



## **SCHOLARS AT RISK (SAR) SPEAKER TOUR – IRELAND 2015**

The Scholars at Risk (SAR) Speaker Tour to Ireland, during which a number of higher education institutions on the island will welcome the Pakistani scholar Dr Shirin Zubair, takes place on 19-29 October 2015. The Tour, organised by Universities Ireland in liaison with the institutions involved, begins in Maynooth University before progressing to University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. In the second week, Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast will play host to a series of Tour events in Northern Ireland. The Tour culminates with Dr Zubair giving the annual Erasmus+ lecture, jointly organised by the Higher Education Authority and Universities Ireland, to an invited audience in Dublin on 29 October.

SAR Speaker Tours are designed to raise awareness of attacks on scholars and academic freedom worldwide through the organisation of events at network member institutions featuring formerly at-risk scholars now outside of the country of danger. These events help scholars make new contacts and re-establish the personal and professional relationships that lead to future opportunities, while at the same time introducing local higher education communities to these inspiring, courageous individuals.

### **NOTES**

1. **Dr Shirin Zubair** is an established academic in the field of English literature and gender studies, who holds a PhD and MSc in Applied Linguistics from a university in the UK, where her dissertation focused on women's literacy in Pakistan. She has more than 25 years of experience lecturing and conducting research at Pakistani, US and European universities and was until recently the Chair of the English Department at a university in Pakistan. The recipient of multiple international research fellowships and awards, including from the Ford Foundation and the Fulbright Program, Dr Zubair has also published widely, editing multiple books and contributing to Pakistani and international journals on a range of issues relating to new literacies, representation of gender, and media. Dr Zubair came into contact with Scholars at Risk after she was forced to flee from Pakistan after facing death threats because of her work.

2. **Scholars at Risk** is an international network of higher education institutions dedicated to promoting academic freedom worldwide. Around the world today, scholars are attacked because of their words, their ideas and their place in society. Those seeking power and control work to limit access to information and new ideas by targeting scholars, restricting academic freedom and repressing research, publication, teaching and learning. The Scholars at Risk Network responds to these attacks. For further information: <http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu>
  
3. **Universities Ireland** brings together at the highest level the academic and administrative leaders of all the universities on the island of Ireland. Through Universities Ireland the institutions cooperate on a wide range of issues related to higher education policy and seek to act jointly in areas of mutual interest, including as the local partner of the Scholars at Risk Network. The **Centre for Cross Border Studies** provides the Secretariat for Universities Ireland. For further information: <http://universitiesireland.ie>

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Please use the following when tweeting during the SAR Speaker Tour – Ireland 2015:

Username:	<b>@ScholarsAtRisk</b>	Hashtag:	<b>#free2think</b>
	<b>@CCBSCrossBorder</b>		<b>#universitiesireland</b>

## **CONTACTS**

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