

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION - CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON GENDER EQUALITY 2020

## QUESTIONNAIRE

CA30041

Name: Name with Secretariat

### Theme 1: Gender norms and stereotypes

#### Gender norms and stereotypes as barriers to gender equality

Fixed ideas about what women and men should do in the home or at work are learned by girls and boys in early childhood and throughout their lives. These ideas or gender stereotypes affect their choices in school and as they enter careers and contribute to a lack of progress toward equality between women and men. This limits not only the jobs that women and men consider or are available to them, but also can exclude women and men from social roles and tasks.

- Please outline what you see as the key barriers/ obstacles and challenges to gender equality under this theme in law, policy and practice.

The treatment of males in the family courts is absolutely unacceptable. Men are stereotyped as violent and abusive. In court a female judge pronounced to us all (10 people in total including the judge) "IF A WOMAN SAYS SOMETHING THEN SHE HAS TO BE BELIEVED, WOMEN HAVE TO BE BELIEVED, WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT." Obviously as the only man out of 10 people I wasn't in agreement with that statement especially when I am 100% certain that my ex wife was completely lying. Women are dominating the family courts, in phoenix House in Dublin there are no male judges. I tried to tell the judge that I was not in agreement with her statement and she said that she would put me into custody for contempt if I said one more word. Clearly she was not applying the law without fear or favor. I wasn't aware that being a woman meant that you were always truthful.

- Please identify the steps to be taken to address the issues raised and who should address them (e.g. the state, private sector, education system etc.)

The family Courts should be completely reformed. I have had over 70 appearances everyone in front of a female judge and in 66 of them I was the only male. I have been threatened with jail over 25 times ( i was respectful at all times and was on each occasion just trying to answer questions or express my concerns and opinions freely as is mine and every other citizens constitutional right) I have been discriminated against by the courts and abused by both court clerks and judges and denied my constitutional rights all because I'm a man. This is all hidden by the secret family courts. I have never ever been abusive to anyone let alone a woman and especially the mother of our children. I work in [REDACTED] and I am in charge of a whole department on both male and females and have always treated everyone equally and fairly. I have been demonised by the family courts and judges.

## **Theme 2: Work: Occupational segregation by gender, gender discrimination and the gender pay gap**

Women and men are often concentrated into different kinds of jobs and within the same occupations, women are often in work that is less well paid and has less opportunities for career advancement. Women often work in areas where they can work part-time so as to fit in with their caring responsibilities. While many men work in low paid jobs, many professions dominated by women are also low paid, and professions that have become female-dominated have become lower paid. This worsens the gender pay gap (the average difference between the wages of women and men who are working).

- Please outline what you see as the key barriers/ obstacles and challenges to gender equality under this theme in law, policy and practice.

I have been in over 75 Court appearances in the family courts and have never been before a male judge. 90% of family law clerks and officers are women and also over 90 % of solicitors and barristers who work in the family courts are women. I understand that there are some males who abuse women but there are an equal number of women who abuse men and children. Judges in the family courts work on the mantra OF "WOMEN HAVE TO BE BELIEVED" how can any male be treated fairly in the family courts if that is the case. I thought our constitution states that we are all equal before the law and the law is to be applied without fear or favor. That is not happening in the family courts. The family courts encourage and enable the child abuse called PARENTAL ALIENATION. I believe male and female judges are payed the same. I work in [REDACTED] and women are payed the same as men.

- Please identify the steps to be taken to address the issues raised and who should address them (e.g. the state, private sector, education system etc.)

The state should reform the courts.

## **Theme 3. Care, paid and unpaid, as a social and family responsibility**

Care -- the social responsibility of care and women and men's co responsibility for care, especially within the family

Women remain disproportionately responsible for unpaid care and often work in poorly paid care work. For working parents or lone parents, balancing paid work with parenting and or caring for older and dependent adults presents significant challenges. Women are most disadvantaged by these challenges, yet men also suffer from lack of opportunities to share parenting and caring roles. Despite recent legislation and policy initiatives to support early years parental care, inequalities in the distribution of unpaid care continue between women and men. The cost of childcare has been identified as a

particular barrier to work for women alongside responsibilities of caring for older relatives and dependent adults.

- Please outline what you see as the key barriers/ obstacles and challenges to gender equality under this them in law, policy and practice.

Women are given the maternity leave to look after children. My wife wanted to return to work 3 weeks after the birth of our daughter. I was not able to avail of the ballance of the maternity leave as I am a man. I would gladly stay at home with my child while my wife could have gone back to work. Instead she went back to work while I took time off at my own expense to care for our child. I also took care of my father during his long illness until his death. I did this together with my 5 brothers and 2 sisters. We all work and we all didn't care about gender. Yes there are inequalities in our society but honestly I'm growing concerned that policy makers focus on equality for females. Beth males and females experience discrimination based on gender. When is this going to be recognised and then maybe a more equal society will happen in Ireland. I'm tired of hearing only about demostic violence against females by males. Has anyone checked the stats???? I have been a victim of demostic violence by a female. I've been stabbed, had my face battered and scratched been verbally abused demeaned gaslighted. I've had to walk on eggshells and apologise for things I hadn't done just to get her to leave me alone. She busted my nose by hitting me with a phone then she rang the Garda and tried to have me arrested and when the Garda didn't she took our children from our house and began parental alienation. I looked to the courts to protect me and guess what? The female judges (there is only 1 male that I can find in dolphin House family court and none in phoenix house family court) work on the mantra of "WOMEN HAVE TO BE BELIEVED!!!! Let's have equality for everyone and not just for women because if you continue to look only for equality for women then we will only have more unequality.!!! We are all equal before the law or so our constitution says it gives us as a right. It would appear WE ARE ALL EQUAL BUT JUST AS ORWELL WROTE YEARS AGO SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS.

- Please identify the steps to be taken to address the issues raised and who should address theme (e.g. the state, private sector, education system etc.)

The state.

#### **Theme 4: Women's access to, and representation in, public life and decision making**

##### Ensure women's participation and representation in decision-making and leadership in the workplace, political and public life

Women are systematically underrepresented in leadership in economic and political decision-making. Despite the introduction of a candidate gender quota (through the system of party funding) for national political office, and initiatives to support women's

access to corporate decision-making roles, men continue to dominate leadership positions. There are also issues to be considered around how media represents women and men.

- Please outline what you see as the key barriers/ obstacles and challenges to gender equality under this theme in law, policy and practice.

- Please identify the steps to be taken to address the issues raised and who should address them (e.g. the state, private sector, education system etc.)

## 5. Where does gender inequality impact most?

To conclude we would be interested in your response to the following question: In which area do you think gender inequality matters most?

Please rank the following in order of importance, 1 being the most important:

- Paid work
- Home & family life
- Education
- Politics and public life
- Media
- Caring for others
- Other – please elaborate

- Please outline the reasons for your answer below:

- Please include any further comments or observations you may have here.

