



Athrú 2016 inaugural conference to take place in Galway this July

Leading female chefs and restaurateurs from across Ireland are coming together in Galway this July for a culinary think in and conference on gender roles within professional kitchens and throughout the hospitality sector.

Athrú 2016, empowering women in the culinary arts in Ireland is a two day conference and workshop with the goal of establishing a working Irish female chef database that would be available or suitable for judging, media and or to provide a female voice and point of view. The conference and workshops will run from 9am to 2pm in 56 Central on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July. Athrú 2016 is attracting international female culinary heads such as Maria Canabal President PARABERE FORUM - Improving Gastronomy with women's vision.

Speaking ahead of the Athrú 2016 Maria Canabal explained “Currently, it's obvious that women are under-represented in the food and hospitality industry. At the same time — and this might not be a coincidence — society has become increasingly distrustful of the food industry. Women's voices need to be heard and their talents deployed, so that we can boost confidence in the food sector, and construct a vision of the future based on values of sustainability and equal opportunity. If society, and also food and wine industry, is to evolve towards greater sustainability, greater equality, stronger growth and increased social progress, women must be able to take their rightful place.” The two day meet up will run from Monday 18th July to 19th July with workshops being facilitated at 56 Central and key note addresses and think in collaborative sessions with all attendees.

Speaking ahead of Athrú 2016 Trish Deseine commented, “There is now overwhelming evidence that gender parity in the workplace is good for everyone's health & happiness but most of all, it's good for business. Yet women are still not fully sharing the power & limelight with men in the culinary arts when very obviously, they enjoy equal talent & capabilities. We're sweeping aside damaging stereotypes & sexism in the arts, the police force, the army, medical & legal careers. It is now time to consider how to make that happen in our restaurant & hospitality industries too. Athrú will provide a much-needed innovative space for Irish women & men to come together & discuss how to leave inequality behind at last.”

“This is a very necessary conference to happen. We need to build a stronger voice across the culinary arts. There is like across every section of society and within business alot of gender inequality and we just want to insure that we are doing everything possible to get an equal playing field for both men and women working inside kitchens and within the hospitality sector,” Jess Murphy of Kai Cafe + Restaurant.

More information [HERE](#)