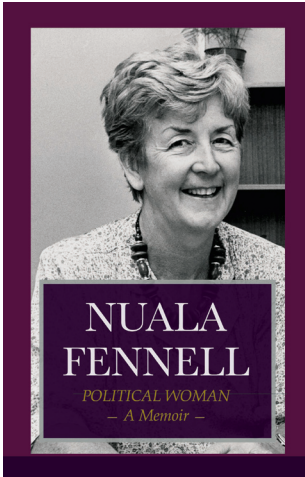


Press Release



Book Launch:

Political Woman, A Memoir by the late Nuala Fennell was launched Tuesday, 6 October 2009 by Enda Kenny TD in Stephen's Green Hibernian Club, Dublin 2 in the presence of her husband, Brian, and three children.



About the book:

In 1970, driven by her conviction of the need to change attitudes within society towards women and marriage Nuala Fennell joined the Irish Women's Liberation Movement, a controversial and radical group at the time. Her inclination was not towards radical feminism, but her independent strong-willed spirit was drawn to join with these like-minded women who wanted a society that was more free for women, within which they could make choices based on their own wishes.

Although Nuala Fennell was a wife and mother of three, she could not ignore her innate sense of justice and commitment to others. Soon after the collapse of the Irish Women's Liberation Movement in 1971, she set up a new organisation, AIM Group (Action, Information and Motivation). AIM concentrated its efforts on influencing the introduction of legislation to give Irish women and children

an enforceable legal right to a proportion of the family income. Their time and activities were firmly focused on policies for women and children, with daily meetings, lobbying, legal and political workshops, counselling, fundraising, publicity and public speaking.

Throughout the 1970s, Nuala found herself involved in a series of campaigns, not just with AIM but with Irish Women's Aid, which was established to help victims of domestic violence, and with the Women's Political Association. Influenced by the WPA campaign to have more women elected to local councils and the Oireachtas, she realised that the only way to make real legislative impact was to become an elected representative.

After standing as an independent in the 1977 election and achieving a very creditable vote, in 1981, she was elected to the Dáil for Fine Gael in Dublin South and held her seat in the two elections that took place during turbulent eighteen months that followed. After the election in November 1982, Garret FitzGerald appointed her Minister of State for Women's Affairs. During her ten years in office she achieved several of her long-term ambitions, including the establishment of a Family Mediation Service, the correction of legal anomalies relating to domicile for married women and the abolition of the legal status of illegitimacy.

After she retired from parliamentary politics in 1992, Nuala Fennell led an active life, running her own political communications company, associating with other former parliamentarians and enjoying her grandchildren, travel and outdoor pursuits such as skiing.

On Tuesday 11 August 2009, Nuala Fennell died at the age of seventy-three. She finished this book three weeks before she passed away. It has since been enhanced with an epilogue by her husband, Brian Fennell.

***Political Woman - A Memoir*, written by Nuala Fennell, published by Currach Press and priced at €14.99.**

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