



NEWSLETTER

INDEPENDENT SENATOR GERARD CRAUGHWELL

IN RETROSPECT 2025

The conference provided a crucial platform for lawmakers worldwide to express their concerns about Iran's worsening human rights situation, increasing domestic repression, destabilizing influence in the region, and persistent nuclear ambitions. A recurring demand throughout the discussions was for Western governments to take a stronger stance, including officially designating the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

Irish *Senator Gerard Craughwell* described Iran's regime as a dictatorship reliant on violence and fear, noting over 1,100 executions since last summer. He lauded the bravery of PMOI Resistance Units and praised Mrs. Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan as "a Ten-Point Plan that any democracy would be proud to use as a bedrock." He called on the EU to take enforceable action, stating, "The time for talking is over and long over." He urged the Iranian people: "You need to rise up, call the citizens of Iran together, and say enough."



A Book That Glows, A Story That Shines – *The Seraph's Fall - Origins* by **Adryan Nick** - A Book Launch Invitation on the 31st of May 2025. The book it is the first volume of "Legends of Life" and the first book launched in Europe with a photo luminescent cover (it glows in the dark). It belongs to the science fiction genre, and it is a saga of the eternal battle between light and darkness.



International Dignitaries Rally for a New Iran Policy, Support NCRI as Democratic Alternative in Paris, France – On Saturday, May 17, 2025, a high-profile international conference took place in Paris, bringing together parliamentarians and key political figures from numerous countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Malta, Switzerland, Romania, Portugal, and the Netherlands. The primary focus of the gathering was the pressing need for a decisive global policy on Iran, particularly in supporting democratic reforms and acknowledging the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) as a credible alternative to the current government.



At their invitation *Senator Craughwell* is attending *Training for Women Network* who are hosting the *Unsung Heroes Exhibition* in TWN along with a certificate presentation for participants of a Belfast City Council funded project. TWN are based in Belfast and have been in operation since in 1996. They promote women's training and development, through policy, training, education, and networking throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Counties. 8th of May 2025



The Definite Article

Collected Writings of
Michael McDowell

Senator Craughwell is invited to his esteemed colleague book launch **The Definite Article: Collected Writings of Michael McDowell** at the Royal Irish Academy on the 7th of May 2025. In this book of his collected writings, 100 of his best articles are drawn together. Agree or disagree with the stances he takes, McDowell's arguments are always clear, thought-provoking, and grounded in a deep understanding of history, politics, and law



For 2025, **the Annual 1916 Commemoration Ceremony of the Arbour Hill** took place on Wednesday 7 May 2025. It was hosted by the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence and consisted of a Requiem Mass and a ceremony at the Grave for the 1916 Leaders. **Senator Craughwell** solemnly marks the **101st State Commemoration of the Arbour Hill Ceremony**, paying tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who shaped Ireland's history. As we gather in remembrance, we honour the vision and dedication of those who fought for a free and independent nation. Their legacy continues to inspire, reminding us of the values of unity, resilience, and the enduring spirit of the Irish people. May we always cherish and uphold the freedoms they so dearly sought.



As the EY UK & Ireland Cyber Leader, **Puneet Kukreja** is "Grateful to Senator Gerard Craughwell for initiating vital conversations on enhancing cybersecurity support for Ireland's small and medium businesses. Thank you to all esteemed colleagues who are collectively driving greater cyber awareness and resilience across the country. EY is proud to support this important national initiative, and I extend sincere thanks to Senator Gerard Craughwell for including us in advancing an agenda of such critical importance. I look forward to continuing to participate and help shape the strategy toward a safer, more secure Ireland." The meeting took place in Leinster House on the 30th of April 2025. Senator's policy vision emphasizes the need for a unified approach to cybersecurity, highlighting Ireland's growing reputation as a cybersecurity hub.



Martin Groves Retirement Farewell

On April 24th, 2025, Senator Craughwell along with his colleagues, Independent Senators will honour **Martin Groves** as he retires after 42 years in the Civil Service, including 33 years at Leinster House. His last working day will be April 25th, after which he will begin residual leave. Bridget Doody will take over as Clerk of the Seanad until a formal replacement is appointed.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside Martin Groves in the Houses of the Oireachtas. His dedication and contributions have been invaluable, and he will be greatly missed.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for his retirement.



Senator Craughwell attends **Youth Work for All** campaign, Ireland Oireachtas Briefing - Wednesday April 9th, 2025. “**Youth Work for All**” campaign demands that every young person in Ireland has a right to a youth work support or service in their community. With a new Government, Dáil, and Seanad, they are calling for practical support to turn this vision into reality.

The outcome of their work is that through their network of clubs, projects, drop-in centres, youth information centres, youth cafés, music, arts, citizenship programmes and other outlets, they promote an open, integrated, and accessible approach to working with young people.

Young people are at the heart of this organisation and are supported with excellent standards in volunteering, leaders, and programme services. Many young people do not have a safe place to go where they can have a sense of belonging, when they can have a positive relationship with adults and where people believe in them. They offer young people from all backgrounds a place to go, a listening ear and support if it's needed. The services are run by local people and the programmes are run based on the needs of the local community. Positive relationships between young people and adults ensure that young people thrive and are on the road to reaching their potential as well-rounded adults.



Out of the Blue Career Horizons Expos took place in the RDS, Friday, April 4th, 2025. Senator Craughwell was attending and joining a panel discussion on the day titled '**Transition After Service**' where it has been explored diverse career paths, engaging in upskilling consultations, and connected with stalls showcasing recruitment opportunities. The Career Horizons Expos were a comprehensive guide, ensuring you navigate the transition from service to success with confidence and empowerment. Empowering your Journey where expert speakers shared valuable insights, networking opportunities unfolded, and success stories inspired. This expo was not just about what you've done; it is about what you could become.

100th Army Cadet and 12th Potential Officer's Course Commissioning Ceremony

The Tánaiste and Minister for Defence request the pleasure of the company of *Senator Gerard Craughwell* at a Commissioning Ceremony in the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp on *Friday, 28 March 2025* at 2.00 p.m. and at a Reception immediately afterwards.

The day marked the culmination of 17 months of dedicated training for the **100th Army Cadet Class**, which began on 4 October 2023. During this period, the Cadets have undertaken a series of tactical exercises, academic courses, and intensive military training, while also achieving notable success in sports. On this significant day, 35 Cadets have been commissioned, making it a moment of great pride and special day for both the Cadets and their families.



Senator Gerard Craughwell attends the Annual Westminster Parliamentary Reception for St Patrick's Day alongside H.E. Martin Fraser, Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom – held on 12th March 2024. The **CHAMP St Patrick's Day** reception took place with a strong attendance from British, Irish, and Northern Irish parliamentarians as well as figures from the worlds of business and the arts. **CHAMP** is a social enterprise whose mission is to promote peace, friendship, and cross community dialogue between British, Irish, and Northern Irish political, business and community leaders. They do this by bringing together people of influence in a spirit of mutual respect, to discuss the issues of the day and to celebrate our shared heritage and history.

On 14th of March 2025, *Senator Craughwell* and *Ronika Chakrabarti*, Associate Professor @ **Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin**, are working with **ENFUSE x Trinity MBAs** on the **Marketing Strategy** module with a goal to attract non-graduates into cyber security training and development opportunities and increase awareness and competence of SMEs in cyber security.



Dear Councillors,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support and dedication. Your commitment and efforts have made a meaningful difference, and I truly appreciate your unwavering partnership. Thank you once again for standing by us. Local voices lead to major changes.

Warm regards,

Gerard Craughwell