

## PILN Bulletin, 20 March 2007

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Attached documents:

- **Leaflet on campaign to restore Child Benefit as universal payment**

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### 1. Seminar on Street Law, Dublin, Thursday 22 March

The Bar Council is hosting a seminar on 'Street Law' featuring UK community law expert Prof. Richard Grimes. The event will take place in Printworks II, Morrison Hotel, Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 on Thursday 22nd March 2007 at 6.30pm.

Street law is a concept first used in the US; it is a form of legal education that targets communities and individuals and can be defined as "practical, participatory education about law, democracy, and human rights. A unique blend of content and methodology, Street Law uses techniques that promote cooperative learning, critical thinking, and the ability to participate in a democratic society" (see the streetlaw website at <http://www.streetlaw.org/>).

NGOs, community groups and individuals who are interested in promoting an understanding of how law and human rights apply in their communities should attend this seminar. Replies and queries to Jeanne McDonagh at [jmcdonagh@lawlibrary.ie](mailto:jmcdonagh@lawlibrary.ie) or tel: 817 5014

### 2. NUIG Law Faculty - Annual Distinguished Lecture, Galway, Friday 23 March

The NUIG Faculty of Law Annual Distinguished Lecture takes place on **Friday 23 March at 7pm in Lecture Theatre MY001, Moyola Building, NUI Galway** (this new building is situated beside the Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy inside the St. Anthony's entrance to the north campus). The title of this year's lecture is ***Europe at Fifty: A Mid-Life Crisis?*** This title was chosen to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

The Faculty is honoured that **Professor Neil Walker** of the European University Institute, Florence has agreed to deliver the lecture. Professor Walker is one of the foremost scholars in the area of European constitutionalism. A response will be delivered by **Dr. Niamh Nic Shuibhne**, Reader in EC Law at the School of Law, University of Edinburgh. Niamh is an alumna of NUI Galway and also taught in the Faculty of Law for a period of time. The event will be chaired by **Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness**, President of the Law Reform Commission and Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Law, NUI Galway.

The lecture will be followed by a wine reception in the foyer of the Moyola Building at which it will be possible to meet with the speakers. For further information on the event please contact the Law Faculty: (091) 492389 or 492752.

### 3. Call for action - and assistance - on FLAC campaign to restore Universal Child Benefit

FLAC is trying to assemble a small group to do some short-term voluntary work on our campaign to **Restore Universal Child Benefit**.

Since 2004, the Irish government has restricted Child Benefit, an important monthly welfare payment which the government itself admits is key to combating child poverty, to parents deemed to be "Habitually Resident" in Ireland. Many Irish and immigrant families fail to satisfy this definition. The policy contravenes human rights law and is clearly discriminatory. Please take a look at the leaflet attached for more details.

We hope that you, too, recognise the blatant unfairness of the government's policy on Child Benefit.

We have lots of campaigning work to do, such as writing letters, stuffing envelopes, contacting politicians, drafting articles for publication and delivering postcards around Dublin.

We hope to organise evening meetings once a fortnight, to get together in our offices in Dorset St and really get this campaign moving.

Please contact us if you would like to get involved at [campaigns@flac.ie](mailto:campaigns@flac.ie) or 01- 874 5690.

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