

2009 Irish FUW Public Speaking Competition for girls aged under 15

Four of the five associations of the Irish FUW organised local rounds of the competition and the final took place on Saturday 28th February 2009 in Trinity College Dublin.

The DUWGA organisers had invited Senator Ivana Bacik, Reid Professor of Criminal Law, and student lawyer Alison McIntyre, a former Auditor of the College Historical Society, to adjudicate the final.

The finalists were:

**Galway winning team:
Gort Community School**

Amy Quirke
Frances Whelan
Meagan Mulcair

**Galway best speaker:
Dominican College Galway**

Aly Crean

**Belfast winning team:
Strathearn School**

Joy Dalzell
Sophie Rodgers
Darcy Rollins

**Belfast best speaker:
Victoria College**

Alix Bell

**UCDWGA winning team:
St. Joseph's College Lucan**

Eimear Flynn
Susan Mc Carthy
Brekhna Aftav

**UCDWGA best speaker:
Holy Child, Killiney**

Megan Beare

**DUWGA winning team:
Presentation College Carlow**

Grace Byrne
Eimear Heffernan
Leigh Walsh

**DUWGA best speaker:
St. Joseph of Cluny, Killiney**

Eleanor O'Mahony

Each participant had prepared two of this year's six topics -

Education, Environment, Health, Relationships, Travel, World Affairs -
and on the day picked an aspect from each topic, choosing one for the thirty-minute preparation of her 2-3minute speech.

The winning team from **Strathearn School, Belfast** spoke on Health – *Anger can be good for you*; Relationships – *What I do doesn't matter to anyone else*; and World Affairs – *Global warming is the most important world affair*.

Best speaker **Frances Whelan** from **Gort Community College, Galway** argued that *Sisters are super*.

This cross-border and cross-community competition offers girls under the age of fifteen the opportunity to gain self-confidence by developing public speaking skills in an encouraging and enjoyable atmosphere where they will meet their peers from a broad range of social and cultural backgrounds.

The IrFUW has presented workshops on the competition at IFUW conferences in Graz and Perth. Please contact us through irishfuw@gmail.com if you would like to know more about how it works.