

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN WOMEN GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION
CUMANN BANCHEIMITHE CÓLAISTE NA hOLLSCOILE BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH



The UCD Women Graduates' Association was established in 1902. Since then, it has continued to influence public policy on matters affecting women in general, as well as women graduates in particular.

The aims of the Association are to promote understanding and friendship among the university women of the world, irrespective of race, nationality, religion or political opinions.

We value and are committed to education as a means of enabling girls and women to achieve economic independence and thereby empower them to attain a greater measure of equality in modern society. We believe that only by educating girls can we work towards eliminating the many problems that they face including disadvantage and poverty, domestic violence, genital mutilation, arranged marriages, low-paid jobs gender bias and discrimination. We believe that **education** is the key to economic independence for women, and that that access to Education in its broadest forms, for all women, at every level and stage of their lives, enables women to participate fully and confidently in building the future they envisage, and breaks the cycle of poverty and inequality.

As an association, we provide financial assistance to help steer young girls towards studying the STEM subjects in school and university to better their chances of competing with men in the workplace on an equal footing, and we also help trainee teachers (young women) who need funding to enable them to complete their training.

UCD WGA calls on the Citizen's Assembly to include the following in its report to the Government:

- Ensure that potential gender bias is addressed at the earliest possible stages in the educational system.
- Support and resource the women's community sector to enable marginalised women to participate in public and political life and in further education at all stages of their lives.

We also ask the Citizens' Assembly to

- hold a **referendum** to replace Article 41.2.2 by an article that would include the following principles:

It should be gender neutral

It should acknowledge the work, family life and the value of care to Irish society

It should support in practical terms measures that address the economic inequality experienced by **carers**

It should acknowledge the significant contribution of women's unpaid work throughout their lives by legislating for a full and retrospective Homecare credit to enable women to access a full pension and achieve gender equality.

We call on the Citizens' Assembly to recommend to the Government

- that they legislate for funding a comprehensive, affordable, accessible care infrastructure to support citizens at each stage of their lifecycle, that they put equality proofing on a statutory basis to ensure that public resources are shared in a fairer and more equitable way.

- We ask the Citizens Assembly to urgently identify violence against women as a national crisis and to ask the government to:

- Establish a National Facilitator on sexual and domestic gender-based violence – and to ringfence funding to specifically combat violence against women

- To ratify the ILO Convention 190 on gender-based violence to address the intersection of violence and women's economic inequality and harassment in the workplace

- To develop a third National Plan on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence to ensure that Ireland fully meets the requirement of the Istanbul Convention

- To develop and resource, as a matter of urgency, a National Plan to end Female Genital Mutilation in Ireland

Annette Durkan:

UCD Women Graduates' Association.