



Biography of Nora Owen

Nora Owen was a politician in Ireland for more than 20 years, starting with her election to the Dublin County Council in 1979. She was elected to the Dáil in 1981-2002 where she chaired the Parliamentary Overseas Aid Committee and vice-chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee. She also served as Spokesperson for the Opposition in a number of portfolios - Health, Overseas Aid, Foreign Affairs, Enterprise and Employment. Ms Owen was appointed Deputy Leader of the Fine Gael Party in 1993-2001 and was Minister of Justice from 1994 to 1997. In 1996, she was the President of the Council of Justice Ministers during Ireland's presidency of the European Union, and was a Member of the National Forum on Europe established after the Nice Treaty.

Ms. Owen has extensive experience in parliamentary training in Africa and Eastern Europe, and was named Vice-President of AWEPA, an organisation of European parliamentarians for Africa. After volunteering for CONCERN in Rwanda in 1994 where she was responsible for the welfare of returning refugees, she is now a member of Concern Board in Ireland. Ms. Owen has also served as a member of the Democracy Commission, an organization established to study the reasons for electorate apathy towards politics.

She is currently the Chairperson of the Justice Group of the Irish Institute of International & European Affairs and has been a member of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime for 5 years.

She chaired the Expert Advisory Group on Development Aid appointed for 3 years by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and is currently Chair of the Oversight Group on Women Peace and Security. She is a board member of Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and of SAFEGUARDING IRELAND. She is also a Patron of Special Olympics.

Ms. Owen holds Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biochemistry from University College Dublin and a Certificate in Business Corporate Law with distinction from the National College of Ireland. She has presented Midweek on TV3 and contributes regularly to TV and Radio programs.