

What Women Want from the Next Irish Government

Women's manifesto Election 2007 National Women's Council of Ireland

Ireland will be a better place when we have:

- more women in positions of decision-making
- zero tolerance of violence against women
- sharing of care and household work
- economic equality between women and men
- equal respect and autonomy for all women, irrespective of diversity and difference



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More women in positions of decision-making

What Women Want from the Next Irish Government

- At least 40% of women in both houses of the Oireachtas, in political parties, in public appointments, at senior levels of the civil service, and on social partnership structures
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► Facts and statistics

- Only 13% of TDs and 19% of local councillors are women
- It will take 370 years for women to gain equal representation, at the current rate of change
- Under 6% of civil servants at Secretary General level are female; while 81% of clerical grade staff are women

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Zero tolerance of violence against women

What Women Want from the Next Irish Government

- Stronger legislation to protect victims of violence, and to hold those who perpetrate violence against women accountable to the criminal justice system
 - Adequate funding of services for survivors of violence
 - Enactment of legislation to prohibit trafficking of women
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► Facts and statistics

- One in five women experience significant physical, sexual or psychological abuse in the course of their lives
- 12,244 calls were made to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre in 2005
- 25% of all violent crimes reported involve a man assaulting his wife or partner
- Ireland is currently the only EU country not signed up to the EU Framework Decision on combating trafficking, taking account of the UN Protocol to prevent trafficking

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Sharing of care and household work

What Women Want from the Next Irish Government

- One year paid parental leave
- One year's free early education and a childcare place for every child before they attend primary school
- Publicly subsidised childcare to reduce the costs of childcare for all parents
- Full credits for care work and parenting

► Facts and statistics

- Parents in Ireland pay up to 90% of their childcare costs in comparison to parents in Sweden who pay 20% and Denmark 33%
- Ireland remains one of the few countries in the EU with no paid parental leave provision
- Low income parents who cannot afford to pay for childcare are often forced to settle for a lower quality of care

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Economic equality between women and men

What Women Want from the Next Irish Government

- Elimination of the gender pay gap
- A wage for all carers
- All women on social welfare to receive full payments in their own right
- Flexible, part-time education and training opportunities
- A full contributory pension for all women who spent time out of paid work to care for their children.
- A cost of disability payment

► Facts and statistics

- 19.9% of women are at risk of poverty
- Lone parents face a 42% risk of poverty; and women aged 65 and older have a 45% risk of poverty compared to 34% of men
- The gender pay gap in Ireland is 14%
- People with disabilities have extra costs, of heating, transport and general day to day living, that are not covered by state assistance

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Equal respect and autonomy for all women, irrespective of diversity and difference

What Women Want from the Next Irish Government

- Recognition of the right to a family life for all migrants in Ireland
- A Joint Labour Committee for domestic workers
- Recognition of Travellers as a minority ethnic group in Ireland
- Equitable access to women's health services, addressing in particular the needs of older women and socially disadvantaged groups
- Free and regular cervical screening nationwide available to women of all ages
- Free and prompt breast cancer screening for women in all areas of the country
- Legislation to ensure women's full reproductive rights
- Positive public messages that affirm in women and girls the value of self worth and achievement, and that celebrate diversity

► Facts and statistics

- Ireland will need approximately 420,000 new workers from 2001 – 2010, many of whom have and will be recruited from outside Ireland.
- The 2006 Census suggests that there are now around 400,000 non-Irish nationals in the Republic representing 9.4%
- The right to family life is of immense importance to many migrants and in particular to migrant women who have been forced to leave their children and families behind when they emigrate to Ireland.
- Infant mortality rates amongst the Traveller community are 3 times that of the settled community, life expectancy for Traveller women is 12 years less than for settled women.
- Poverty has a significant negative impact on health. Women from lower socio-economic groups have a higher incidence of cardiovascular disease, the major cause of death among Irish women.
- 7,000 Irish women choose abortion annually. The decision of the Supreme Court in the X case has yet to be ratified through the introduction of appropriate legislation.