

**Victim Impact Statement: Sinéad O'Carroll**

Although I didn't - and still don't - know anything about Brendan Doolin, he has been a constant part of my life for the better part of a decade. It is something I have had no choice or control over.

His persistent contact, the bombardment of insults and his ability to encroach on the most pleasant of days were matters I felt I had to figure out how to treat as everyday, normal occurrences. To me, it was part of my job, and part of my life as a woman working on the Internet.

It was only on hearing that he was doing the same thing to a number of other women did I realise that what he was doing was massively problematic, and a crime.

I am also acutely aware that there will be some people who will see this as harmless, and I empathise with that because I also thought it was harmless. But it is not. Every email received, every contact, every message after midnight had a negative impact.

I remember one particular contact where he sent me details of a public event to which my name was attached along with an accompanying message of disgust and insult. I stood at the top of that room, microphone in hand, doing my job but also wondering if the man who quite obviously hated me was sitting in the same room. Would he say something? Would he escalate his campaign in any way?

It is just one small example of how online harassment is not just about what happens online. I thought long and hard about giving a victim impact statement because I don't feel like a victim but I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how this situation unfolded. Maybe one other person will realise what is being done to them isn't ok. And maybe one more person will realise what they are doing is not ok.

I thank the gardaí for their care and attention in how they went about investigating this case; and I'm particularly grateful to Colm Gallagher and the other detectives and inspectors who went out of their way to explain that this was not something that I had to put up with because of my gender or my job.

I am also hopeful that Mr Doolin understands the impact of what he has done and will get any necessary support he needs to live a full and happy life. As I said, I do not feel like a victim and don't wish to speak about Mr Doolin or this case again. Thanks very much for your time.