

 OVER 

---

---

**100 YEARS**

---

---

**FIGHTING FOR  
RETAIL, BAR AND  
ADMINISTRATION  
WORKERS**



**MANDATE**  
TRADE UNION



CISSIE  
CAHALAN

## Cissie Cahalan

(1876-1948) trade unionist, feminist, and school-teacher's daughter, was born in Tipperary or Cork. She earned her living as a shop worker in Dublin, mostly at Arnotts of Henry Street. She was a member of the Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association (IDAA, now Mandate) from its earliest years, and a campaigner for women's suffrage in the Irish Women's Franchise League (IWFL) from 1908.

The different worlds of her activism came together in 1912. A seasoned speaker on suffrage platforms, she was an IWFL delegate seeking Dublin Trades Council's support for women's suffrage. She headed the IDAA Dublin branch's new Ladies Committee and wrote for the union journal. Cahalan supported inclusive trade unions for all shop workers, women and men, and campaigned for equal pay. In 1918 she headed a strike at Arnott's that won a 30 per cent pay increase. She attended the Irish Trade Union Congress (ITUC) as an IDAA delegate from 1917, serving on the executive from 1922 to 1923, when she resigned in protest at inaction about internment.

She was elected president of the IDAA in 1922, 1923 and 1924, winning a minimum wage and ending the "living-in" system. Cahalan combined her commitments with a demanding day job until 1932. She wrote for her union journal in the 1930s. She was a lifelong friend of Hanna Sheehy Skeffington. In 1932 she married John Burns, and was widowed in 1936. She worked part-time at St Ultan's hospital. She died on August 27th, 1948.



**MANDATE**  
TRADE UNION



PATRICK  
MORAN

## Patrick Moran

(1888–1921) was a grocer's assistant, trade unionist and member of the Irish Republican Army executed in Mountjoy Prison along with five other men on 14 March 1921. He is one of the Forgotten Ten.

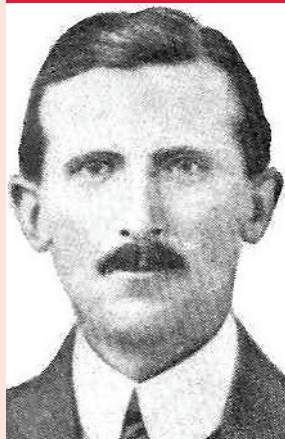
Moran was born in Crossna, County Roscommon. He was the third of eleven children of Bartholemew and Brigid Moran, and attended primary school in Crossna before going to work as a grocer's assistant in Boyle. In 1911 he settled in Dublin.

An active member of the G.A.A., he was involved in the 1913 Dublin Lock-out. He was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Volunteers. As Adjutant of D Company, 2nd Battalion of the Dublin section of the Volunteers he fought in the Jacob's Factory Garrison during the Easter Rising of 1916 under Thomas MacDonagh. In the aftermath of the Rising he was imprisoned at Knutsford Prison and later at Frongoch. He was tried in Wormwood Scrubs and released in July 1916.

In 1917, he was a founder of the Irish National Union of Vintners, Grocers and Allied Trades Assistants. He went on to serve as the organisation's president and chairman of its Kings-town (Dun Laoghaire) branch.



**MANDATE**  
TRADE UNION



# Michael O'Lehane

(1873-1920) was an Irish trade unionist. Born near Macroom in County Cork. Michael studied at the North Monastery before completing an apprenticeship as a draper. He moved to Limerick in 1898 to work for Cannocks, where he contracted typhoid and narrowly escaped death. Following his recovery, he moved to Dublin to work at Arnotts. While there, he founded the Irish Drapers' Assistants Association (IDAA).

In 1902, O'Lehane travelled around Ireland, recruiting members for the IDAA, with a branch being set up in Galway and over the next few years in other towns and cities. The union focused its campaigns on reducing working hours, creating a half-day holiday per week, and setting up agreements to cover overtime pay. The IDAA attracted particular attention for recruiting women. By 1914, 1,400 of its 4,000 members were women.

The IDAA proved successful, and O'Lehane was elected to other positions in the union movement: President of Dublin Trades Council in 1909, and President of the Irish Trades Union Congress in 1912. He was also elected to the Dublin Corporation in 1907, representing Kilmainham as an independent labour member. In 1994, IDATU merged with the Irish National Union of Vintners', Grocers' and Allied Trades Assistants to form Mandate.

MICHAEL  
O'LEHANE



**MANDATE**  
TRADE UNION