

## Invitation to a public debate

# “We can’t afford overseas aid in times of crises”

1 September, 6.15pm

**Comhlámh and Dóchas are pleased to invite you to a public discussion on the motion “We can’t afford aid in times of crises.”**

The debate will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, 6.15 - 7.45pm, in the European Commission Building, Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

**Joan Burton**, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party has agreed to chair the debate. Guest speakers are **Jim Power**, Head of Investment Strategy & Chief Economist of Friends First, and **Justin Kilcullen**, Director of Trócaire.

The debate takes place against a background of rapidly changing fiscal options and Government priorities, which have seen Ireland’s aid budget drop from 0.59% of national income (or €914 million) to 0.54% (€671m) this year.

The Government says it remains committed to achieving the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid, but increasingly voices are being raised that “charity begins at home”, and that Ireland simply cannot afford the luxury of overseas aid any longer.

The Comhlámh/Dóchas debate aims to bring this discussion out into the open.

***Entrance to the debate is free, but space is limited so admission for the public will be on a first-come first-served basis on the night.***

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