



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

**Message from President Michael D. Higgins**

**Navan Pride Festival 2023**

12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Is mian liom mo dhea-ghuí a sheoladh dóibh siúd uilig atá ag glacadh páirte i bhFéile Bhróid na hUaimhe. Is garsprioc mhór í seo do bhaile na hUaimhe agus díríonn sé aird an phobail ar dhúthracht mhuintir na hUaimhe go raibh ionchuimsitheacht, éagsúlacht, agus meas ag chuile dhuine, beag bean ar a gclaonadh gnéis nó a n-aitheantas inscne.

May I send my warmest regards to all those taking part in the inaugural Navan Pride Festival. This is a significant milestone for Navan, as it highlights the town's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In a world often marked by division and inequality, events like Navan Pride Festival are a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of unity, principle, rights and solidarity. Pride offers an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to come together, recognizing that our differences enrich us rather than diminish us, can unite us rather than divide. It is through initiatives like yours that we can make progress towards a more just, inclusive and equal society.

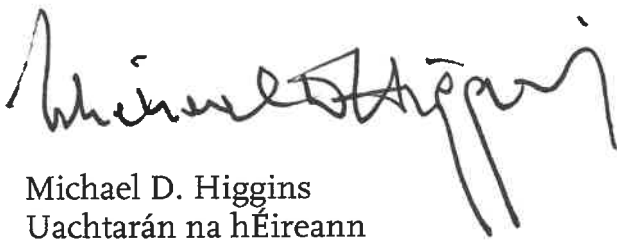
While notable progress has been made here in Ireland, with many support structures put in place and discriminatory legal obstacles gradually removed, we must persist in establishing a truly equal society that embraces peace, justice, solidarity and inclusivity.

Homophobic violence is a stark reminder of the work that remains. We need to do more to ensure real equality, where nobody faces disrespect, threats or aggression based on their identity. It is imperative that we stand united and work together to foster an environment of acceptance, understanding, and love.

May I commend all involved in Navan Pride for your efforts in creating a safe and welcoming space for LGBT+ individuals, in making a more fulfilling, harmonious, just and inclusive society, one in which all of our citizens in all their wonderful diversity, on an equal basis, and without discrimination, feel respected, included, safe and valued, and have the right to participate in and seek fulfilment.

May this inaugural festival be a resounding success, and may it serve as a beacon of hope and empowerment for the LGBT+ community in County Meath and beyond.

Beir beannacht

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael D. Higgins', written in a cursive style.

Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland