

# MN Advocates January Presentation Examines Transitional Justice

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**January 17, 2008**

Briggs and Morgan and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights present:

**"Women, Truth and Transition"**

Transitional justice has been of interest to both domestic and international lawyers for many years. Lawyers have had a healthy preoccupation with "Dealing with the Past," namely the morality and law of holding human rights abusers accountable at the point of societal change. Academic lawyers have been mostly concerned with and written about trials, courts, truth commissions, amnesties and punishment forms. Gender has not been a significant concern for transitional justice, though specialized accountability mechanisms have clear and profound implications for women. This analysis will focus on what kinds of "wrongs" are accounted for, and which are not, and the relationship between a gendered truth and politics of transformation for both sexes in new political dispensations. Focus will also be on the manner in which the gender narrative is often missing from or compromised in the transitional justice fora. The speaker will explore the reasons for and forms of these silences, exclusions and compromised presences.

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008

Noon to 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Briggs and Morgan

IDS Center, 22nd Floor

80 S. 8th St., Minneapolis

Event speaker Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin is the Dorsey and Whitney Chair in Law at the University of Minnesota Law School and a professor of law at the University of Ulster's Transitional Justice Institute in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she is also co-founder and present director. Professor Ní Aoláin received her LL.B. and Ph.D. in law at the Queen's University Law Faculty in Belfast and an LL.M. degree from Columbia Law School. She has published extensively in the fields of emergency powers, conflict regulation and sex-based violence in times of war. She was a representative of the prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at domestic war crimes trials in Bosnia. In 2003, Professor Ní Aoláin was appointed by the United Nations' secretary-general as special expert on promoting gender equality in times of conflict and peace-making. She was the first woman and first academic lawyer to be nominated by the Irish government to the European Court of Human Rights in 2004, and is a current Court nominee. She was appointed by the Irish minister of justice to the Irish Commission for Human Rights, and served as a member of the Joint Committee of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Irish Commission for Human Rights created by the Good Friday peace agreement.

Event is free; registration required. Please RSVP to Tina Houareau at e-mail or 612.977.8126 by Friday, Dec. 18.