

## Lawyers for Yes

### POWER TO RESTRICT SURROGACY NOT AFFECTED BY AMENDMENT

The power of the Oireachtas to restrict surrogacy will not be affected by the marriage equality amendment, Mary O’Toole, Senior Counsel and chairperson of Lawyers for Yes has stated. The best vote to protect children is a yes vote, she added.

Ms O’Toole stated:

“Surrogacy is an extremely complex ethical issue, which will require careful regulation whether or not the referendum passes. The law does not establish a constitutional right to access surrogacy for anyone. It is clear that the Oireachtas has full powers to restrict surrogacy in the best interests of children – and will continue to have such powers regardless of the outcome of the referendum.”

“The no campaign raises the issue of children. The truth is the amendment enhances protection for many children of same sex couples. The amendment also tells our gay and lesbian children that they will be treated as equals in society.”

“The best vote for children is a yes vote. It’s no surprise that Barnardos, the ISPC, the Irish Association of Social Workers and the Children’s Rights Alliance all support a yes vote.”

**ENDS**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Lawyers for Yes is a group of practising and academic lawyers advocating a yes vote in the marriage equality referendum.
2. The group had its public launch on 23 April 2015.

3. The group has published a legal analysis of the implications of the marriage equality amendment. It is available at:

<http://www.lawyers4yes.ie>

<https://www.yesequality.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Lawyers-for-Yes.pdf>

4. Lawyers for Yes will be active throughout the referendum campaign. It will provide fair and legally accurate information about the marriage equality referendum and challenge any misleading information that has been circulated.

5. In their posters, Mothers and Fathers Matter have clearly implied that the referendum is about surrogacy.

6. Mary O'Toole is a Senior Counsel specialising in child and family law, with 35 years' experience. She is Chairperson of Lawyers for Yes.

7. Visit our website:

<http://www.lawyers4yes.ie>

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