

Deirdre McGarry is a community arts and political activist and poet who lives in Wexford. She is a retired criminal lawyer who spent her working life in Leeds and Bradford in England.

She is now widowed, having been her husband Ed's carer till he died in early 2024, after suffering with Lewy Body Dementia. She has now become part of the PPI group of Emerald Lewy Ireland bringing her lived experience to help in their groundbreaking research programme. While her husband was alive, they made an 80-minute documentary film charting his dementia journey and she published an emotional poetry book detailing her own journey.

She ran a drop-in art group for carers, while Ed was alive. Now she hosts a long running open mic called Outspoken and founded and edits Wexford Women Writing Undercover. She is a member of the Purple and Gold Writers collective.

Some 8 years ago with her husband she founded and still co-chairs the annual Frederick Douglass Civil Rights Festival in Wexford. She has been a member of the Palestine Solidarity campaign for some 30 years, and since March has been fasting weekly for 24 hours currently at her local Council headquarters, hoping to get local politicians to take action against Israel, by ending contracts. She is an active member of Sinn Féin, hoping to see a United Ireland in her lifetime, neutrality enshrined, and a change of Government.