



## Water Safety Ireland welcomes UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention

29 April 2021

The Council of Water Safety Ireland welcomes the first ever UN Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, 28th April 2021.

The Resolution ([A/75/L.76](#)) provides a framework for an effective response to the unacceptable toll of drowning deaths worldwide.

In welcoming the Resolution, the Chairman of Water Safety Ireland, Martin O'Sullivan reflected on the drowning burden worldwide and in Ireland: "In the last decade, drowning was responsible for over 2.5 million\* preventable deaths worldwide and for 1,200\*\* deaths in Ireland. It is a significant, preventable public health issue. This first-ever UN resolution on global drowning prevention provides a framework for an effective response to this unacceptable toll of drowning deaths."

"The Council and members of Water Safety Ireland are committed to supporting the Resolution", continued O'Sullivan, "and this commitment is reflected in the Council's development of a ten-year National Drowning Prevention Strategy for Ireland."

In addition, the Resolution proclaims the 25<sup>th</sup> of July each year as 'World Drowning Prevention Day' to raise awareness of the importance of drowning prevention and the need for urgent coordinated multisectoral action to improve water safety, with the aim of reducing preventable deaths.

"This provides WSI with an annual opportunity to reflect on lives lost to drowning and galvanise action to prevent further deaths," said O'Sullivan, "Drowning is responsible for 235,000 deaths per year worldwide and 120 deaths per year in Ireland. It is a hugely significant reflection of an avoidable societal burden that ten people drown in our country every month and I call on every parent and every adult to make water safety part of a conversation with friends and family. Together we can and must prevent drowning and save lives. Learn how at the WSI website, [www.watersafety.ie](http://www.watersafety.ie)."

Martin O'Sullivan  
Chairman, Water Safety Ireland

### Further Updates:

**Social:** [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

**Web:** [www.WorldDrowningPreventionDay.ie](http://www.WorldDrowningPreventionDay.ie) / [www.watersafety.ie](http://www.watersafety.ie)

\*Estimated 2.5 million lives lost to drowning in the last 10 years (WHO).

\*\*Ten years to 2019 (WSI/CSO)