



Press Release Wednesday 17th April 2013

GLEN Chair Appointed to the Human Rights and Equality Commission

The Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter TD., after an independent selection process, has appointed GLEN Chair and co-founder Kieran Rose as one of the members of the new Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), a merger of the old Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission.

“We are delighted that GLEN Chair Kieran Rose has been appointed to the IHREC. He has been a champion of human rights and equality over very many years, in particular for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. His appointment to the IHREC bodes well for a new understanding and implementation of human rights and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and for all people in Ireland” said GLEN Director Brian Sheehan.

“GLEN offers its congratulations to all those appointed to the IHREC. Together they can chart out a new future for human rights and equality in Ireland” said Sheehan.

The members of the new IHREC were appointed after an independent competitive selection process chaired by the Ombudsman Emily O’Reilly.

Kieran Rose is a long-time civil rights activist, trade union activist with LGPSU, IMPACT and ICTU and was the co-founder of GLEN 25 years ago and currently it’s Chair. He has played pivotal roles in securing decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1993; in the campaign for a wide basis for the equality legislation which resulted in the nine-ground (including sexual orientation) Equality legislation in 1998 and 2000 which established the Equality Authority and Equality Tribunal; and in the campaign for Civil Partnership and the progress towards marriage and full Constitutional equality for lesbian and gay people and families. Kieran works as a Senior Planner with the Office of International Relations and Research in Dublin City Council.

Kieran was a member of the Board of the Equality Authority from 2007 to 2012. He was a member of the Working Group established by the Minister for Justice and Equality to merge the Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission which proposed a range of measures to enhance the effectiveness of the human rights and equality framework in Ireland. All of the recommendations were accepted by the Minister and are included in the Heads of Bill published by the Minister to merge the two bodies into the IHREC.

“The work of the new IHREC will have a profound importance for the development and implementation of rights and equality for LGBT people in Ireland. Meaningful equality for LGBT people will be significantly enhanced by the proposal in the legislation for a positive duty on public bodies to have regard to equality and human rights in their activities and delivery of their services. We wish the new Commission well in their work.” concluded Sheehan.

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