



Migrant Voices: strategies for foundations
Diversity, Migration and Integration Interest Group meeting
Dublin, 11-12 September 2007

Speaker Biographies
(in order of intervention)

Gara LaMarche, CEO, The Atlantic Philanthropies:

Mr. Gara LaMarche is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Atlantic Philanthropies. He joined Atlantic in April 2007 to lead the organisation through its final chapter as the foundation disburses its remaining \$4 billion endowment and completes active grantmaking by 2016.

Before joining Atlantic, LaMarche served as Vice President and Director of U.S. Programs for the Open Society Institute (OSI), a foundation established by philanthropist George Soros. LaMarche joined OSI in 1996 to launch its U.S. Programs, which focuses on challenges to social justice and democracy.

LaMarche previously served as Associate Director of Human Rights Watch and Director of its Free Expression Project from 1990 to 1996. He was Director of the Freedom-to-Write Program of the PEN American Center from 1988 to 1990, when PEN played a leading role in campaigns to lift Iran's fatwa against Salman Rushdie and challenged restrictions on arts funding in the United States.

He served in a variety of positions with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), with which he first became associated at age 18 as a member of its national Academic Freedom Committee. He was the Associate Director of the ACLU's New York branch from 1979 to 1984 and the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas from 1984 to 1988. At the Texas ACLU, he led campaigns to provide adequate representation for death row inmates and oppose discriminatory treatment of persons with AIDS in the early days of the epidemic.

LaMarche is the author of numerous articles on human rights and social justice issues. He teaches a course in philanthropy and public policy at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, and was an adjunct professor at New School University and The John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

LaMarche serves on the boards of PEN American Center and The White House Project, as a member of the selection committee for the Sundance Documentary Fund, and on the Leadership Council of Hispanics in Philanthropy.

A Westerly, R.I. native, LaMarche graduated from Columbia College in New York.

Source: <http://atlanticphilanthropies.org/>

Rotimi Adebari, Mayor of Portlaoise Town Council:

Mr. Rotimi Adebari was elected as a Mayor of Portlaoise Town Council on June 28th, 2007. Adebari, a Nigerian national, arrived in Ireland in 2000 and settled in Portlaoise Town. In 2004 he ran for the local Portlaoise Town Council Elections and became the first non-national to take up a position as a public representative in Laois.

Mr. Adebari holds a Masters degree in Intercultural Studies from Dublin City University. He is involved in many intercultural organisations working in co-operation with government agencies to bring about further understanding of the many cultures that are now found in a multicultural Ireland.

Over the years, Mr. Adebari has received many awards for his work, such as the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland award in 2005 and the Media and Multicultural award in 2006, while in 2007 he was named Person of the Year in Exclusive magazine in Dublin.

Mr. Adebari is currently coordinating a new project entitled 'Fusion' which is aimed at integrating migrants into the wider community. In parallel, he runs his own consultancy in anti-racism and intercultural training called 'Optimum Point'. He is also one of the founding members of Supporting Unemployed in Laois (Suil).

Source: www.laois.ie

Conor Lenihan T.D., Minister of State for Integration Policy:

Mr. Lenihan is an Irish Fianna Fáil politician and a Teachta Dála (TD) – Assembly Delegate - for Dublin South West. Mr. Lenihan is currently the Minister of State with special responsibility for Integration Policy at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Conor Lenihan was born in Dublin and educated at Belvedere College, University College Dublin, where he was chair of the Kevin Barry Cumann, Dublin City University and the European School of Business. Before his political career Mr. Lenihan worked as an executive with Esat Digifone and as a journalist. While working in London, he covered the House of Commons and lectured on European issues as a member of the European Commission's Speakers panel. In 1997, he was first elected to Dáil Éireann and served as a Member of the British–Irish Parliamentary Body, until 2004. In September 2004, he was appointed as Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Overseas Development and Human Rights at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Source: www.justice.ie

Don Flynn, Migrant Rights Network

Don Flynn is Director of the Migrant Rights Network. Mr. Flynn has worked in the field of migration policy since the mid-1970s, when he started work as a caseworker at a London law centre. Since then he has worked as policy officer for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, a national legal rights organisation.

He currently leads the Migrants' Rights Network, which works to improve networking between migrant and refugee community organisations and other civil society organisations working to support the rights of all migrants.

Anthony Finn, ARD Research and Consultancy

Dr. Anthony Finn works as a consultant in his consultancy ARD, providing research, business and strategic planning, fund development and evaluation services to the NGO/CSO and philanthropic sectors. He is also a Director of NCG Ireland, and works in post-conflict zones in Europe and Africa conducting beneficiary assessments and impact assessments at community, regional and national level.

Daranee Petsod, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

Daranee Petsod is Executive Director of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR). Ms. Petsod has worked on social and economic justice issues for the past 20 years. Prior to joining GCIR in 1999, she was a consultant working with foundations and nonprofits on programme planning and communications. She previously served as interim Executive Director and Development Director for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and was a programme officer for the Sophia Fund and the Field Foundation of Illinois, Inc. She has also worked as a policy analyst for the United Way, a social worker at a child-welfare agency, and an outreach worker for a refugee women's services programme.

Ms. Petsod's areas of expertise include immigrant integration, immigrant and refugee grantmaking, and building the capacity of immigrant-based organisations. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications, most recently *Investing in Our Communities: Strategies for Immigrant Integration* in 2006. Other publications include: *Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities in the San Francisco Bay Area: An Introduction for Grantmakers* (2004), *Newcomers in the American Workplace: Improving Employment Outcomes for Low-Wage Immigrants and Refugees* (2003), and *Moving from Welfare to Work: The Experiences of Refugee Women in Illinois* (1999). Daranee holds a Master's degree in social policy from the University of Chicago.