



2004

Alice Leahy

In 2004 the National University of Ireland awarded an Honorary Degree to Alice Leahy, director and co-founder of the Alice Leahy Trust, a non-judgemental, befriending, social and health service for people who are homeless. A former nurse, Leahy cofounded the Trust in 1975 (it was just "the Trust" then) after years spent working with the Simon community in Dublin. In the years since she has been chairwoman of the Sentence Review Group and a former Irish Human Rights Commissioner as well as a writer, broadcaster and lecturer. Her focus throughout has been on battling the issue of social exclusion and helping people who have been left behind. Her memoir, *The Stars Are Our Only Warmth*, co-written with Catherine Cleary was published in 2018, the same year she was awarded the International Human Rights & Nursing Award from The International Care Ethics Observatory and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Irish Red Cross. She's one of the people who makes life in Ireland bearable for the most vulnerable. - **Patrick Freyne**