

A Patriarchal Constitution



The 1937 Constitution was described by Gertrude Gaffney in the *Irish Independent* (May 7, 1937) as revealing De Valera that “dislikes and mistrusts us as a sex”

1937

1937 The Constitution enshrined a particular role for woman in Ireland:-

Article 41(1) In particular the State recognises that by her life within the home, the woman gives to the state a support without which the common good cannot be achieved

Article 41(2) The State shall therefore endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home



Richard Tilbrook, View of O Connell Street, Dublin,
June 1963

1960s:

Investment in Education
Participation in second level increased
There were no discriminatory barriers to
women's entry into third level education

Achievement based system began to erode
gender stereotyping

Women increasingly entering professional
sector

Women's Liberation Movement challenged this patriarchy



Activists at Connolly station Dublin 1971, prior to boarding train for Belfast to buy contraceptives

1970-72: Commission on the Status of Women

1971: Manifesto Chains or Change

1973: EEC Membership

1973: Campaign to legalise contraception began

1979: Pill legalised

Equality in the Work Place



1990s:

Equal Equality Policies in the Civil Service
Equal Pay / Horizontal segregation
Recruitment
Promotion /vertical segregation
Family friendly Initiatives
Decline in % of women in dropped to below 50%

1995:

Women and crisis pregnancy reports
Lone parenthood / fathers' rights
Mothers as earners and carers

Affordable Childcare provision to enable mothers to continue to work



2000-2020:

Mummy wars and childcares

1992 Commission on the status of women

1998 Commission on the family

2010: ECCE Childhood Care and Education Scheme

Children's rights to childcare advanced

Childcare sector ; private v public

Balancing Work and Family Life

Doing Fatherhood



Men's positive responses to women's earner roles
Doing fatherhood
Paternity leave
Class differences in childcare
Same sex marriages
Biological fatherhood