

EUROPEAN ELECTION PLEDGE



COMMUNITY MATTERS

#VALUECOMMUNITY

A strong, vibrant and independent charity, community and voluntary and social enterprise sector is essential for a fair and just society and a healthy democracy.

We are asking you, as a candidate for the European elections, to support The Wheel's Community Matters campaign by:

1. Signing our pledge, and
2. Championing the work of Ireland's community, voluntary and charity sector in the European Parliament.

Sign our pledge at www.wheel.ie/elections and show your support by using: #valuecommunity

**the
wheel**



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



The Wheel is Ireland's national association of charities, community, voluntary organisations and social enterprises. We are a representative voice and a supportive resource that offers advice, training, leadership, influence and advocacy for the sector.

Visit www.wheel.ie for more information.

Follow The Wheel on:

-  TheWheelIreland
-  The_Wheel_IRL

Registered Charity Number: 20040963

CHY Number: 13288

Company Number: 302282

As a candidate for the European elections, I will work to support charities and community and voluntary organisations by:

1 VALUING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

The charity, community and voluntary sector is the backbone of every local community. It champions diversity and inclusion, offering supports for those most vulnerable in society.

If elected, I commit to:

Actively engaging with my local nonprofit organisations, learning about their work and striving to assist them by acting as an informed ambassador for their contribution to society.



2 SECURING OUR FUTURE

The majority of EU funding programmes require the organisations to match funding from their own resources. This is a barrier for many nonprofit organisations.

If elected, I commit to:

Supporting the principle of a dedicated National Fund to serve as a matching income source for nonprofit organisations that are successful in their applications for EU programmes.



3 LISTENING LOCAL, ADVOCATING IN EUROPE

Funding and partnership opportunities from the EU should reflect the unique realities faced by nonprofit organisations working in Ireland.

If elected, I commit to:

Encouraging EU funders to a) consider the high cost of delivering services in Ireland, and b) increase operating grants to support the vital work of the nonprofit sector in long-term.



4 FOCUSING ON THOSE WE SUPPORT

In recent years, community and voluntary organisations and charities have experienced reductions in funding and capacity. While a high standard of application processes, project design and management is essential, this comes at a cost and it takes time.

If elected, I commit to:

Calling for the simplification of application procedures for EU funding programmes, coupled with the establishment of a National Support Service to assist nonprofit organisations with the complex process of applying for EU funding.



5 GIVING US A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Local charities and community and voluntary organisations work directly with the most vulnerable people in our communities. It is therefore important that nonprofit organisations, and the people they serve, are effectively represented in the European Parliament.

If elected, I commit to:

Engaging with the new Expert Group on Social Economy and Social Enterprises (GECES 2018-2024) to promote the further development of social enterprise and social finance within Ireland, as well as holding a twice-yearly forum for the sector to engage directly with European representatives.



By signing the Community Matters pledge at www.wheel.ie/elections, you are committing to using your voice in the EU Parliament to champion the valuable contribution the community, voluntary and charity sector makes in every community across Ireland.

Thank you for your support.