



Press Release:

Huge Interest in Launch of Ireland's First Workplace Equality Index

Dublin: 10th February 2015 – GLEN, Gay and Lesbian Equality Network will today launch the Workplace Equality Index to find Ireland's best places to work for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people.

Companies employing over ½ million employees across the private, public, educational, community and voluntary sectors **will be attending** today's launch.

"The Workplace Equality Index will push top performing employers in Ireland to new heights. The Index will also provide a framework for employers tackling issues like harassment and homophobic bullying in the workplace" said **Davin Roche, Director of Workplace Diversity, GLEN.**

Research commissioned by GLEN found 30% of lesbian, gay and bisexual employees were harassed at work and over 10% quit a job because of discrimination. This research found that employees who were "out" at work were more committed to their employer than employees who were not "out" and reported a better working relationship with colleagues.

"The Workplace Equality Index launching today, is a critical way for employers to annually measure their efforts to tackle discrimination and create an inclusive workplace for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) employees." said **Sinéad Gibney, Director, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.**

Speaking at the launch of the Index **Peter O'Neill, Managing Director, IBM Ireland**, *"IBM wholeheartedly endorses the value of the Workplace Equality Index. It allows participating organisations to get an independent assessment of their LGBT diversity policies and practices. It provides us with an incentive to improve and demonstrates that diversity is vital to our success"*.

Entry to the Index is free and open to all employers. The winners will be announced September 22nd. Full details of the Index are available at www.workplaceequalityindex.ie

Ends

For further Information, Contact:

Davin Roche, Director Workplace Diversity, GLEN (087) 1319519

Eimear O' Reilly, Workplace Diversity Programme Officer, GLEN (087) 9543931

Notes to the Editor:

1. The launch will take place February 10th 8am to 10:00am, Royal College of Physicians, 6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Members of the media are welcome to attend.
2. Research Reference: *Working It Out: Driving Business Excellence by Understanding the Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Workplace Experiences*. McIntyre and Nixon, Trinity College Dublin 2014
3. The Workplace Equality Index has been funded by the Equality Mainstreaming Unit which is jointly funded by the European Social Fund and by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.