



Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland



Submission from Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland

Dear Members of the Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality,

Soroptimist International founded in 1921 is the world's largest women's service organisation with over 72,000 members globally. We work to educate, empower and enable women and girls through our programme action work both Nationally and Internationally. As a result of this project work our organisation has Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the UN. Soroptimist International has permanent representatives at all major UN centres and is a recognised NGO representing women from all over the world. Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland has 16 clubs and is a member of the National Women's Council of Ireland. We support Gender Equality and would like to make a submission to the Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality.

The key actions Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland asks you to support in your recommendations are as follows:

- Holding a referendum to replace the content of Article 41.2 of the Constitution with a gender neutral and inclusive statement on the value of care to Irish society.
- Carers will be appropriately remunerated and afforded pension rights.
- Funding a comprehensive, affordable and accessible childcare infrastructure.
- Placing Equality Budgeting on a statutory footing.
- Setting the minimum wage to the living wage.
- Benchmarking social welfare rates to the Minimum Essential Standard of Living and introduction of a universal fair pension scheme to protect against pension poverty and guarantee income adequacy in older age.
- Introducing quotas on women's representation in local government, business, and the governance bodies of publicly funded institutions.
- Establish a National Rapporteur for gender-based violence and exploitation.

Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland believes that the 99 citizens of the assembly, when provided with reliable, accurate and comprehensive information, will recognise the need for and recommend actions to address gender inequalities experienced by women and girls across Ireland.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Kind regards,

Catherine Giblin
President Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland

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