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## **Tánaiste confirms Marriage Referendum in lifetime of this Government**

Speaking at yesterday's Labour Youth Conference in Limerick, Tánaiste Eamonn Gilmore TD confirmed that a referendum to provide for civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples will be held 'in the lifetime of this government'.

*[A spokesperson for the Labour Party confirmed that Gilmore had indicated that he hoped to hold the referendum on same sex marriage in 2014, but that it could possibly be in the spring of 2015.]*

"We strongly welcome the commitment by the Tánaiste to hold a referendum in the lifetime of this Government. **We believe that the people of Ireland will continue their warm acceptance of lesbian and gay couples and families and that a yes vote can be carried in a referendum that would provide access to civil marriage**" said Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.

The Irish Constitutional Convention recently voted overwhelmingly to support access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples, thus providing full Constitutional protection for lesbian and gay people and families. The Convention has issued its report to the Government who are due to come back to the Dáil with their response in November.

The Government has committed to shortly bring forward legislation to recognise and support lesbian and gay headed families. "With this urgently needed legislation in place and with the comprehensive marriage-like rights and obligations of civil partnership, civil partners, including couples parenting children, would have almost all the legal rights of marriage except equal status and protection in the Constitution" 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 and full Constitutional protection for lesbian and gay people and families**" concluded Rose.

***Ends***

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**Editors Note:**

*thejournal.ie* quotes a spokesperson for the Labour Party who confirmed that Gilmore had indicated that he hoped to hold the referendum on same sex marriage in 2014, but that it could possibly be in the spring of 2015.