



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

As Patron of Water Safety Ireland I am delighted to lend my voice to the most important and historic annual initiative that is World Drowning Prevention Day, to be marked annually on 25th July.

Our oceans and rivers are precious resources, essential for the survival of our fragile planet. They are also, of course, central to many enjoyable leisure activities, particularly during these Summer months. It is important, however, that we remain aware of the potential dangers of water and of how swiftly enjoyment can turn to tragedy when care and caution are ignored or abandoned.

Every year in Ireland, an average of 115 people die in our seas, and at our coastline and inland waterways. Behind this stark figure lie so many futures lost, lives shattered and families ruptured. That these deaths could have been prevented can only add to the anguish of loved ones left behind.

On this World Drowning Prevention Day I urge all of you to respect the water, to never underestimate its strength and to avoid taking the unnecessary risks that can so easily lead to tragedy, loss and heartbreak.

Our seas and waterways are life enhancing resources. Please enjoy them safely and responsibly.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland