

## Submission to Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality

by Fingal Feminist Network & Fingal Communities Against Racism

**This submission to the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality addresses misogyny and gender-based hate as a feature and motivating ideology for far-right mobilisation both locally and globally; then sets out some suggested action points for consideration as part of the Citizens' Assembly process.**

The International Centre for Counter Terrorism recognise male supremacist terrorism as rising threat and as a right wing extremist ideology. The Southern Poverty Law Center, The Anti-Defamation League and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism have recently included male supremacy as an extremist ideology to be monitored. There is no such body in Ireland at present to track and monitor this rising threat.

This submission emerges out of our local experiences of activism and organising in recent years, during which we have endured and observed a sharp increase in gender-based harassment, threats and hate-attacks both online and offline. This rising threat has resulted in persons vulnerable to gender-based hate having to choose between being visible and being safe. The increased risk associated with visibility has, for some, resulted in a withdrawal from full participation in public and political life. Currently no monitoring body exists in Ireland to account for occurrences of gender-based hate attacks, and/or the impact of these attacks on gender-equality in Ireland. It is therefore impossible to hold a fully informed public conversation about gender-equality and women's access to, and/or representation in, public life and decision making.

### **Suggested action points for consideration as part of the Citizens' Assembly process:**

- establishment of a monitoring body dedicated to recording gender-based hate attacks in Ireland
- establishment of a dedicated research body to understand the cause and effect of the rising threat of male supremacist extremism and terrorism in Ireland
  - This research body should recognise that a lean-in approach to gender equality and representation in, public life and decision making, falls short of the immediate cultural and structural transformations necessary to push back against this rising threat.
  - This body should adopt a survivor-centred approach; and work from a critical approach to carceral-centred solutions.

