

## **Ireland voted in the European and Local elections, on 23 May, 2014.**

- **195 women elected to Local Government, 6 seats yet to be allocated**
- **Women secured 6 of the 11 Irish seats in Europe**
- **Women topped the poll in both bi-elections held on the same day.**

The National Women's Council of Ireland welcome the increase in the number of women elected to local councils, and in the Dáil, and call on political parties to continue showing their commitment to getting more women involved in politics.

Following the election of Ruth Coppinger and Gabrielle McFadden to represent the people of Dublin West, and Longford Westmeath, the number of women in Dáil Éireann has increased to 27, or 16 percent.

Women currently hold 195, 20.5 percent, of the 949 local election seats across the country, with six seats yet to be filled. This is a 3.5 percent minimum increase of elected women on the outgoing local authority.

It must be noted however that there is still an urban and rural divide, with Dublin City Council having just exceeded the 30 percent quota, with 19 women and 44 men. In Clare just three women were elected to sit alongside 29 men.

Six women were elected to represent Ireland in the European Parliament, making up 54 percent, of the 11 seats. This is an increase on the previous term, where Ireland was represented by five women, 41 percent, in what was then a 12 seat constituency.

Louise Glennon, Women in Politics and Decision Making Officer at NWCi said, "The number of women elected to local government has increased, albeit by just over three percent. This is a clear sign that the impending gender quotas legislation is having a positive impact. Women deserve and need to be at the table where decisions that affect all our lives are made. We hope this is the start of real change."

Orla O'Connor, Director of NWCI commented,

“We need to see more women and men working towards women’s equality, this can only happen if there are more women at the decision making table. We are being told that Ireland is on the road to recovery, yet this is not true for many women. Men leave the Live Register four times faster than women. Employment for women under 35 is falling, even as overall employment improves. The majority of emigrants under 25 are women. NWCI looks forward to working with all those newly elected politicians to advance the issues that will make a real difference to women’s lives and make society better for both women and men.”

Louise Glennon concluded,

“It is imperative that parties continue to invest in getting more women into politics, and that we see a real commitment to change the male dominated culture of Leinster House. The most recent elections have proven a proud moment for all the women who put themselves forward, whether they were elected or not. They had huge barriers to overcome and we believe that the increased visibility of women throughout this campaign will encourage more women to stand in the General Elections. The work continues.”

ENDS

This statement was last updated on 29, May, 2014.