



**Press Release: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

## **Positive Vatican Comments offers opportunity for changed relationship with lesbian and gay people.**

The Vatican today presented a document to the Synod of Bishops meeting in Rome in the presence of Pope Francis which contained some positive comments on lesbian and gay people.

**“Today’s comments from the Vatican suggest a change in the tone of the Catholic Church’s approach to gay people, and are welcome. The Vatican document provides an opportunity for the Catholic Church to change the way it treats lesbian and gay people”** said Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.

**“It is a welcome change to hear the Vatican talk about ‘accepting and valuing’ people’s sexual orientation, and builds on the comments of Pope Francis who last year when talking of gay people said ‘who am I to judge?’, said Rose.**

**“The Vatican document also recognises that across the world lesbian and gay couples are parenting children and acknowledges that the ‘needs and rights’ of their children should be give priority. We hope that the Vatican and the Irish Catholic Church will take the opportunity to support current proposals by the Irish Government to bring legal certainty and security to these families”** said Rose.

**“If the positive approach indicated today is adopted by the Synod, it holds out the possibility of a new engagement by the Catholic Church on civil rights issues, such as on civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples”** said Rose.

**“Irish people, the majority of whom are Catholic, support efforts to ensure the full participation of lesbian and gay people in all aspects of Irish society. We see this in the warm welcome for civil partnerships all across the country and in the widespread public support for access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples. The Irish Catholic Church’s response to forthcoming referendum on civil marriage will demonstrate the practical effects that this new openness from the Vatican is having”** said Rose.

Ends

### **For further information:**

Brian Sheehan      (086) 2330417  
Tiernan Brady      (087) 8505972

GLEN – Gay and Lesbian Equality Network  
2 Exchange Street Upper, Dublin 8  
t; + 353 1 6728650 m: + 353 86 2330417  
[www.glen.ie](http://www.glen.ie) [info@glen.ie](mailto:info@glen.ie)