

## **Press Release**

### ***Lawyers for Yes launch expert analysis document***

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015**

LAWYERS FOR YES launched a document today dealing with the legal analysis and aspects of the referendum debate to date. The document addresses key issues around which there has been confusion and which are not connected to the referendum. These include parenting, adoption and surrogacy.

Mary O'Toole SC, Lawyers for Yes Chairperson said: "The referendum on May 22 is about one thing only, extending civil marriage equality to give equal rights to equal citizens. As the Referendum Commission has confirmed, following the poll on May 22nd, 'The Constitutional status of marriage will remain unchanged'.

"The exclusion of same-sex couples from access to civil marriage signifies that their capacity for love, commitment and accepting responsibility is by definition less worthy of regard than that of heterosexual couples.

"Lawyers for Yes believes that a yes vote on 22 May will make Ireland a more equal society. While the Constitutional status of marriage will remain unchanged by a yes vote, the benefits of marriage will be accessible to all couples, regardless of their gender. This is good for Ireland and good for society.

"As with all referendums, Irish voters will undoubtedly have questions about the legal consequences of a Yes vote on 22 May. Lawyers for Yes has outlined clearly the consequences of a Yes vote and are happy to clarify any legal questions from the voting public."

LAWYERS FOR YES is a group of solicitors and barristers who are supporting a Yes Vote in the May 22nd Marriage Referendum and will provide members of the public with legal analysis on the impact of a Yes vote over the course of the debate.

*Media organisations who wish to conduct an interview in the Irish language are welcome and we are happy to oblige.*

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