



Press Release 1st March 2014

Fine Gael Ard Fheis votes to support marriage in the forthcoming referendum

Members of Fine Gael at today's Ard Fheis in the RDS in Dublin voted to support marriage in the forthcoming referendum. The motion "That this Ard Fheis supports the passing of the forthcoming referendum on same-sex marriage" was passed by an overwhelming majority.

"The support by members of Fine Gael for the full and equal citizenship of lesbian and gay people is **deeply heartening and encouraging both for lesbian and gay and people and for the families of gay and lesbian people all over Ireland**" said Brian Sheehan, Director of GLEN, speaking from the Ard Fheis.

"The vote by Fine Gael members builds on **the historic commitment by the Government to hold a referendum in 2015 to allow lesbian and gay couples to marry in Ireland, and on the Taoiseach's support for the referendum**" continued Sheehan.

GLEN warmly thanks the members of Fine Gael. **Ireland is now in the remarkable position where all political parties support access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples.** Ireland has made huge progress in evolving towards civil marriage and full equality in the Constitution for lesbian and gay people and all political parties have played critically important roles in getting us this far.

"The vote by Fine Gael party members echoes the widespread public support for more than 1,500 Civil Partnership that have already been celebrated across every county in Ireland. The growing political and public support shows that Ireland is ready for the next step in the 20 year journey to civil marriage and full Constitutional equality for lesbian and gay people and families" concluded Sheehan.

Ends

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