Recent developments to promote gender equality in Ireland

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## Social norms and attitudes

- Higher education
  - Gender Action Plan
  - Women-only professorships
  - Research
- Education
  - STEM, Apprenticeships
  - Social Personal and Health Education curriculum
- Sport
  - Women in sport programme
  - Ladies' Football and Camogie finals free to air
- Several are commitments in the National Strategy for Women and Girls
- Some are commitments arising from equality budgeting



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## Social norms and attitudes

- Film and television
  - Film Ireland's Gender Equality Six Point Plan, specific funds for women in film
- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
  - Gender Action Plan, Sounds and Vision fund commitments
  - Code to avoid gender stereotyping in commercial communication aimed at children
  - Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland code
- Domestic violence
  - Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
  - Ratification of Istanbul Convention
- Sexual Offences Legislation, 2017, decriminalised prostitution
- Not much on the position of men!



### Pay Inequality, Participation In Public Life, Women In Work

- Recent developments build on many years of antidiscrimination laws
- Gender pay gap -
  - Gender Pay Gap Information Bill
  - Ongoing work via National Minimum Wage
  - 2019 legislation on hours of work
- Gender balance on state boards -
  - ► Target of 45% women
- Gender balance in senior positions in civil service -
  - Aim of 50/50 representation in senior appointments



"YOU'RE KIDDING! YOUR LEADER IS A MALE!"

#### Pay Inequality, Participation In Public Life, Women In Work

- Gender balance on boards of large companies -
  - Balance for Better Business Group,
  - target of 33% women on boards by 2023
- Gender balance in Dail elections -
  - 2012 Electoral Amendment Political Funding Act
  - Does not apply to local elections however



"Mommy can't take you to Katie's house. Mommy is busy cloning a slime mold."

## Caring

- Paid Paternity Leave, from 2016
- Paid Parent's Leave, from 2019
- Extended Parental Leave, from 2019
- National Childcare Scheme
- All good but long after other EU countries!
- Long maternity leave, but pay is relatively low



## Caring

- Home Caring Periods Scheme
- Independent access to PRSI for spouses/partners of self-employed working in same business
- Commitment to look at individualising welfare payments
- Carer's Strategy
  - Increased hours of work allowed for those on Carer's Allowance
  - ► GP-only card for those on Carer's Allowance and Benefit
- However caring in Ireland very reliant on unpaid family care, or low paid formal care
- What do we not have?
  - Right to work part-time for those with young children
  - Short-term leave to care for sick children



# Thank you!