

# FOREWORD

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This book is a story of two lives conjoined in love and the pursuit of justice. Their narrative is placed in dialogue with the social history of the times over the past twenty-seven years and depicts the different social projects they have been part of to contribute to the eradication of poverty in Ireland. More recently, they have engaged in a court case seeking justice for themselves. This book describes their formation as theologians and educators, influenced by the liberation thinkers of both disciplines – South African, feminist and Latin American – and how they used these influences in both their academic and social change work. A community education organisation they co-founded in 1987, The Shanty/An Cosán, thrives to this day.

They outline the place of spirituality in the process of engaging in social change. The book also documents their love story, their reasons for getting married in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2003 and their search for justice through the legal recognition of that marriage in Ireland. At present, they await the hearing of their appeal in the Supreme Court. The book finishes by including an outline of their method for practising social change which they describe as ‘soulwork in the public sphere’.

I recommend this book highly and believe that it will be an inspiration and a resource to many around the world who seek to establish a more just world. The text demonstrates the importance of relationship and attention to the spiritual in order to sustain struggle for societal transformation. The aspiration of this book is clearly to offer an understanding of topics that are not often addressed out loud. I hope that this empowers and sustains those who read it.