



**Press release: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

## **New poll shows strong growth in support for marriage for lesbian and gay couples.**

A new poll conducted this week for the Sunday Times shows a **big increase in support for civil marriage over the last two years**. Support for constitutional change to allow equal access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples has grown to 73% since the previous similar poll in October 2012, which showed 66% support.

**“The Sunday Times Poll shows that a majority of the Irish people in every age group, in every region of the country, across every social class and across every political party now support equal access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples”** said Kieran Rose GLEN Chair.

**“It is clear from this poll and other recent polls that Irish people firmly accept that lesbian and gay couples should be afforded the same respect, legal status and protections that are available to the rest of society.”** continued Rose.

**“Today’s Sunday Times poll is another warm and welcome demonstration of the huge positive change in Ireland towards to lesbian and gay people over the last twenty years and of the generosity of Irish people in their willingness to extend equal status and dignity to lesbian and gay people and lesbian and gay headed families”** said Rose.

The poll question also showed clearly that Irish people want to **extend the protections available to lesbian and gay couples through civil partnership and move now to full access to civil marriage**.

**“Over 1500 couples have entered civil partnerships across every county in Ireland. The visibility of their love and commitment has played huge part in helping Irish people understand that lesbian and gay couples should have the same protections and status for their relationships as others. The poll shows that Irish people want to move to the next step of equal access to civil marriage building on the success of civil partnerships”** said Rose.

**“However, we do not take the outcome of the referendum for granted.** We look forward to widespread conversations with people all across the country to explain why marriage matters to lesbian and gay couples and to seek their vote in the forthcoming referendum” concluded Rose.

***Ends.***

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