

**Inspiring talks, panel discussions, scientific sessions**

**The World Federation of Right to Die Societies conference 2024,  
18 - 21 September in Dun Laoghaire near Dublin**

by DIGNITAS – To live with dignity – To die with dignity

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Every two years, the [World Federation of Right to Die Societies](#) (WFRtDS) holds a general assembly where its member associations meet. The WFRtDS is a worldwide non-profit umbrella organization of societies which advocate a self-determined and dignified end of life. The biannual assembly is part of a public conference organised by one of the WFRtDS members, of which there are 60, in 30 countries around the world. The [2024 conference](#) was hosted by [End of Life Ireland](#), a non-profit organisation of volunteers who advocate for voluntary assisted dying as a valid end of life choice.

A preconference event, also open to the public, marked the start of a topic which increasingly is gaining attention around the world: dementia. Canadian [Jule Briese](#) presented her play ‘Ten Minutes to Midnight’ based on her and Wayne Briese’s book ‘[Shared Conversations – Glimpses of Alzheimer’s](#)’. It describes the dementia journey of her husband Wayne who said, “I do not want to end my days as a lost soul in a nursing home” and after four years of coping with the disease, used medical aid in dying (MAiD). Irishman [Tom Curran who had supported his late partner Marie Fleming](#) to battle in Court for the right to receive legal assistance to end her suffering and life with multiple sclerosis, took on the role of Wayne. Carmel Geoghegan of [Dementia Ireland](#) read Jule. The play is a snippet of the conversations of Jule and Wayne, showing how they compassionately stayed connected on the journey with dementia.

The biannual WFRtDS gathering is a valuable event to meet and exchange with colleagues and experts, especially those from far away countries, to catch up on developments around the world in end-of-life-choice. The Board and team of the WFRtDS showed it is a robust and growing umbrella organisation. Four new member societies were welcomed: [Irish Doctors supporting MAiD](#), [DescLAB](#) of Colombia, [Maine Death with Dignity](#) and [Dying Right North Carolina](#).

The two public conference days were packed with inspiring talks, panel discussions, and scientific sessions with abstracts of academic work shedding light on many aspects of the significance of advance health care planning, palliative care, safeguarding wellbeing until life’s end, assisted dying, and more.

Contributors in the field of social work, medical care, law, and more from around the world gave valuable insights in their work and efforts for what End of Life Ireland puts to the point: “A kinder death is possible.” [Videos are available for viewing](#) which allow to explore and revisit the thought-provoking discussions and gain a deeper understanding of the important issues surrounding end-of-life choice.

The 2026 WFRtDS conference is set to take place in Tokyo and will be hosted by the [Japan Society for Dying with Dignity](#).

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