



# International Women's Day Lecture

Hosted by

## The School of Nursing & Midwifery

**'An Unbelievable Journey'**

**Baroness May Blood, MBE**

**Thursday 6th March 2014 at 5.30pm** followed by a drinks reception

**VENUE:- Lecture Theatre 2, MBC**

**May Blood, Baroness Blood MBE** of Blackwatertown is a Labour member of the House of Lords.

Baroness Blood was born and raised in Belfast and worked in a linen mill from 1952-90 where she soon became an active member of the Amalgamated and General Workers trade union and shop steward. She was involved in creating the women's committee in the union and promoting equality for women at work.

Later she worked as a manager of Cairn Martin Wood Products from 1991-94.

Since 1994, she has been an Information Officer of the Greater Shankill Partnership and is a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

In 1995 Ms Blood was given the Global Citizens Award alongside other notaries, Mary Robinson, Jimmy Carter, Boutros Boutros Ghali and Nelson Mandela.

In 1999 May was raised to the peerage as **Baroness Blood**, of Blackwatertown in the County of Armagh. She was the first woman in Northern Ireland to be so honoured.

She was awarded a Doctorate by the University of Ulster and also received an honorary DUniv from the Queen's University of Belfast in 2000 and the Open University in 2001. Her portrait hangs in the Great Hall, Queen's University of Belfast.

Baroness Blood is Chair of Shankill Sure Start/Early Years Project and also of Impact Training, helping children and youth in the Shankill area of Belfast towards a better future. She is also NI Chair and UK Trustee of Barnardos.

Since joining the Integrated Education Fund in 2000 as a volunteer fundraiser, Baroness Blood is now Chair of Campaign and has helped raise around £10,000,000 towards ensuring children of all traditions in Northern Ireland can go to school together.

In 2007, she published her autobiography, *Watch my Lips, I'm Speaking*.

Baroness Blood's main interest's are integrated education and issues concerning children and women's rights.



**Everyone welcome: to confirm a place at this lecture please contact Gillian Higgins: [g.higgins@qub.ac.uk](mailto:g.higgins@qub.ac.uk) or telephone 028 9097 2639 by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014**

