foreword by **Senator Lynn Ruane** and articles relating to gender equality in Europe today as well as interviews with women from Ireland, Spain, Croatia and Serbia.

The Smashing Times Women in an Equal Europe book and documentary will feature as part of the Herstory light show celebrating women at Dublin Castle on 9 September 2018 as part of the First Parliamentary Women's Caucus. The installation will feature the heroes of the suffrage movement, 1916 Rising and women interviewed in the Smashing Times Women in an Equal Europe Book, celebrating influential women working in Ireland today.

The Women in an Equal Europe Book can be accessed free of charge [here](#).

About the *Women in an Equal Europe* Documentary

A new ***Women in an Equal Europe Creative Documentary*** was made exploring themes of women, feminism and Europe. The documentary is directed by Mary Moynihan, theatre and film maker, edited by Mark Quinn, Highwire Ltd, and features interviews with twelve women from Ireland, Spain, Croatia and Serbia along with a series of nine Vox Pops or statements from women and men exploring women's lived experiences of life in Europe and the intersection between the arts, feminism and equality. Women interviewed in the documentary include **Olwen Fouéré**, Actor, Director and Creative Artist, Ireland; **Dijana Milošević**, Artistic Director, DAH Theatre, Serbia; **Dil Wickremasinghe**, Journalist, Broadcaster and Co-founder of Insight Matters, Ireland; **Orla O'Connor**, Director of the National Women's Council of Ireland; **Sinéad Burke**, Writer and Academic, Ireland; **Mirjana Renduli**, Actor, Writer and Facilitator, Croatia; **Constance Short**, Visual Artist, Arts Organiser and Cultural Conduit, Ireland; **Vanessa Ogida**, Broadcast Journalist, Motivational Speaker, Writer, Trainer and Entrepreneur, Ireland; **Pom Boyd**, Actor and Writer, Ireland; **Róisín McAtamney**, Actor and Theatre Director, Ireland; and **Dr Shirley Graham**, Visiting Associate Professor of Practice in International Affairs at George Washington University.

About the Women in an Equal Europe Project

The book and documentary are created as part of **Women in an Equal Europe**, a European art-based project using creative processes of theatre and film and online digital resources to promote a greater understanding of women's rights and the positive changes that have come about in relation to gender equality as a result of belonging to the European Union. The project was implemented by Smashing Times in partnership with IFES, Valencia, Spain; Youth Peace Group 'Danube' (YPGD), Vukovar, Croatia and DAH Theatre Research Centre, Belgrade, Serbia, with activities supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the EU, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Reconciliation Fund and the Arts Council Young Ensembles Scheme.

About the New Website for the Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Human Rights

Smashing Times, founded in 1991, plays a leading role in the development of the arts to promote human rights, gender equality, peace building, active citizenship and positive mental health and well-being through high quality artistic processes. The company is lead partner on a range of transnational European projects and is highly experienced in using the arts to promote issues at local, national and European levels linking with organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland and in countries including the UK, Spain, Germany, Poland, Turkey, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Greece and Latvia.

In 2017, Smashing Times won the **daa Arts Award** at the Allianz Business to Arts Award Ceremony which took place at the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin. The **daa Arts Award** is described as a reward for an 'arts organisation that has particularly impressed the judges in a given year' and Smashing Times were delighted and honoured to receive this award.

Smashing Times are in the process of establishing a world-class **Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Human Rights** dedicated to the promotion, protection, study and practice of the arts, human rights and gender equality. The centre will operate as a world class arts space and digital hub for artists, communities and the general public across Ireland and internationally, providing a resource service and networking agency and an annual inter-disciplinary arts programme. Smashing Times are delighted to launch the new website for the **Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Human Rights** featuring the **Women in an Equal Europe Documentary and Book**. The website is a unique resource providing information and welcoming contributions from artists and citizens from Ireland and around the world in relation to the arts and human rights.

The new website can be accessed [here](#).

For further information contact:

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Left to Right: Mary Lawlor and Ivana Bacik



Left to Right: Dil Wickremasinghe and Mary Moynihan



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