Girls, Women and Alcohol: The changing nature of female alcohol consumption in Ireland

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, Westin Hotel, Dublin 2.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.30 a.m.  Registration and coffee

10.30 a.m. Welcome to conference by Suzanne Costello, CEO of Alcohol Action Ireland

GIRLS, WOMEN AND ALCOHOL: THE CULTURE

10.40 a.m. Katherine Brown, Director, Institute of Alcohol Studies, UK

11.15 a.m. Lucy Rocca, author and founder of Soberistas.com

11.40 a.m. Ann Dowsett Johnston, author and alcohol policy advocate

12.20 p.m. Q&A with Katherine Brown, Lucy Rocca and Ann Dowsett Johnston

1.00 p.m. Lunch

GIRLS, WOMEN AND ALCOHOL: THE HARMS

2.00 p.m. Clíona Saidléar, Executive Director, Rape Crisis Network of Ireland, followed by Q&A

2.40 p.m. Dr Triona McCarthy, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, followed by Q&A

3.20 p.m. Dr Orla Crosbie, Consultant Hepatologist, Cork University Hospital, followed by Q&A

4.00 p.m. Conference closes

The conference will be chaired by Ann Marie Hourihane, Irish Times journalist and author

To find out more about what we do and how you can get involved contact us on 01 878 0610 or admin@alcoholactionireland.ie. For further information see alcoholireland.ie or follow us on Twitter or Facebook, where you'll also find all the latest alcohol-related news and policy developments.

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**Girls, Women and Alcohol:** the changing nature of female alcohol consumption in Ireland will be addressed by renowned international and Irish speakers who will examine the factors influencing the changing nature of drinking among females and the harms they are experiencing as a result.

## Our Speakers

### Katherine Brown

Katherine Brown is the Director of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, a London based NGO that aims to improve the scientific understanding of alcohol and policies to reduce associated harms. Before joining IAS Katherine worked for the UK Civil Service promoting public health information campaigns. Katherine holds a MSc in Global Health and Public Policy from the University of Edinburgh and is currently studying part-time for a Doctorate in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### Lucy Rocca

Lucy Rocca was a heavy and regular binge drinker for her entire adult life up until the age of 35. After a particularly heavy binge that landed her in hospital she decided to quit drinking altogether, and went on to found Soberistas.com in November 2012 – a social network website aimed at women with alcohol dependency issues.

### Ann Dowsett Johnston

Ann Dowsett Johnston is the best-selling author of Drink: The Intimate Relationship Between Women and Alcohol, named one of the top 10 books of last year by the Washington Post. An award-winning journalist with an expertise in alcohol policy, she is the founder of Canada’s National Roundtable on Girls, Women and Alcohol. She lives in Toronto, and is the CEO of the Pine River Foundation, which focuses on adolescent addiction issues and mental health.

### Dr. Orla M Crosbie

Dr. Orla Crosbie is the Consultant Hepatologist at Cork University Hospital and leads the Hepatology service there, looking after patients from all over Munster. Dr. Crosbie trained in the National Liver Unit at St Vincents Hospital and carried out her MD thesis while there on Lymphohaematopoietic stem cells in the adult human liver; completing her training in Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. Dr. Crosbie has over 20 years experience in hepatology and has seen the problem of alcoholic liver disease grow and change over this period of time.

### Ann Marie Hourihane

Ann Marie Hourihane began her career as a journalist working as a features writer for the Irish Press. From there, she moved to RTE to work on The Gay Byrne Show. In 1988, she was one of the founding members of the critically acclaimed Nighthawks series, which she wrote for and co-presented. In 2001, she published her non-fiction book, She Moves Through the Boom, which explored Irish society during the so-called ‘Celtic Tiger’ era. In 2008, she became a regular columnist for the Irish Times, casting a wry look at all aspects of modern Irish life. The biggest reaction she ever received for her journalism came in May 2014, when she wrote ‘The Sobriety Diaries’ in The Irish Times, a weekly series about giving up alcohol for a month.