



Press Release: 8th May 2014

GLEN congratulates new Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald and pays tribute to former minister Alan Shatter TD.

GLEN congratulate Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD on her appointment as Minister for Justice and Equality. Minister Fitzgerald has been a long time advocate of legislative reform and equality for lesbian and gay people, including in her previous role as Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

Kieran Rose, chair of GLEN, said “We warmly congratulate Minister Fitzgerald on her appointment. **We look forward to working with her to achieve equality for lesbian and gay people in Ireland and in particular on the Government priority issue of family law reform, on which so much work has already been done by the previous Minister and the Department of Justice and Equality**”.

“The Ministers desk is a full one, and includes the Children and Family Relationships Bill, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014, and the ongoing preparations for the referendum on equal access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay people next year. These two key pieces of legislation, building on the successful implementation of Civil Partnerships, will complete the journey to constitutional equality for lesbian and gay people” said Rose.

GLEN also paid tribute to former Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter T.D., on his stepping down from office.

“As Minister for Justice and Equality, **Alan Shatter was instrumental in delivering very significant progress for lesbian and gay people across a broad range of areas**, for which we express our deep appreciation and thanks” said Rose.

“Most recently he has led the development of the Children and Family Relationships Bill, which aims to ensure that children in all families will be treated equally, including children in lesbian and gay headed families. **Former Minister Shatter can feel rightly proud of the role he has played in developing and advancing this legislation and on his track record of promoting equality, including for lesbian and gay people**, both in opposition and in Government” said Rose.

“**GLEN welcomes the appointment of Charlie Flanagan TD as the new Minister for Children and Youth Affairs**, another key department in the delivery of equality for LGBT people and their families. Charlie has been a committed supporter of equality throughout his parliamentary career, and we look forward to working with him in his new role” concluded Rose.

Ends

For Further Information, contact:

Brian Sheehan GLEN (086) 233 0417

Tiernan Brady GLEN (087) 850 5972

GLEN – Gay and Lesbian Equality Network

2 Exchange St Upper, Dublin 8 t: (01) 6728650

www.glen.ie info@glen.ie twitter: @GLEN_News FB: glenlgbt