



Ireland's Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality

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Presentation outline

- ❑ Background to Ireland's Citizens' Assemblies
- ❑ Topics for Assembly on Gender Equality
- ❑ Methodology & features of Assembly
- ❑ Moving online
- ❑ Lessons learnt
- ❑ Next steps

Ireland's previous Citizens' Assemblies

1. Constitutional Convention 2013-2014

- ❑ 99 members including 33 politicians
- ❑ All constitutional matters
- ❑ Included marriage equality

2. Citizens' Assembly 2016-2018

- ❑ 99 members
- ❑ 5 topics not all constitutional
- ❑ Included Eighth Amendment (abortion)

Topics in Resolution from parliament (1)

Make recommendations to advance gender equality by bringing forward proposals to:

- challenge the remaining barriers & social norms & attitudes that facilitate gender discrimination towards girls and boys, women and men
- identify & dismantle economic & salary norms that result in gender inequalities & reassess economic value placed on work traditionally held by women
- seek to ensure women's full and effective participation & equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in the workplace, politics and public life

Topics in resolution - continued

... bring forward proposals to:

- recognise the importance of early years parental care & seek to facilitate greater work-life balance
- examine the social responsibility of care & women & men's coresponsibility for care, especially within the family;
- scrutinise the structural pay inequalities that result in women being disproportionately represented in low pay sectors.

And

To prioritise the proposals, which may include policy, legislative or constitutional change, having regard to the legal requirements and the costs versus the potential impact.

Main features of Assembly

- ❑ 99 members selected randomly
- ❑ Gender, age, region, social class
- ❑ Eligible to vote in referendum
- ❑ Plan to meet in hotel over weekends every 4-6 weeks
- ❑ Public consultation process- academic analysis of responses
- ❑ Expert Advisory Group
- ❑ Steering group
- ❑ Researcher to analyse deliberative quality of Assembly

Pre-Covid plan

- ❑ First short introductory meeting 25 January 2020
- ❑ Thematic weekend meetings February - July 2020 in hotel
- ❑ Formal in person voting at voting booths
- ❑ One in-person full meeting 15-16 Feb 2020



An Tionól
Saoránach
The Citizens'
Assembly

Social norms and attitudes

- Higher education
- Higher income
- Higher employment
- Higher education
- Higher income
- Higher employment
- Higher education
- Higher income
- Higher employment
- Higher education
- Higher income
- Higher employment

An Tionól
Saoránach
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Then Covid...

- ❑ Consultation with other Assemblies
- ❑ Survey of members- preferences? equipment? online experience?
- ❑ Pilot event in July 2020
- ❑ Positive response - decided to move online
- ❑ Shorter meetings – one day, 4 hours
- ❑ Video presentations sent in advance- still experts, advocacy, personal experience
- ❑ Most time in small break-out groups on Zoom
- ❑ Optional Evening meetings



Voices of the members'

- Video

https://youtu.be/O_FLG19c1s4

Online Programme

- ❑ October Leadership, politics & public life
- ❑ November Work and Social Protection part 1
- ❑ December Work and Social Protection part 2
- ❑ January Care
- ❑ February Ballot paper on Article 41 of constitution
- ❑ March Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence
Ballot paper on care
- ❑ 17 & 18 April Agree remainder of ballot paper & e-voting

Ballot paper & voting

- ❑ Long list of 500 recommendations from discussions & surveys
- ❑ Distilled to 3 draft ballot paper surveys on survey monkey
- ❑ Sent to members & amended based on feedback
- ❑ Discussed in breakout groups at meetings
- ❑ Wording of ballot questions including amendments agreed by Zoom poll
- ❑ Final voting done on separate e-voting system
- ❑ Voting results announced at public online event- 24 April 2021
- ❑ Report submitted to parliament - 2 June 2021

45 Recommendations including

Constitution : Replace Article 41.2 with provision recognising and committing to support care; Recognise non-marital family & insert gender equality & non-discrimination clause

Also:

- Strengthen and extend gender quotas,
- Triple public expenditure on childcare & move to public model,
- Align National Minimum Wage with a Living Wage
- Various recommendations to support carers; eliminate domestic, sexual & gender-based violence; advance equality in leadership; tackle gender norms and stereotypes.

Reflections

- ❑ Member selection- new approach, more diversity
- ❑ Suitable topics
- ❑ Pros and cons of online

Some more members' reflections:

<https://youtu.be/43i3KFyDdpc>

Next steps

- ❑ Parliamentary committee to consider report of this Assembly
- ❑ 4 new topics in current Programme for Government:
 - Directly elected mayor and local government for Dublin
 - Biodiversity
 - Matter related to drug use
 - The future of education
- ❑ Approach being considered in light of this Assembly

Any questions?

- Further information, videos, reports and transcripts @ www.citizensassembly.ie

