

BOLD Climate Action

Carol-Anne O'Brien, co-founder

Presentation on Feminist Communities for Climate Justice

NWCI–CWI panel,

Mary Robinson Climate Conference,

Ballina, 6 June 2024



BOLD Climate Action

- Active since 2022 - as a peer outreach project - by and for older people.
- Generously supported by Friends of the Earth – funding from Irish Aid.
- Honoured the National Women’s Council invited us to speak on this panel.
- Recognise the ground-breaking climate justice leadership of former president Mary Robinson.
- I’m delighted to be here representing the amazing participants in BOLD Climate Action - in this picture below!



BOLD Climate Action's Focus

- Outreach to our age peers – a strategic decision.
- Empowering older people's voice and participation in climate action.
- A small group – 9 public events and reached 150 older people.
- Our work takes place in a broader movement that needs to be:
 - Inter-sectional – recognise, e.g., gender, race, class, disability.
 - Inter-generational.

BOLD Climate Action

Agree with the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice - Collette, Vanessa and Yvonne –
that the impact of global warming entrenches existing inequalities.

Impact of Climate Breakdown on Older People

In extreme weather events,
Ageism intersects with / has commonalities with other
inequalities, such as Disabilities.

Heatwaves:

- Older people in Europe face exposure to Double / Triple the Heatwaves.
- Older people find it more difficult to regulate their body heat.
- Leads to excess deaths from dehydration, chronic conditions, & isolation.

Unequal Impact - Flooding

**Hurricane Katrina,
New Orleans, 2005:**

**-Over-60s were
16% of the pop.**

**- Over-60s were
75% of deaths.**



Unequal Impact – Flooding

**Tsunami in Japan,
2011:**

- Over-65s were
23% of pop.**
- Over-65s were
60% of deaths.**



Ageism & Inequality in Gov't Climate Policy

- Failure to fully Implement GHG reductions in housing, transport, etc.
- Set up Two Tier climate action – in transport, retrofitting.
- Falling back on Individual Actions – like using less electricity, wasting less food.
- Age Action: 60% homes w/ low BERs are the homes of Older People – and Travellers also have homes with low BERs.
- Ireland - more excess winter deaths than Iceland – including older people.
 - Due to Lack of Insulation, High Energy Prices & Respiratory/Cardiac conditions.

Older
People-
Vital
Role in:



Squatters in Georgian house

LAST night members of the Dublin Housing Action Committee were guarding the doors of Georgian house at the corner of St. Stephen's Green and Hume Street after three families of squatters moved in.

A patrol car arrived and gardai took down details and then left. All three families said they would continue to squat until offered alternative accommodation. A spokesman for the Committee said: "It is disgraceful that these houses should be demolished. They are perfectly good houses. They could provide homes for a large number of families. We intend doing what we can to see that several people are housed here."

The Action Committee are joined by the city's Georgian Preservationists in their claims that the old houses should be preserved.

St. Stephen's Green and Hume Street to make room for office blocks.

Meeting

Throughout that time there have been protests, hearing decisions, appeals, more decisions and more appeals. The matter was finally settled by the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Boland, last week when he announced that he was allowing the development to proceed.

Immediately several of the organisations which have fought against the demolition of the houses...



BOLD Climate Action Calls for:

- ✓ Increase pensions – and tackle pension inequality for older women.
- ✓ Targeted Govt supports for Energy Costs to those on low incomes.
- ✓ Independent (non-profit) Energy & Retrofit Advice.
- ✓ Expand Retrofitting led by local community organizations.
- ✓ End Excess Winter Deaths by:
 - Renewing & Expanding the Dublin Warmth and Wellbeing project so Health workers can prescribe free retrofitting to people on low incomes with Respiratory & Cardiac conditions that make them vulnerable to cold damp housing.

Thank You - Carol-Anne O'Brien

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<https://www.friendsoftheearth.ie/get-involved/join/bold-climate-action/>