



Press Release: Tuesday 23rd April 2013

Historic Progress as French Parliament Votes for Marriage

Today, 23rd April 2013, the French National Assembly voted to introduce a gender neutral marriage Bill, which makes marriage available to lesbian and gay couples.

“The vote of the French National Assembly is a further historic step in the journey to full equality for lesbian and gay people in France and contributes significantly to the growing International momentum for equality” said Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.

“The time is right, building on the increasing momentum internationally and on the progress to date in Ireland, to complete the remarkable journey to full Constitutional protection for lesbian and gay people and families in Ireland” continued Rose.

The Irish Constitutional Convention recently voted overwhelmingly to support access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples, which would provide full Constitutional protection for lesbian and gay people and families.

“Over the last 10 years, the issue of equal access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples has been the subject of considerable debate, analysis and consultation across Ireland. During that time support for equal access to marriage has consistently grown” said Rose.

“The overwhelming vote at the Constitutional Convention, the widespread celebration of civil partnerships all across the country and the growing public and political support for marriage mean that Ireland is now ready to move to the next step of providing access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples” concluded Rose.

Ends

For further information:

Brian Sheehan (GLEN) (086) 2330417

Editors Note:

France is the 14th country to provide access to marriage for lesbian and gay people, joining New Zealand who’s parliament voted for marriage last week and Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, South Africa and a number of US States. The UK is currently debating a Bill in Parliament to

introduce marriage in England and Wales. These countries brought in marriage through either votes at the National parliaments or through Court cases. Ireland would be the first country to introduce marriage based on a referendum.

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