



MEDIA RELEASE: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

CSO Statistics show that Civil Partnerships a huge success as we progress towards Marriage

As the **Central Statistics Office today (Sept 30, 2013) releases demographic details of the first year of civil partnerships – 2011** - the success of civil partnership continues. Over two thousand people have entered civil partnership since they first became available in April 2011 up to the end of June 2013.

“Civil Partnerships are a resounding success since they became available in 2011. Since then, over 1,000 lesbian and gay couples across every county in Ireland have celebrated their love and commitment to each other in front of family, friends and neighbours. In doing so, these couples have contributed enormously to the remarkable progress towards marriage and full constitutional equality for lesbian and gay couples and families” said Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.

536 couples entered civil partnership in 2011, the first year they became available. In total since then, 1,088 lesbian and gay couples had entered civil partnerships across every county in Ireland, up to the end of June 2013. A further 250 couples had given notice by the end of June 2013 that they will enter civil partnerships later this year.

Many hundreds more lesbian and gay couples have celebrated their commitment by entering civil partnerships or getting married abroad. These couples’ foreign legal relationships are recognised in Ireland as civil partnerships.

The Civil Partnership Act passed through the Oireachtas in July 2010 and the first public civil partnership was celebrated in April 2011. Civil Partnership provides almost all the legal rights and obligations that apply to civil marriage.

“The huge welcome for civil partnerships throughout the country shows that Ireland is ready to take the next step to provide for civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples” said Rose.

The Constitutional Convention overwhelmingly voted for marriage in April this year and the Government have until November to decide to accept that proposal and give a timetable for a referendum.

The Constitutional Convention also voted overwhelmingly to recognise and support lesbian and gay headed families. The Government have committed in the current legislative programme to bring forward legislation to address this urgent issue.

Ends

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Editors Note:

1. The CSO today released statistics giving detailed demographic breakdowns from 2011 - the first year of Civil Partnerships. Details [here](#).
2. The figures to the end June 2013 are compiled from data supplied by the General Registrars Office and reflect civil partnerships that have taken place up to 30th June 2013.
3. Details of the breakdown of the 1,088 couples by age, gender, nationality, place of ceremony and places where the couples live are available at the GLEN website [here](#).
4. Graphs and maps of the Civil Partnerships statistics are available at the GLEN website [here](#) including:
 - county by county distribution of civil partnership,
 - the Dublin postal district distribution
 - Age and Nationality distribution.