



A WEEK OF CELEBRATIONS FOR #DOUGLASSWEEK TO RETURN TO THE STREETS OF CORK

Artists, musicians, poets, authors, singers, activists and community groups will celebrate US anti-slavery campaigner Frederick Douglass

Organisers are delighted to announce the second annual #DouglassWeek. Building on the success of last year's event, the week will be a wide-ranging celebration of the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass and other changemakers. #DouglassWeek will bring together students and researchers, historians, artists, musicians, poets, authors, singers, activists and community groups from Ireland and abroad to commemorate Douglass's life and work. Participants respond to Douglass's story with performances, visual art, music and more.

Douglass had a decisive impact on America's path to abolishing slavery, and his work laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement in the country, inspiring leaders like the late former US Congressman John Lewis. Born into slavery, Douglass became an influential leader in the anti-slavery movement in the United States in the 19th century. He visited Ireland in 1845 to build support for the abolitionist cause in America. He spent a month in Cork, delivering powerful denunciations of slavery to crowds of thousands.

Co-organisers Dr. Caroline Dunham-Schroeter and Kristin M. Leary said #DouglassWeek, and other commemorations like it are of enormous importance to current events. Dr. Dunham-Schroeter says: *"It's vital to commemorate the importance of the Douglass family to each location and explore what their stories mean to contemporary issues of identity, race, independence and equal rights around the world"*. Leary continues to say: *"By remembering and honouring our history and the Douglass legacy, we hope to influence and inspire transformative change today"*.

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Colm Kelleher, says Cork is delighted to be a part of this event of great significance once again. *"We are delighted to partner with #DouglassWeek 2022. It is a great way to celebrate and mark this social reformer and activist. So many great leaders and changemakers have been drawn to Cork down through time. I would encourage people to come along to the walk, talks and online events and bring along their children to educate and inform. We can learn so much from these great leaders from our past"*.

On Sunday, February 13th, 11am GMT, Dr. Laurence Fenton (author, *Frederick Douglass in Ireland*) will host a walking tour of the "Cork Abolitionists Trail". The trail, created in partnership with Cork City Council, takes in 12 locations, including the city courthouse, where Douglass delivered a two-hour speech titled "I Am Here to Spread Light on American Slavery", and traces his footsteps across the city.

Other highlights include:

- "I am remarkable" event with Nano Nagle Place and Cork Migrant Centre in Cork, Ireland (online). Participants include youths from Ireland and the US, facilitated by Fionnuala O'Connell (Cork Migrant Centre)
- "Frederick Douglass and the Douglass Family: A Commemoration in Word & Song" special birthday event. Participants include Douglass descendant Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., Roger Guenveur Smith (*Do the Right Thing; Frederick Douglass NOW*), Paul Oakley Stovall (*Hamilton*), Irish Ambassador to the US Dan Mulhall, Charles Randolph-Wright, Kristolyn Lloyd and Marcus Hummon (*American Prophet*), US Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Nikhil Saboo (*Dear Evan Hansen*) and other special guests
- A host of pre-recorded and live videos are available on YouTube #DOUGLASSWEEK TEAM.

#DOUGLASSWEEK2022 - Thursday, February 10th - Tuesday, February 16th, 2022

Times/schedule/full program information at www.douglassweek.org

Twitter: @DouglassWeek22 - Instagram: @douglassweek YouTube: #DouglassWeek Team

Note - for all in-person events and workshops, you will need to register.

****ENDS****

IMAGE CAPTION

Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Colm Kelleher, at the Cork Abolitionists Trail unveiling in Cork City (July 2021). Created in partnership with Cork City Council, the trail traces the footsteps of Frederick Douglass across 12 locations to highlight links to the anti-slavery activist. Mural by local artist Kevin O'Brien. #DouglassWeek2022.

Pic: Brian Loughheed

ABOUT #DouglassWeek

A collaborative event series celebrating the work and life of Frederick Douglass in different countries around the world. The week includes performances, creative installations and critical discussions addressing the history and impact of Douglass in each location. Each year, the #DouglassWeek team partners with a wide network of scholars, historians and researchers, along with artists, musicians, poets, athletes, community groups and activists from around the world to commemorate Douglass, the Douglass family and other changemakers to bring you

memorable and thought-provoking events and activities. #DouglassWeek will include events in additional cities around the world each year.

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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