



Press Release: 14th August 2014

BAI Decision on marriage discussion raises worrying concerns about open public debate

“Can lesbian and gay people not now talk about their lives and their aspirations as Irish citizens on the airwaves, or about their experiences of love and commitment without somebody opposing them?” said **GLEN Chair Kieran Rose**, responding to today’s ruling by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland upholding a complaint on a discussion on civil partnership and civil marriage on RTE’s Derek Mooney show last January.

“Today’s ruling by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland raises **worrying concerns about the nature of debate and discussion on issues of current affairs across the airwaves in Ireland**” continued Rose.

“The ruling has **implications for all issues that are topics under public discussion, not just lesbian and gay issues**” said Rose.

“Does it now mean contributors to a broadcast programme may not now talk about possible future constitutional change on any issue, unless the programme segment has opposing views?” said Rose.

“We would have serious concerns that this ruling would restrict open debate on issues that directly impact lesbian and gay people in Ireland” concluded Rose.

Ends

Editors Note:

The decision of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland is available [here](#) and relates to a complaint about a RTE Radio 1 Derek Mooney Show in January 2014 which had an item discussing the latest Civil Partnership figures with RTE’s Michael Murphy and GLEN’s Tiernan Brady.

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