



NEWSLETTER

INDEPENDENT SENATOR GERARD CRAUGHWELL

Dear Friends, Councillors,



I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your steadfast support and invaluable contributions throughout my election campaign. Your dedication and commitment to our shared vision have been instrumental in achieving this success. This accomplishment is a reflection of our collective efforts, and I am deeply honored to have had your trust and encouragement.

Your trust in my leadership and your invaluable contributions have not only made this achievement possible but have also strengthened our collective resolve to serve our communities with distinction.

I thank you!

*Sincerely yours,
Gerard Craughwell*

1st of February 2025

Dear Senator Gerard Craughwell,

Congratulations on your recent election to the Seanad Éireann! This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to your dedication, hard work, and commitment to serving minority voices. Your vision and leadership have inspired many, and we are confident that you will continue to make a positive impact in your new role.

As you embark on this important journey, we wish you great success in all your endeavours. May your tenure be marked by significant accomplishments and meaningful progress for the benefit of all.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes for a successful term!

*Sincerely,
Team Craughwell*



To celebrate Siemens Centenary in Ireland, The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany David Gill has the honor to invite Senator Gerard Craughwell to a lunch on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 at the German Residence.

What a wonderful day to celebrate 100 years of @Siemens relationship with Ireland! 1925 saw the commencement of Irelands first hydroelectric station at Ardnacrusha. The project would cost 20% of GDP and remains a testament to the courage of our political and civil service leaders of the day.



Monday the 27th of January 2025, Joe McCann, director of Intercept Technologies met and briefed Senator Gerard Craughwell on the mission of Crypto Assets Ireland in association with Fintech Ireland. Senator Craughwell has long been a vocal ambassador for Ireland's digital sovereignty and cyber security measures in Éire becoming a champion in European cyber security. This too, is the view for the #MiCA Markets in Crypto Assets Regulation and helping secure and attest to the National Competent Authority and European Securities Market Authority that Ireland is leading the way for #CASPs #VASPs and #EMIs with #Cybersecurity. The continued growth and interesting with #CryptoAssetsIreland becoming the go to industry community is a testament to the maturity of the #MiCA industry within Ireland for authorisation's by the Central Bank. Intercept Technologies is a managed cyber security and managed IT services consultancy, providing cyber security, cloud services, network security, risk management and IT support



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) A M Hart OBE, The Regimental Secretary, Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Irish Regiment meets Senator Craughwell on 27th of January 2025.

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd. The UNTOLD stories of the Irish in British Army have been written by and belong to the whole community of Ireland and its diaspora. Galleries based in Belfast's Linen Quarter and Enniskillen Castle will interpret the collections displayed through learning-focused, interactive exhibitions that invite debate. Unique and fascinating artefacts and documents will be presented and interpreted using modern museum techniques and technologies to bring the Irish soldier and their family alive. The collections will be set against a social, cultural, economic, and political background and will encourage visitors to examine the centuries old – and enduring - tradition of Irish service in the British Army. In fostering dialogue, the new museum will provide a community space in which divisive myths can be challenged; it will promote community cohesion. UNTOLD will tell an All-Ireland and global story that examines the complex histories underpinning the Irish contribution to the heritage of the British Army. It will offer a whole-curricula, whole-life and whole-community learning opportunity that will explore multifaceted narratives. The museum will be designed to support students across the full depth and width of the national curricula of the UK and ROI.

NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION in association with Dublin City Council and The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on Sunday 26th of January 2024.

Senator Gerard Craughwell, a guest of the celebration. As a signatory of the Stockholm Declaration 2000, Ireland has undertaken to commemorate the Holocaust annually and to teach the lessons from it. The commemoration cherishes the memory of all the people who perished in the Holocaust and recalls the millions of innocent Jewish men, women and children and other victims, who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators because of their ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliations, or their religious beliefs. The commemoration included readings, survivors' recollections, the Scroll of Names, candle-lighting, and music.



Harnessing the skills of Service Leavers to build strong, resilient workforces with CTS and WithYouWithMe on Tuesday 21st January in Belfast, Independent Senator Gerard P. Craughwell explores how the unique skills and experiences of service leavers can help address today's workforce challenges.

To lead this conversation, was curated a panel of influential leaders who shared insights and their experience of hiring service leavers.

Host, Alicia Kouparitsas, Chief Customer Officer at WithYouWithMe and panellists: Valerie Wilson - Service Operations Director, BT; Graeme Craft - Veteran and VP Business Manager, Citi Bank; Craig Drysdale - VP Talent & Engagement, Leonardo and *Gerard Craughwell* – Veteran and Chair of Cyber Committee for the Republic of Ireland explore the benefits of integrating service leavers into the workplace, highlighting how their diligence, accountability, and skills can significantly contribute to building a stronger and more effective workforce.

Replicating Success, the Republic of Ireland can benefit from adopting similar strategies to harness the skills of service leavers. Workforce planning in the Irish public service emphasises the proactive management of human resources to meet organisational goals.

By aligning recruitment and development practices with the unique strengths of service leavers, Irish organisations can build a resilient workforce capable of adapting to future challenges.

Senator Craughwell is invited to a celebratory concert inaugurating **Poland's Presidency of the EU Council** presented in partnership with the *Royal Irish Academy of Music* on Thursday, January 16th, 2025.

The concert "Chopin and Beyond" was a special collaboration between Ireland (*Royal Irish Academy of Music*) and Poland (*Grażyna & Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź*) in the spirit of European academic exchange. Excelling students from both academies have presented selected works by Fryderyk Chopin as well as Chopin-influenced European composers from the 19th century to the present day.



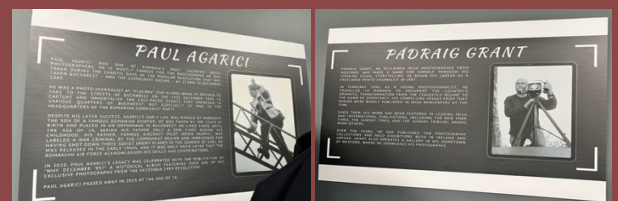
On December 16, 2024, the Romanian Ambassador, H.E. Laurențiu-Mihai Ștefan, and Mrs. Georgeta Bratu, are delighted to invite Independent Senator Gerard Craughwell to the reception celebrating **Romania's National Day**

This event commemorates the 35th anniversary of the 1989 Revolution and the fall of the Communist regime, a pivotal moment in recent history. It offers an opportunity to honour the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for freedom and to highlight the positive impact of Romania's EU membership.

The transformation since the fall of communism has paved the way for European integration and the development of today's European and Euro-Atlantic Romania.

The Embassy, in collaboration with Romanian photographer **Constantin Zamfir**, presented an exhibition of photographs from that period, captured by two distinguished photographers: Irishman, **Pádraig Grant** and Romanian **Paul Agarici**. Each photograph, in a unique way, captures both the Romanian and the Irish perspectives on the December 1989 Revolution, illustrating the significant historical moments of replacing totalitarianisms with democracy.

In February 1990, Pádraig Grant, then a young photojournalist, travelled to Romania to witness the transformation of the country from the despotic Ceaușescu regime to the beginning of a new democracy. Photographs from the time, which were published widely in Irish newspapers, are now displayed at the Pádraig Grant Gallery in '**Romania: Commemorating the 35th Anniversary of a Revolution**'.





On 19th of December 2024, Tánaiste and Minister for defence Micheál Martin approves ***Distinguished Service Medal with Honours for Private Billy Kedian***. stating the following:

"856310 Private William 'Billy' Kedian, RIP

For distinguished service with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), for displaying courage, bravery, and leadership. On the 31 May 1999 Pte Kedian, despite great personal risk and while his Post was under fire, alerted fellow Peacekeepers to the dangerous situation and directed them to a place of safety. His selfless actions and devotion to duty placed him in danger and resulted in his death".

"His courage exemplifies the highest ideals of military service, and we are proud to honour him for his selflessness and commitment."

The award ceremony will take place shortly, where Private Kedian's sisters will receive the award in recognition of their brother's extraordinary act of bravery.

"The decision to bestow this honour follows years of campaign. It is with immense pride that we see Private Kedian's extraordinary courage finally recognised by the Defence Forces. His actions reflect the highest standards of bravery and duty, and this award serves to celebrate his immense contribution to the Irish Defence Forces," said a spokesperson for the Private Billy Kedian Memorial Committee.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to former TD Cathal Berry and Senator Gerard Craughwell, whose unwavering support and dedication were instrumental in securing this recognition. Their tireless efforts, including facilitating meetings with government ministers and the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, allowed us to effectively present our case and advocate for Private Kedian. Their work has been pivotal in ensuring that this well-deserved honour is now being conferred upon him."

PEACEPLUS: On 6th of November 2024, CyberQuest Academy sends a public thank you note to Senator Gerard Craughwell for his constant important messages raised in the Seanad, and for his continued support of CyberQuest's mission. "We are delighted that as a result of the PEACEPLUS funding of €8.5 million for the CyberQuest programme, we will begin to increase the number of individuals trained in cybersecurity, and address critical needs, such as the skills shortage. We are also pleased to be an Approved Provider for the EI Cyber Security Review Grant. The grant is administered by Enterprise Ireland for EI Clients, in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). This grant offers an independent initial review of a company's cyber security posture, identifying vulnerabilities and creating a clear roadmap to help businesses strengthen their security measures."



In 2024 REIM Training Solution in partnership with, The Bytes Project, Upskill Enterprise, Springvale Training, Youth Action NI, CJHNetwork, and Foróige have secured the PEACEPLUS funding of €8.5 million for the CyberQuest Academy programme.

CyberQuest will address critical needs by:

1. Enhancing ICT and Digital Skills: Equipping individuals with the necessary skills to thrive in the digital age.
2. Providing Intensive IT and Cyber Security Training: Developing a highly skilled workforce to address the growing demand for cybersecurity expertise.
3. Building Capacity for Youth Workers: Empowering youth workers with the tools and knowledge to support young people's digital literacy and well-being. REIM Training Solutions as the dedicated Training Delivery Partner in Partnership with CJHNetwork are so excited to help bring this project to fruition in 2025.

The European Commission has adopted the PEACE PLUS, a new cross-border EU programme to strengthen peace and reconciliation and cross-border cooperation between Ireland and Northern Ireland. It combines the previous INTERREG and PEACE funding strands into a new programme for the 2021-2027 EU period. The Commission will invest €235 million from the [European Territorial Cooperation](#) allocation of the [European Regional Development Fund](#).

Together with the UK's financial commitment and additional national co-financing from Ireland and Northern Ireland, this will result in a total investment of €1.1 billion in peace and prosperity on the island of Ireland.