Twitter Thread by Iseult White

Iseult White
@iseult

My great grandmother Maud Gonne was English, the daughter of a Captain of the British Army. She adopted Ireland as her home country and was an activist for people's rights her entire life. She never stopped. To the end she called out injustice where she saw it.

1/



My great grandfather Major John MacBride was executed in 1916 by the British Army for fighting to create an Irish Republic. He wanted to look the British firing squad that executed him in the eye.

2/



"I have looked down the muzzles of too many guns in the South African war to fear death and now please carry out your sentence." They wouldn't look him in the eye. They blindfolded him. They shot him.

3/



The ideal my great grandfather died for was "religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens".

4/



POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

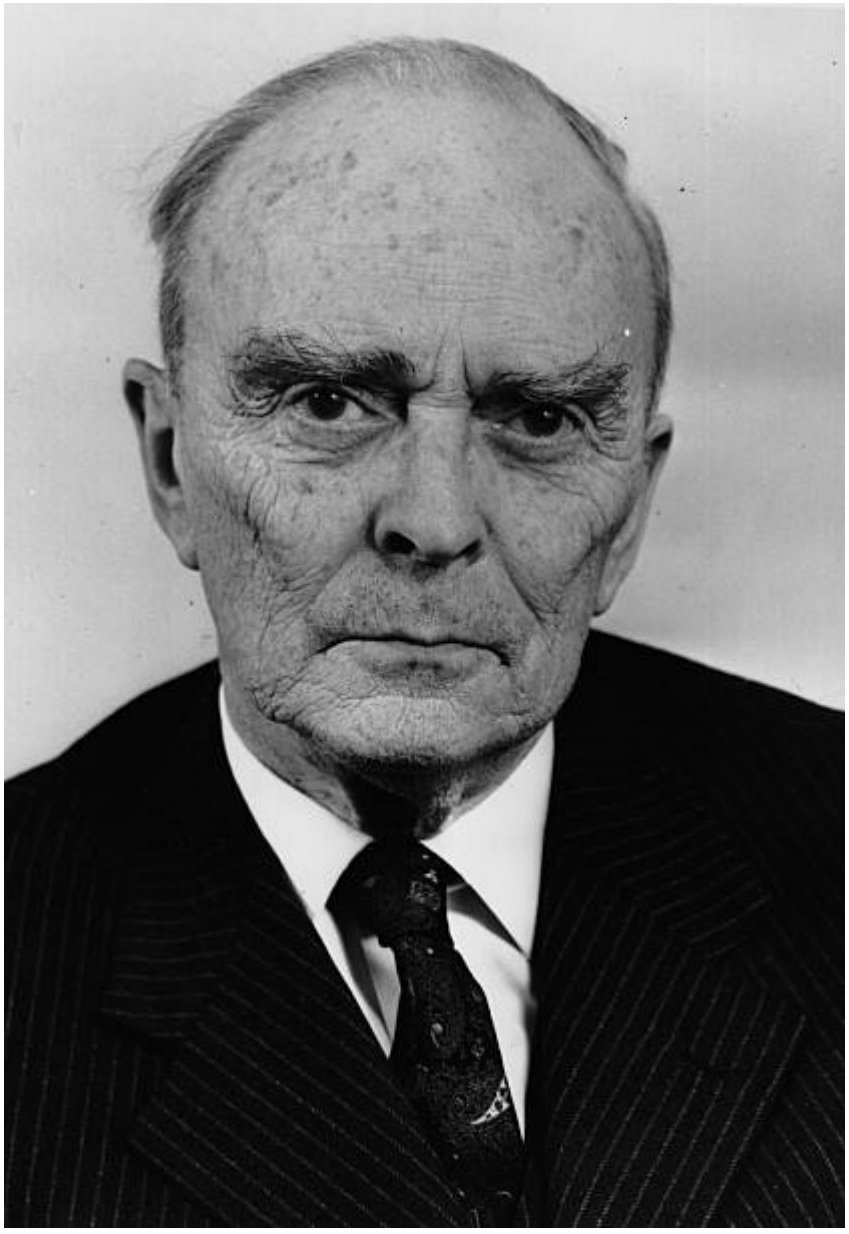
Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no man who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

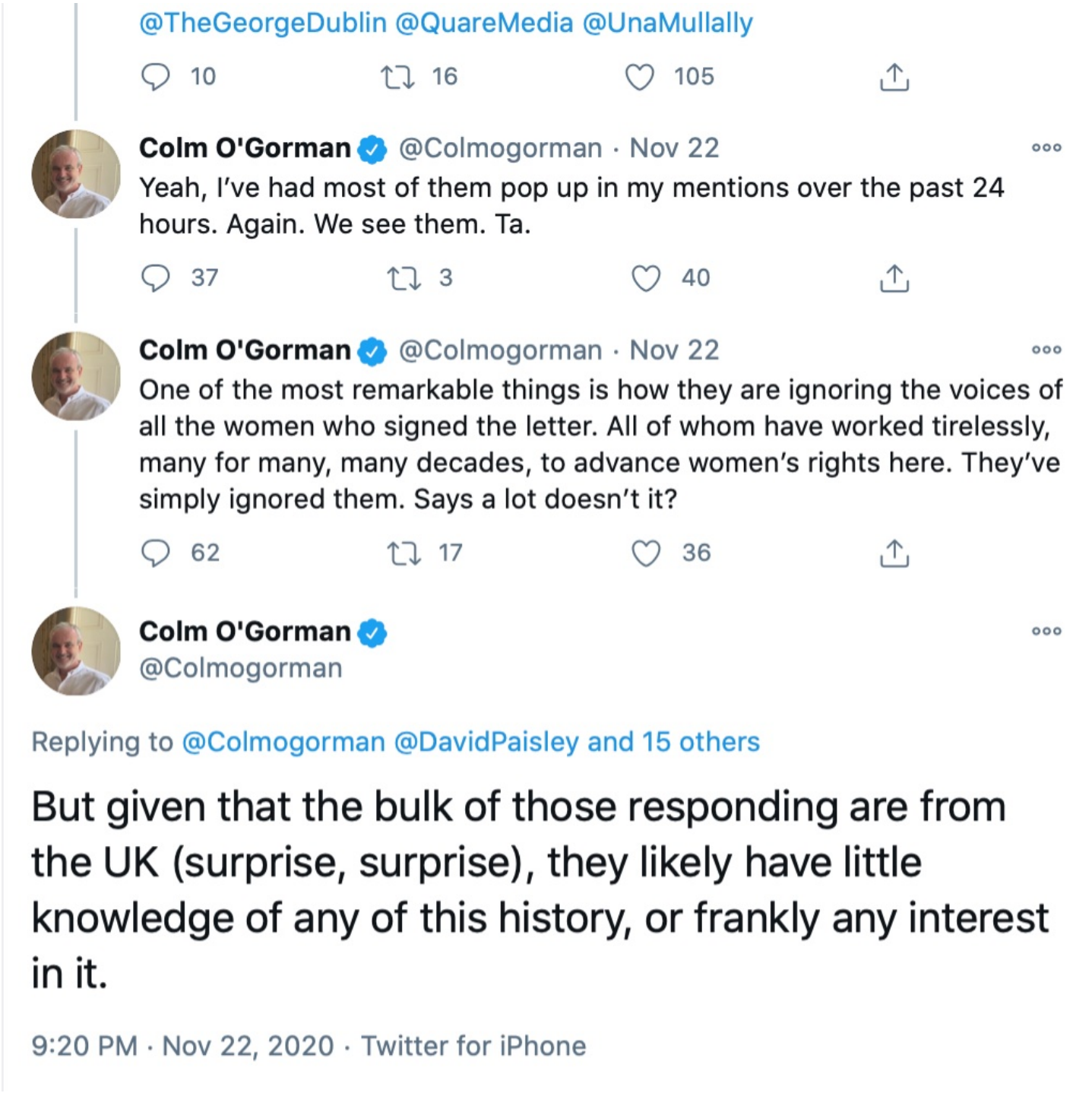
Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.
SEAN Mac DIARMADA. THOMAS MacDONAGH.
P. H. PEARSE. EAMONN CEANNT.
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

Their son Sean MacBride co founded Amnesty international in 1961 to protect prisoners of conscience defined as people who were imprisoned for an opinion honestly held that did not advocate or condone personal violence. He won a Nobel peace prize for his commitment to peace.
5/



I felt betrayed when @Amnesty published a letter to deny legitimate representation to some. I was hurt and confused. Then I saw this exchange. Colm O' Gorman CEO of @AmnestyIreland shooting the breeze with a UK man. Dismissing people who spoke up from their conscience.
6/



Then women stood up to say they were Irish. Not anonymous accounts. People with livelihoods who take a risk when they speak up. People who speak up because they care. But Colm didn't engage with them. They should not have to expose their pain to have a voice.

7/



It made me white hot with rage. Yes, I have Irish credentials. But Maud Gonne was ostracised by the great Irish Republican men for wanting to divorce her husband. So she raised her son in France.

8/

People made snide remarks about Sean MacBride for his french accent. They still do. "We often wondered if he put it on". No he didn't. French was his first language. Though respected he was an outsider in Ireland in many ways.
https://t.co/2XBKfSHqeV

9/

Irish people come from all over the world. They choose our country. So when Colm O'Gorman dismisses people as UK because he doesn't like what they say he is doing our country a disservice. He is using lazy tropes that seek to other. To diminish. To make them easy to bully.
10/

So I spoke up. I did not anticipate the response. Not at all. People felt that my speaking up gave them a space to have a voice. I don't agree with all their viewsl. How could I? But I am continuing to speak up. I am overwhelmed but determined.
/11
#IReadTheLetter



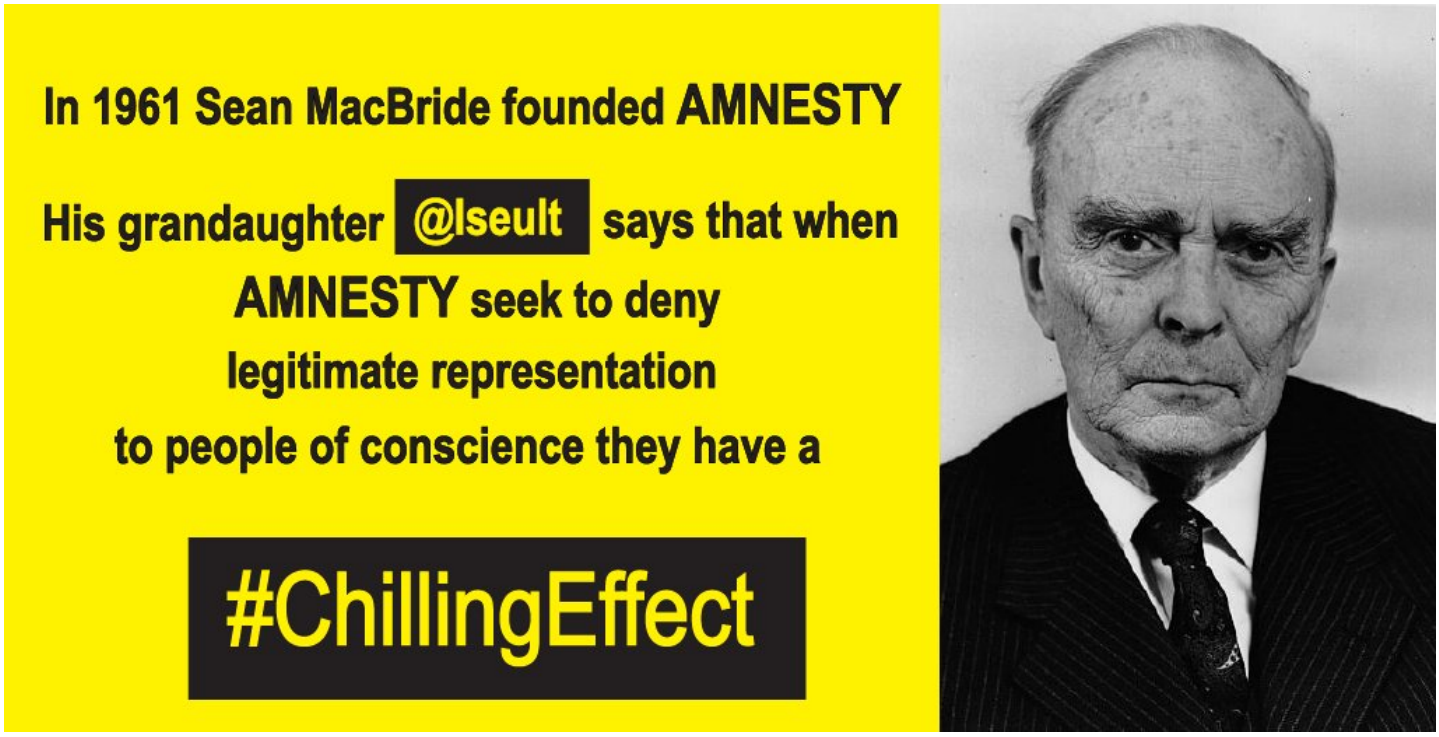
I wrote my first ever letter to the papers.

/12

https://t.co/aISwKA9bKF

Colm O'Gorman and @amnesty are on a slippery slope. I do not want to be on that slippery slope with them so that is why I am calling @Amnesty out. I am starting a campaign.

/13



I am not blindfolded. I am looking you in the eye. Everyone of you. I am standing up for the Ireland that my family and all our families helped to create and continue to create every day.

My great grandmother was a lifetime activist. I am an accidental activist.

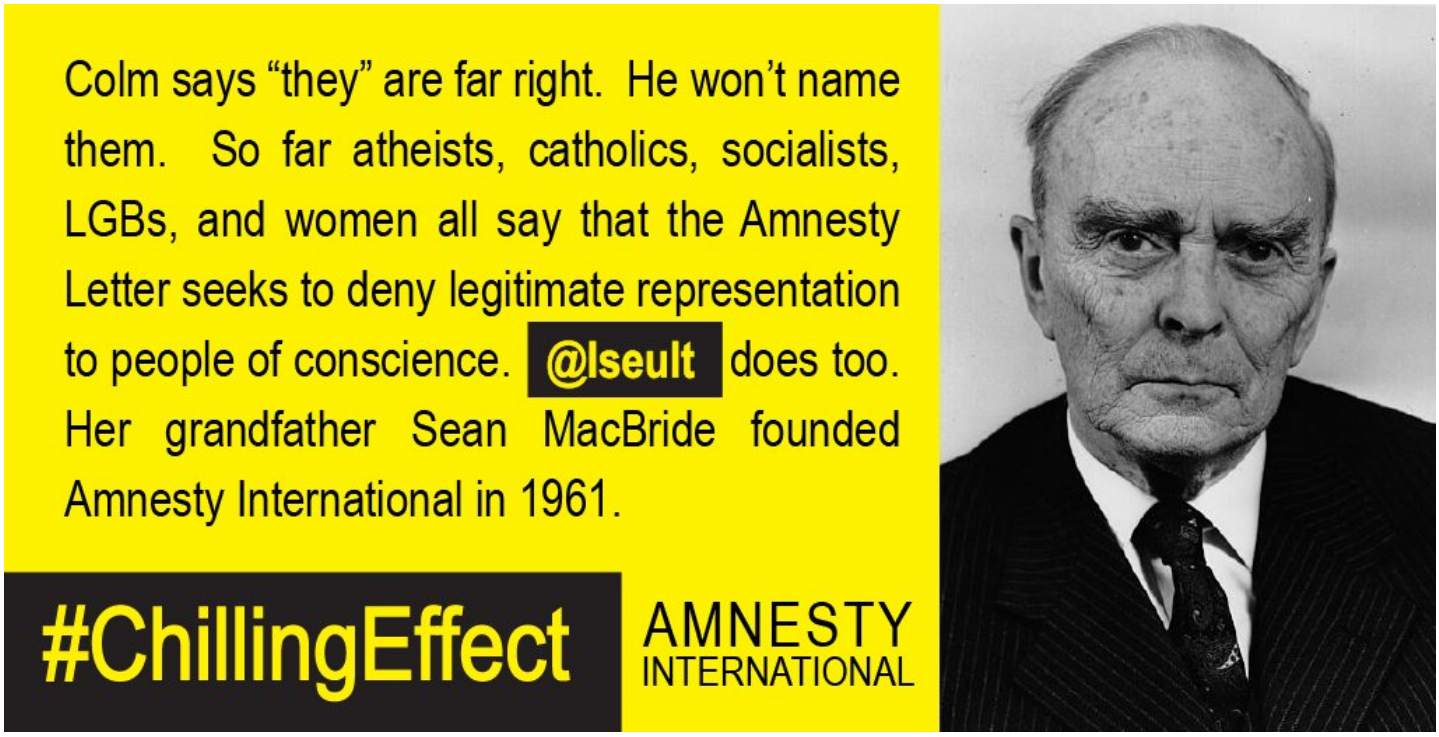
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I am not alone. One of a motley crew and glad to be part of it. Because I know that we all deserve legitimate representation from our politicians and in the media.

#IReadTheLetter
#ChillingEffect

15/



#IReadTheLetter

You can too. It has a #ChillingEffect, even more so when it is signed and promoted by a global human rights organisation such as @amnesty

End

Transgender Equality Network Ireland

A Call for Irish Solidarity

For decades the transgender community has advocated, marched, and fought for equality, and inclusion. This fight has never once wavered in supporting movements that garner equality for all marginalised communities. Our work, our fight, our campaigns, have all been underscored by two things, intersectionality and solidarity. The transgender community has always worked in advancing the equal rights and acceptance of all without discrimination. For decades the work of the transgender community was tied to working in wider acceptance of queer people, even when our rights were never mentioned, nor advanced. For decades members of the transgender community marched in Pride, stood for women's equality, all while our rights were left off the table. Internationally, women such as Marsha P. Johnson and others, marched, shouted and demanded gay rights, while every step of the way recognition of transgender identities and the inclusion of transgender rights were left behind. Here in Ireland the transgender community has continued to show that spirit of solidarity. Members of our community have worked along intersectional lines supporting campaigns that aimed increasing women's rights, and the wider rights of the lesbian, bisexual and gay communities. Transgender people were active in campaigns in 2015 and 2016 that saw the passing of Marriage Equality in Ireland, and in the repeal of the 8th Amendment. Even now, transgender people continue to work for reforms that will increase the rights of gay and lesbian parents in surrogacy and adoption. Never have transgender people sought to diminish the rights, or acceptance of others.

Now, unfortunately, we see a rise in discriminatory organisations and vocal transgender exclusionary activists using Twitter and divisive antics to attempt to a drive a wedge in queer communities between transgender people and fracture our support from feminists. For our decades of solidarity, some seek to repay our community with a call for division based on falsities and bigotry. Let us say unequivocally that the statements of newly launched organisations that seek to defend biology or fight gender identity and expression do not represent the wider LGBTI+ community nor feminists in Ireland. More importantly, they are not organisations at all, they have no governance, no accountability, and are simply Twitter accounts. Further, they are not supported by the wider Irish community. Ireland has dealt with these pseudo-feminists before, and the work of Feminist Ire dealt swiftly with their attacks by stating "Trans women are our sisters; their struggles are ours, our struggles theirs. They were our sisters before any state-issued certification said so and will always be no matter what any legislation says, either now or in the future."[1] In addressing these accounts it is simple enough to refute them by stating they are not radical, they are not inclusive, and they are not feminists. They are simply misinformed and transphobic. The vitriol and disinformation these accounts and people share does not represent the beliefs of the legitimate organisations and signers of this letter, and together we repudiate their beliefs, and call for an end in giving airtime to their despicable brand of harassment. In Ireland we exist as a strong coalition of intersectional solidarity. As LGBTI+ and feminist organisations we stand together, we march together, we advocate together. We will not allow transphobia to grow and our history of work together will only continue to propel us to a more equal future for all marginalised people.

We call on media, and politicians to no longer provide legitimate representation for those that share bigoted beliefs, that are aligned with far right ideologies and seek nothing but harm and division. These fringe internet accounts stand against affirmative medical care of

[1] https://feministire.com/2018/01/22/an-open-letter-to-the-organisers-of-the-we-need-to-talk-tour-from-a-group-of-feminists-in-ireland/

@threadreaderapp unroll