

Press Release 25-March 2024: Referendum

The Referendum was a sinister attempt at advancing the global liberal agenda attacking women, mothers and family values. They thought that all they had to do was gaslight the Irish public by making us think that Article 41.2 was sexist and outdated and that this would install in the Irish psyche that this should be removed. They insinuated that Ireland is somewhat 'backward' so we should remove mothers and women from the Constitution to be progressive. This manipulation backfired as the decent women and men across Ireland used their voices at the poll to say what we thought about this attack. The Referendum result created a renewed faith in our Constitution, a renewed nationalism and this is something we should celebrate.

Two weeks on and the Government may still be asking that age old question "What do women want?" given they got it so wrong with the referenda that sought to erase women and mothers. We have been telling them forever but they failed to listen. They gave us the National Women's Council to tell us what we wanted. But they did not listen to women either. They told the Government what they wanted to hear so they could keep the money rolling in. The irony of NWCI and so called 'feminists' proclaiming that they represent women's rights when in fact they trampled all over them. How can it be that so-called feminists are lobbying to remove our rights to be more progressive? The NWCI, and many other NGOS, should be defunded immediately as they do not represent the women of Ireland.

If we didn't make it clear enough on the 8th of March, here is what women want.

We want recognition, protections and respect for our unique role and contribution. Article 41.2.2° needs to be not only honoured but also enhanced. We are caring for our most vulnerable people, our children, and we will not be tricked into giving away our rights. The Irish Constitution sets out protections for mothers and by extension protection for our children. 69% of Irish mothers surveyed stated they would prefer to stay home with their children if they could financially afford to do so. The vast majority of mothers want to raise their children in the home, not drop their babies to creche early in the morning and pick them up in the evening. However, many are forced to go out to work because of economic necessity although the Constitution recognises that this should not be the case. We should be lobbying for better protections such as 52 weeks paid maternity leave, not 26 weeks giving more women the choice to stay at home to raise their children.

In Sweden, parents are entitled to 480 days paid parental leave when a child is born or adopted. The mother and father are each entitled to 240 of those days and a single parent is entitled to a full 480 days. German organisations representing women use a similar clause to Article 41.2 in their Constitution as a source of litigation in relation to matters such as protection of expectant mothers, child benefit,

and so forth. Article 6.4 of the German Basic Law states: “Every mother shall be entitled to the protection and care of the community.” In Hungary, women who have four or more children have a lifetime exemption from paying tax. Being more ‘progressive’ would be reviewing Ireland’s legislation, instead of forcing us to be wage-slaves serving the interests of the financial corporations whilst the importance of raising our children is undermined.

Women do not want to be erased. To deny the unique role of women and mothers is to deny reality, to deny biology. We will never accept our laws and Constitution to become “gender neutral” . We are not chest-feeders, birthing people or people with a cervix. We do not want our safe spaces, toilets, changing rooms, female sports teams, or women’s shelters made gender neutral. We do not want the feelings of a tiny minority of men to trump the security and safety of all women and girls in Ireland. Men are men. Women are women. This has always been the case and to suggest otherwise is delusional and dangerous for women and girls. Woke is dead and it is time to reclaim common sense as the basis for our policies and laws.

As nurturers and protectors, women also do not want our children to be indoctrinated and sexualised. We strongly oppose childhood innocence being robbed by those who think it is somehow about diversity, kindness and inclusion.

The Natural Women’s Council wish to thank the Government and the NWCI for inadvertently reminding the nation of the Constitutional protections for mothers and children. In conclusion, what the Government of Ireland must do following the resounding defeat of its ill-advised referenda is the exact opposite of what it attempted to do; it must enact policies and legislation that support and protect mothers in the home raising children and it must protect women and girls outside of the home as well, ensuring that female only safe spaces stay just that. This is what women want.