

Mary Robinson

1944-present



Mary Robinson, the first female president of Ireland, was born in Ballina, County Mayo, in 1944. Mary was a very popular Irish president, serving from 1990 to 1997. Four months before the end of her time as president, she resigned in order to take up another important and inspiring job as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She worked in this position until 2002. Mary felt passionate about how people were treated and believed everyone had the right to be treated fairly. Mary continues to work with world leaders on humanitarian, environmental and political issues.

Mary McAleese

1951-present

Mary McAleese was born in 1951. She was the second woman to become the president of Ireland, serving from 1997 to 2011. She was first elected by the country in 1997. She was then re-elected in 2004. Mary was ranked 55th most powerful woman in the world in 2006. This list was compiled by Forbes, a global media company. The company have a particular focus on business, investing, technology, entrepreneurship and leadership.



Sonia O'Sullivan

1969-present

One of Ireland's most famous sports stars, Sonia O'Sullivan won numerous medals at world athletics events. Sonia's success in sport happened in the 1990s. She won medals in the Olympic Games, World Championships and European Championships to name a few. Over her career she won eight gold, six silver and two bronze medals. Sonia holds the world record for the 2000 metre race at 5 minutes, 25.36 seconds. Sonia also holds seven national records for various distances. Sonia retired in 2007 and now works as a commentator with RTÉ Sport for high-profile events.





Ettie Steinberg

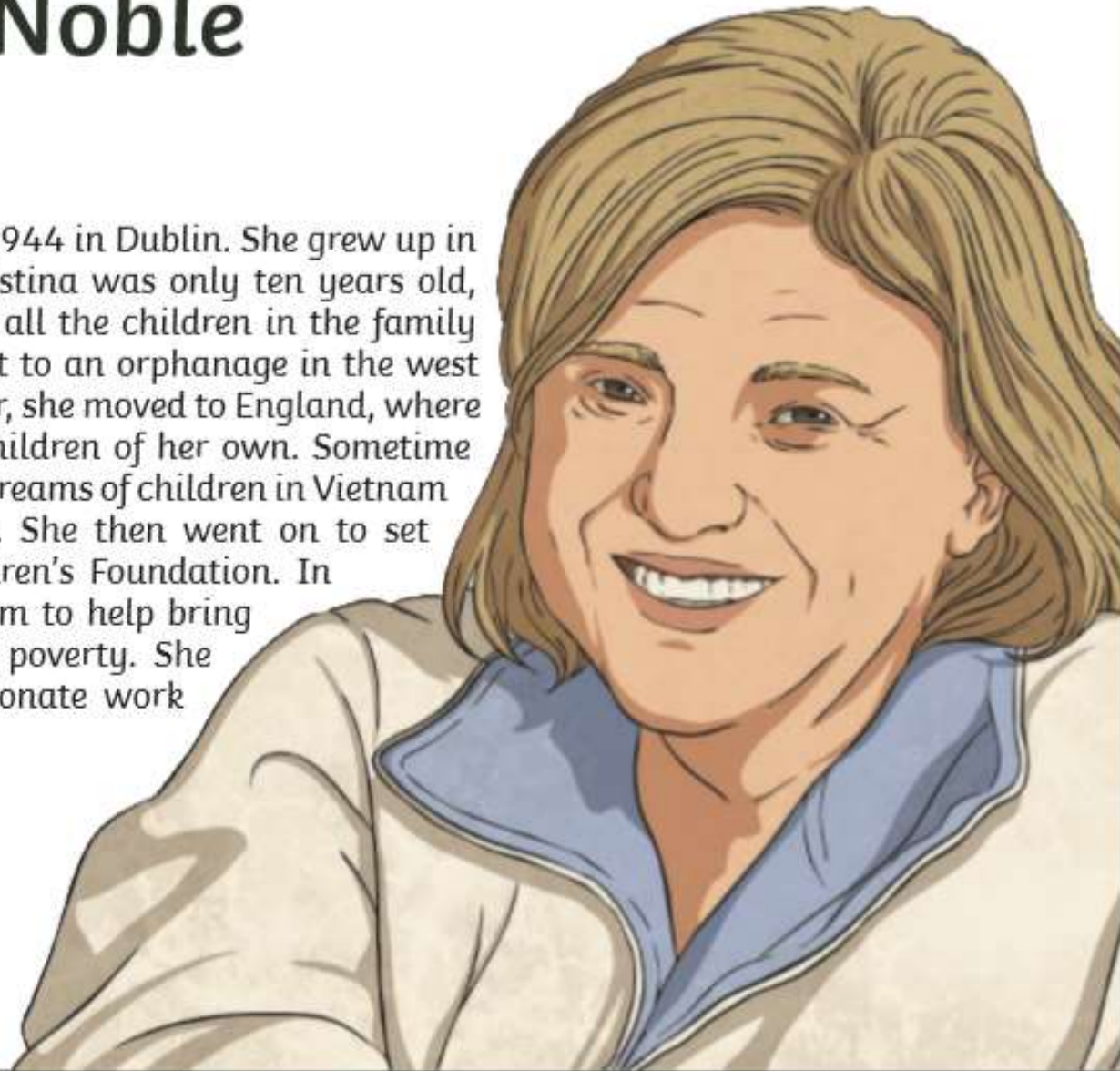
1914-1942

Ettie Steinberg and her son were Ireland's only Holocaust victims. She was born in the Czech Republic, which was known as Czechoslovakia at the time. Her parents and six siblings moved to Ireland in the early 1920s when she was a young child and they settled in Dublin. In 1937, she married a Belgian man named Vogtjeck Gluck and they moved to Antwerp in Belgium. They had one son, Leon. When the Second World War began, the family were forced to relocate for their own safety. After a number of moves, the family travelled to Toulouse in France. They were arrested there while they waited for Irish passports. Tragically, the passports arrived the day after they were arrested. When arrested, the family were forced onto an overcrowded train where Ettie wrote a secret coded Hebrew message to her Irish family, explaining what had happened to them. She threw this message out the window. A stranger found her note and posted it. When her family received it, they searched for her but it was too late. Ettie and her family had been taken to Auschwitz where they were killed.

Christina Noble

1944-present

Christina Noble was born in 1944 in Dublin. She grew up in the Dublin slums. When Christina was only ten years old, her mother died, resulting in all the children in the family being separated. She was sent to an orphanage in the west of Ireland. When she was older, she moved to England, where she married and had three children of her own. Sometime later, she began to have vivid dreams of children in Vietnam calling for her to help them. She then went on to set up the Christina Noble Children's Foundation. In 1989, she travelled to Vietnam to help bring relief to families affected by poverty. She later expanded her compassionate work to Mongolia.



Katie Taylor

1986-present

Katie Taylor was born on the 2nd July 1986. She is an Irish athlete who competes in lightweight boxing. At the young age of 12, Katie's father began to coach her. Katie has achieved many victories throughout her career and represented Ireland at many world events. She won a gold medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Katie won four gold medals at the World Amateur Championships. She also won five gold medals at the European Amateur Championships. Katie currently holds the world title for lightweight boxing.

