
PRESS RELEASE

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NGO group seeks to enshrine Parental Equality into Constitution

Parental Equality, an NGO providing Shared Parenting Solutions since 1992 today called on the all-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution to enshrine the ethos of Shared Parenting into a modified Constitution.

“Our mission in Parental Equality is to seek, both through our own activities and through our involvement with the education of our future generation of parents, to play a proactive role in creating a culture of shared family responsibilities, enabling women and men equally, to realise their optimum potential, both in their family lives and careers.

This wording should be included to explicitly require the state to invoke policies and legislation which would incentivise the sharing of parental care between mothers and fathers and to implement positive practices which are geared to achieving the aspiration of a shared parenting culture within the richness of an extended family.

Parental Equality believe that where a male and female have consensual sex which results in a pregnancy, that in terms of society evaluating or adjudicating, either the behaviours that led towards this pregnancy, or whether such pregnancies, for example those outside marriage, are to be supported and promoted by society or whether there is an attempt to minimise their number and to ensure that pregnancies occur within a legally committed framework, then both the male and female concerned should be held equally accountable.

By supporting, or criticising, both the male and female involved on an equal basis there is a far greater probability that men and women might move from the model of blaming each other to concentrating on the job at hand, negotiating a co-operative arrangement to provide for their offspring. It is Parental Equality’s firm view that fathers and mothers, married and unmarried should by default, be automatic guardians of their children and should both be invested with equal legal guardianship rights.

The act of parenting and procreation creates the flow and supply of citizens for future generations. It is therefore in the area of parenting that Parental Equality would like to focus the minds of the all party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution, as the structures that support, regulate and protect the parenting function are ultimately the one vital element in ensuring continuity of the species in a sustainable society for future generations.

A full copy of Parental Equality's Submission is available both as a PDF download and as a streaming audio online at <http://www.parentalequality.ie/new/submission.php>

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