

Statement:

14/05/2015:

WCTU:

Waterford Council of Trade Unions calls for a Yes in Equality Referendum.

The Waterford Council of Trade Unions believes a Yes vote would be a huge step in achieving legislative equality for same sex couples. The polls indicate this referendum is likely to pass. This is indicative of how working people in Ireland now favour a more progressive, secular society.

Therefore it is important not to lapse into complacency. A Yes vote would be a historic breakthrough for LGBTQ rights and a significant step away from the repressive past. The momentum around this campaign could push for real change and challenge homophobia in all sections of society.

WCTU calls for the abolition of all homophobic laws such as section 37.1 of the Employment Equality Acts which allows for schools to fire, or not hire, people whose sexual orientation, gender identity or family status is not in line with their religious ethos.

Marriage is a civil right and should be available to all citizens whatever their gender. People should be free to marry if that is what they wish.

The Dail must ensure a secular and comprehensive sex education programme as part of a school's curriculum.

The referendum is not about the care of children. Gay People, Widows and Widowers and single people have all raised children, and there is no "Ideal" family to which we should be forced to conform.

WCTU are strongly committed to working for an equal society in which everyone is entitled to the same rights and protections.

We strongly support the Yes Equality campaign and call on all working people to support our Brothers and Sisters by voting YES for this essential legislation.

For further Info or v/p contact Trevor Skelton President WCTU 0862686073.