

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MATTER

VOTE
YES
ON MAY 22ND

Stories from Across Ireland



Mamo McDonald and Babs Keating say
'I'm Voting Yes' ...see more inside





"When Riyadh came out, we instantly felt sadness. Not that he was gay, but that somehow he felt that we would reject him. It did take time for us to adjust and understand that yes; our beautiful son was going to face stigma, discrimination and possibly isolation from certain parts of society. Having a gay son has made us see that his love for a partner is exactly the same as ours. It makes us sad to think that there is one rule for Riyadh and another for his brother. We treat every member of this family the same and we expect our country to do so too. Equality for both our children. That is why we will be voting yes."

Sam and Lorraine Khalaf with their son Riyadh



"I'm 90. I have 14 children, 25 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. I'm a practising Catholic. I wouldn't miss Mass for anything. God made us all and he made us all equal. Everybody should have the opportunity to get married, and gay and lesbian people should have been free to get married years ago. Now is a great opportunity for everybody to get out and vote Yes. I think it's very important."

Madeline Connolly. Mother, grandmother and great-grandmother



ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Isn't civil partnership the same as marriage?

IT ISN'T. It is a separate and unequal institution.

Civil partnership doesn't give lesbian and gay people Constitutional protection, and doesn't have the same status or meaning as marriage.

"Being raised in a family with our two mums has been a wonderful experience for both of us. We always felt loved by our mothers, our dad, our uncles, aunts, cousins, grannies and granddads. We are now both in college, and between college, friends and boyfriends, it's an active life.

One of our most wonderful times was being with our mums, Grainne and Orla, when they were married in New York in 2014. Our whole family is voting yes because we want our parents' marriage to be recognised here in Ireland. We want our family to have the same recognition and protection that our friends' families have."

Daire and Clare O'Connell



Vote YES on May 22nd



"Our family is based on values of love, respect and acceptance. We've had four weddings so far, and I'd really like Anna to have the same opportunities as the rest of my family. She's equal in my eyes. Having thought and talked about it over the last few years as a family we know we're doing the right thing by voting yes."

Eileen Nolan and her family



"We've been married 55 years and we've experienced the joy and fulfilment of marriage, and we've seen our children have the same blessings. Our lives would have been much poorer and less fulfilled without the richness of marriage. We want to see our daughter Joan and her partner of 16 years, Oliva, married. They deserve the same recognition and protections for the same love, companionship and protections that Pat and I have shared."

Paddy and Pat O'Brien

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Is the referendum about adoption?

IT ISN'T. Whether there is a Yes or No vote, lesbian and gay couples will still be able to apply to be considered as adoptive parents along with single people and cohabiting and married couples.



Sports Stars call for a Yes

Rory O'Carroll, Conor Cusack, Shane Horgan, Mark Coughlan and Karl Dias have played sport for their clubs. They have battled for victory with their fellow team mates – gay and straight. Together they are calling for a level playing pitch in Irish society. Believing that all their team mates and friends should have equality, they are asking for a Yes vote. These sporting heroes believe that every team member should have the same opportunities, rights and protections. Sport is tough but inequality is tougher – they ask for a yes vote so that all sportsmen and sportswomen can share the freedom to marry.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Is the referendum about surrogacy?

IT ISN'T. The Government has committed to bring forward proposals to regulate surrogacy. When it does, all citizens will be subject to that regulation. Marriage does not give a right to assisted human reproduction, especially surrogacy.

Surrogacy has nothing to do with voting in this referendum. It has been raised to take attention away from the real issue of civil marriage equality.

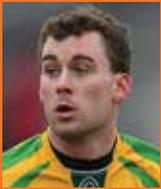
Voices for Yes



BABS KEATING,
TIPPERARY ALL-IRELAND WINNING
PLAYER AND MANAGER.
"I'm voting Yes. Gay people are our
friends and neighbours and should
have the same rights as I do."



MAMO MCDONALD,
HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH
COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
"Family is so important to all of
us in Ireland and that's why I am
voting Yes."



EAMON MCGEE,
DONEGAL FOOTBALLER
"If I'm lucky enough to have a child,
he or she might be gay and I'd like
them to be able to marry"



FERGUS FINLAY,
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE
"What every child deserves is love,
respect, safety. There is not a shred
of evidence anywhere in the world
that says the nature or gender or
sexual orientation of the parent is
more important than the quality
and commitment of the parenting."

The Case for Yes

- Marriage matters in Ireland. It is the secure foundation on which society thrives. Lesbian and gay couples have been excluded from marriage. In the referendum you are being asked to share the freedom to marry by voting Yes.
- The Constitutional status of marriage will remain unchanged after the referendum. The independent Referendum Commission has confirmed this.
- The referendum on marriage equality is about giving equal rights to all citizens to choose civil marriage.
- Extending the right to marry to all couples takes nothing from those who already have the right. It extends fairness and equality to all.
- This referendum concerns civil marriage in a registry office. It will not affect religious marriage. Churches will still be free to make their own decisions. Churches cannot be forced to marry people who are divorced, they will not have to marry lesbian or gay couples.
- A Yes vote would show that we support family life in Ireland. It will acknowledge the importance of stability, commitment and mutual support in our family lives. It would be a vote for family values that recognises the diversity of family life in Ireland.
- A Yes vote is informed by Irish values. Inclusivity, fairness and equality are important to all of us.

Full Wording of the Marriage Equality Referendum

You are being asked in the referendum to add the following words to the Constitution:

Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.

SAMPLE BALLOT PAPER SHOWN BELOW

An bhfuil tú ag toiliú leis an togra chun an Bunreacht a leasú atá sa Bhille thíosluaite?

Do you approve of the proposal to amend the Constitution contained in the undermentioned Bill?

An Bille um an gCeathrú Leasú is Tríocha ar an mBunreacht (Comhionannas Pósta), 2015

Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (Marriage Equality) Bill 2015

Ná cuir marc **ach san aon chearnóg amháin**
Place a mark in **one square only**

Má thoilíonn tú, cuir X sa chearnóg seo
If you **approve**, mark X in this square

Mura dtoilíonn tú, cuir X sa chearnóg seo
If you do **not approve**, mark X in this square.....

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tá Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Níl No

Vote **YES** on May 22nd. Find out more at www.yesequality.ie