

Joanne O’Riordan – D&I

Joanne O’Riordan, one of only seven people globally born with Total Amelia—a condition where she was born without all four limbs—has become a leading advocate for people with disabilities. Despite the absence of a medical explanation for her condition, Joanne and her family have never let it hinder her ambitions. She first made headlines as a teenager when she confronted former Taoiseach Enda Kenny about proposed disability funding cuts.

In 2012, she delivered an inspiring speech at the United Nations, challenging global leaders to develop technology that empowers disabled individuals. Her activism earned her the title of Young Person of the Year at the People of the Year Awards in 2012. Joanne is also a motivational speaker and sports columnist with *The Irish Times*, and she was the subject of the 2013 documentary *No Limbs No Limits*.

Joanne has used technology to enhance her abilities and independence, excelling in her studies and community. Her work and life serve as an inspiring example to both able-bodied and disabled individuals, demonstrating that determination and adaptability can lead to a fulfilled and impactful life.

