

# Global Irish Diaspora Awards SPECIAL REPORT



Joanna Bound, The Hon Alexandra Shackleton, Bob Geldof and Mensun Bound



Gerry Nagle, Kevin Harrington, John Ogland, Tadhg Cronin and Colm Melichar of Amhola



Robert G Kearns, Martin Fraser, Ambassador of Ireland to Great Britain, Deirdre Fraser and Seán Fleming, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs

## Bob Geldof honoured with Lifetime Achievement accolade at Global Irish Diaspora Awards

The inaugural *Business Post* Global Irish Diaspora Awards were established to recognise the contribution of Ireland and the Irish to the world of business

**B**ob Geldof has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural *Business Post* Global Irish Diaspora Awards in London.

As he collected the accolade at the ceremony in the Waldorf Hilton hotel, Geldof paid tribute to John Caldwell, the PSNI officer shot in Omagh last month.

"In my head, knowing I was coming here, was DCI John Caldwell, who those scum tried to kill in front of his child," Geldof told guests.

"We cannot ever allow these people to have any say or influence, or colour what was achieved 25 years ago when the Irish and English, and the community in the North of Ireland, decided to finally, God hopes, put an end to that endless murder, torture, kidnapping and foulness that



Sarah Murphy, chief executive, the Business Post, and Bob Geldof

always curbed the relationship between these islands."

The musician and activist described the Good Friday Agreement as a "reminder of what's possible when politics are done properly . . . Please make sure that we never, ever let this falter".

He also praised Ireland's response to the war in Ukraine. "I'm well aware of the number of Ukrainians the Irish have taken in and the strain it's taking upon the island and the people. But we will continue because it's right," said Geldof.

Hosted by broadcaster Ivan Yates, the awards have been established to recognise the vast contribution Ireland and its people have made to the world of business.

Geldof was one of six special recipients, who also included actor and singer Maria Doyle Kennedy for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts and Formula One's Eddie Jordan for Personality of the Year.

The Outstanding Contribution to Global Development

**“We are committed to serving the global diaspora community through our content**

Award was presented to Gerry Nagle, the recently retired chairman of Amhola, while Ernest Shackleton was honoured posthumously.

Maritime archaeologist Mensun Bound presented the award to the explorer's granddaughter, the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, who described his leadership as immortal.

Paul Coggins, of Tir Chonaill Gaels and London GAA, dedicated his Community Hero Award to his late wife. "She allowed me to do what I love to do, mainly football and helping out people," he said.

Eight nominated business accolades were also presented, including Business Leader of the Year to Jacqueline O'Donovan, managing director of O'Donovan Waste.

At the age of 19, following the death of her father, she took the family business from a turnover of £200,000 to £20 million.

**Nominated awards expert judging panel**

- Anthony Gaffney, partner, Gate One
- Kingsley Aikins, chief executive of The Networking Institute and former chief executive of the Worldwide Ireland Funds
- Eileen Schofield, founder and principal solicitor, Schofield & Associates
- Joanna Murphy, chief executive of the Irish Diaspora Loan Fund & Taxback.com

Sarah Murphy, chief executive of the Business Post, said the awards would be an annual event, and added that the Business Post Group would be moving into the UK later this year.

"We are committed to serving the global diaspora com-

munity through our content, as well as creating experiences where we can bring the global Irish network together," Murphy said.

"The Business Post will be establishing a full-time office base in London. We look forward to working closer with the community both across the UK and globally as we continue to expand our reach."

Representing the Irish government were Martin Fraser, Ambassador to Great Britain, and Seán Fleming, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The London Irish Centre was the charity partner for the event represented by CEO, Séamus MacCormaic. The LIC has served the Irish community in London since it was first established in 1954 and continues to offer a range of services to people within the Irish community, some of whom have attended the Centre for many years.

A date for the 2024 awards will be announced on <https://globalirishawards.com/>

### Special award winners

- **Lifetime Achievement:** Bob Geldof
- **Personality of the Year:** Eddie Jordan
- **The Sir Ernest Shackleton Award:** Ernest Shackleton (posthumous)
- **Outstanding Contribution to Global Development:** Gerry Nagle
- **Outstanding Contribution to the Arts:** Maria Doyle Kennedy
- **Community Hero:** Paul Coggins

### Nominated award winners

- **Emerging Business Leader:** Jacqueline Gilna-Turton, founder & chief executive, We Are Global Irish (CA)
- **Business Leader of the Year:** Jacqueline O'Donovan, managing director, O'Donovan Waste (UK)
- **Finance & Professional Services Excellence:** Orla Dunne, global head of foundational infrastructure and head of core engineering, EMEA, Goldman Sachs (UK)
- **Entrepreneur of the Year:** Ryan McSorley, founder & chief executive, Neat (UK)
- **Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Award:** Caroline Brogan, associate solicitor, Irwin Mitchell (UK)
- **Social Impact Award:** Teresa Keating, executive director, Ireland Funds Australia (AU)
- **Building Britain Award:** JJ Rhatigan (UK)
- **Leader in Construction:** Tadhg Cronin, head of delivery, Uptown District Dubai (UAE)



Joanna Murphy presents Jacqueline O'Donovan with the Business Leader of the Year Award



Maria Doyle Kennedy receives Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award



Paul Coggins of Tir Chonaill Gaels, Community Hero Award



Ambassador Martin Fraser Presents Teresa Keating with the Social Impact Award



Anthony Gaffney presents Ryan McSorley with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award



Fionuala Pender presents Caroline Brogan with the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Award



Eileen Schofield presents Orla Dunne with the Finance, Professional Service Excellence Award