



PUBLIC SERVICE EXECUTIVE UNION

30 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.

Phone: + 3531 6767271
Fax: + 3531 6615777
www.pseu.ie
info@pseu.ie

12 March, 2013

Constitutional Convention – Marriage Equality

Dear Sir\Madam,

The Public Service Executive Union represents 10,000 members.

In writing to the constitutional convention I want to put on record our support for the campaign to secure full marriage equality for Gay & Lesbian people.

The Union has always had a policy supporting the propagation of legislation to give proper legal status, rights and obligations to both heterosexual and homosexual couples. Our policies have been brought to the attention of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and we have corresponded with Government Ministers seeking their implementation.

It seems clear to us that support for policies which encourage equal opportunities for all means, by extension, that we cannot but be supportive of campaigns such as the "Marriage Equality" campaign for constitutional change to give marriage rights to Gay & Lesbian people.

On a practical level the Union has always sought to ensure that benefits available to married couples are also available to couples who are not married, including same sex couples. This is reflected in our negotiations and discussions with employers and is possibly best reflected in the fact that the Union pursued the introduction of a survivors benefit scheme, along the lines of the Spouses & Children's Pension Scheme, to ensure that people in this position can make superannuation provision for their partners.

We have no difficulty about making it clear that people, irrespective of their sexual orientation, should be treated equally in employment so it is only logical that we should support initiatives that would ensure that people, irrespective of their sexual orientation, should be treated equally in society generally. All of our citizens should, so far as is possible, be treated equally and fairly in their workplace and in society.

Extending the right to marry to Gay & Lesbian couples will make Ireland a more equal society.

Yours faithfully,

Billy Hannigan
Deputy General Secretary

Secretary,
Constitutional Convention,
Secretariat,
16, Parnell Square East,
Dublin 1.