

FAMINE WALK 2018

Remembering and Solidarity



Saturday, May 19th 2018
Doolough Valley, Co. Mayo.

Registration from 12.45pm

(€20 per adult participant)

Beginning at 1.30pm

Walk Leaders:

Richard Moore

Fatin al Tamimi

Music by:

Lisa Lambe

We are asking each participant to raise as much sponsorship for Afri as possible to enable us to continue to organize this Famine Walk and a wide range of other work.

FAMINE WALK 1988-2018

Saturday 19th May 2018 will see the 30th anniversary of the Doolough Famine Walk. Afri first organised the walk in 1988 to commemorate the Great Hunger of 1845-50. Regions such as Mayo illustrated how a natural setback such as potato blight can mutate to disaster in the context of unchecked market forces, lack of democratic structures and resources, and a pitiless, moralistic ideology. While some £9.5 million was eventually spent on late and poorly-designed 'Relief', £14 million went to sustain the military and police forces.

Our walk retraces a journey of horror which occurred on 30th/31st March 1849. Two poor-law commissioners were to assess people in Louisburgh, entitling them as 'paupers' to meagre relief rations. The inspection never happened, but the people were instructed to appear at Delphi Lodge at 7 the following morning. They walked the hilly road in wintry, even snowy, conditions. At Delphi Lodge they were refused food, or admission to the workhouse, and so began their weary return journey, on which many, even hundreds, died.

Afri, drawing on the local history of Louisburgh and Doolough, recalls the dead and displaced of the Great Hunger – and all those facing the same grotesque and avoidable cruelties in today's world, from the so-called 'War on Terror' to the indignities of 'Direct Provision'. We walk the famine road to remember the causes of hunger and poverty in our world – political, military, economic and environmental – and our failure to learn the lessons of our own history. Our Walk Leaders eloquently represent the spirit of resistance and transformation.

In the twentieth-anniversary year of the Good Friday Agreement we welcome Richard Moore, who was blinded as a 10-year-old child by a rubber bullet fired by a British soldier during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. He reacted by founding Children in Crossfire, declaring: "I learned to see life in a different way. I may have lost my sight, but I have my vision".

2018 is also significant in that it marks the 70th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, and in this context, we are honoured to welcome Fatin Al Tamimi, Chairperson of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

The extraordinary voice of Lisa Lambe will provide the music for this year's walk. We are delighted to have Lisa as part of this year's walk line up.

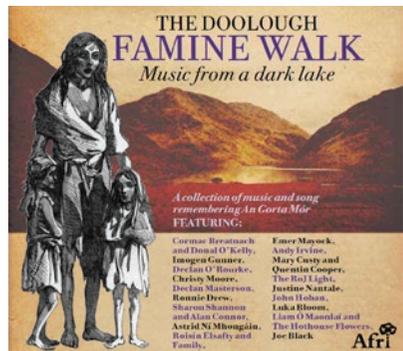
Cover photo shows Donnah Vuma, leader of last year's walk. Photo: Derek Speirs

BIOGRAPHIES

In 1972, aged 10, **Richard Moore**, the founder of Children in Crossfire, was blinded by a rubber bullet fired at point-blank range into his face. In the 38 years of his blindness, he has become a husband, father, accomplished musician, folk-group leader and successful businessman. More than two decades ago he felt the need to harness all that he had learned and put it at the service of humanity, particularly children around the world who, like himself, have been caught up in the crossfire of violence, as well as poverty and hunger. Children in Crossfire now works mainly in Tanzania and Ethiopia and is a remarkable testimony to the indomitable spirit of a man who turned personal tragedy into triumph. Richard was the subject of a major BBC documentary, *Blind Vision*, in which he meets the actual soldier who blinded him in 1972. Both men have now embarked on a journey of friendship together.

Fatin Al Tamimi is chairperson of the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign. A diaspora Palestinian with Jordanian-Irish citizenship, Ms. Tamimi has been living and raising her family in Ireland for 30 years. Her family originally hails from Gaza and Hebron in Palestine, and she still has close relatives living in both areas. She has been involved for many years in Palestine solidarity work in Ireland, and in 2016 she was elected to the position of Chairperson of the IPSC, the first Palestinian to hold the position. She is also active in anti-racist, anti-war and women's groups in Ireland, and has spoken at many events.

Lisa Lambe is an Irish singer and actress and a member of the ensemble Celtic Woman. Her career encompasses roles from the stage to musical theatre, film and television, and radio performances. The Irish Times has described her as "the finest singer and actress of her generation, on whom a whole new foundation of theatre can be built." Lisa Lambe started out in the performing arts at the age of three, and graduated with a Bachelor of Acting Studies from Trinity College Dublin. She has starred in numerous title roles in theatrical productions throughout Ireland, Europe and the UK. She has been a featured soloist with Ireland's RTE Concert Orchestra, and was a soloist on Ireland's popular TV program *The Late Late Show*, leading to collaborations with RTE-affiliated musicians Shay Healy and Frank McNamara.



INFORMATION

Please assemble in Louisburgh town hall for registration at 12.45pm. Shuttle buses will bring walkers to start point from 1.30pm. A brief ceremony (2 minutes) will take place at the Famine Memorial in Delphi Lodge before walkers return to Louisburgh. Please note there is **no parking available** at Delphi Lodge. The walk is approximately 11 miles and a shuttle car will be available along the route if needed.

Tea/coffee (no food) will be provided at a halfway point along the way. There will also be toilet facilities at the halfway point as well as along the lake.

Buy our Famine Walk CD 'Music From A Dark Lake'

An 18-track CD by some of Ireland's greatest artists – all of whom have performed at the Famine Walk – has been produced by Afri to mark 30 years of the Famine Walk. This is an extraordinary collection of songs, music and spoken word accompanied by a 32 page booklet brimming with interesting facts, quotes and information. This CD will be available at the registration - be sure to get your copy!

Afri is a justice, peace and human rights organisation, which was founded in 1975. Afri's first 'Famine Walk' took place in 1988, with the aim of linking the experience of Ireland in the 1840s with contemporary issues of famine, hunger, food insecurity and human rights abuses. Since then we have explored many related issues such as food sovereignty and the forced migration of people, among other themes

Afri gratefully acknowledges the support of Irish Aid, Trócaire and Concern.



IN THE INTEREST OF HEALTH AND SAFETY, PLEASE WALK ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR THE DURATION OF THE WALK.

Afri,
134, Phibsborough Road,
Phibsborough, Dublin 7.
Telephone 01-8827563
email: admin@afri.ie
website: www.afri.ie
<http://www.facebook.com/afriireland>
Twitter: @afripeace

