



Press Release: Sept 3rd 2012

Dublin City Council pass Motions supporting Marriage for Lesbian and Gay couples.

Tonight, Sept 3rd, Dublin City Council overwhelmingly passed motions which support the opening up of civil marriage to all citizens 'regardless of sexuality'.

GLEN strongly welcomes the Dublin City Council motions. **"This is another welcome demonstration of the transformation in attitudes to lesbian and gay people in Ireland. Based on the success of civil partnerships, political and public support for civil marriage is growing rapidly"** said Brian Sheehan, Director of GLEN.

"Today's motions in Dublin City Council are further evidence that the tide of public and political opinion has shifted towards an acceptance of marriage for same-sex couples. We commend the Councillors on passing the motions." continued Brian Sheehan.

Over 400 lesbian and gay couples from Dublin have entered civil partnerships since they first became available in April 2011. This is more than half of the 750 couples that entered civil partnerships up to June 2012. These figures do not take account of the hundreds of lesbian and gay couples living in Dublin who have had civil marriages or civil partnerships abroad that are now recognised in Ireland as civil partnerships.

"Civil partnership delivers almost all the rights and obligations of civil marriage to lesbian and gay couples. Civil marriage would achieve full constitutional equality for lesbian and gay couples, and would send out a powerful message that same-sex relationships are equal to others" said Sheehan.

Dublin City Council has strongly supported lesbian and gay inclusion in the City over many years. They support the second biggest public parade – the Pride Parade – each year, and support many other LGBT cultural events.

Two motions were debated together in Dublin City Council chambers tonight. One was from the Labour Party the other from Sinn Fein. Both proposed that the Council support civil marriage for all citizens, 'regardless of race, religion or sexuality'.

"Dublin City Council, in passing motions on equal access to marriage for lesbian and gay couples, continues to demonstrate that equality, respect and progress are at the heart of a welcoming Dublin" said Sheehan.

“With the success of civil partnership in Ireland, the **next step for Ireland is to move to full Constitutional equality for lesbian and gay people by providing access to civil marriage.** This is not a massive legislative leap; it is the next step building on marriage-like civil partnership” concluded Sheehan.

Ends.

For further information:

Brian Sheehan, GLEN (086) 2330417

Tiernan Brady, GLEN (087) 8505972

*GLEN – Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, 2 Exchange Street Upper, Dublin 8,
t; + 353 1 6728650 m: + 353 86 2330417, www.glen.ie info@glen.ie*