



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
September 28, 2011

“Seven Candidates on Presidential Ballot Paper but 1.2m Still Ruled Out – Candidates Should Endorse Constitutional Change to Allow Under 35s Stand for President” Says Leading Youth Organisation

While several candidates have had to work hard to get on the presidential ballot paper over a million more cannot do so due to a massive discrimination against young people in the Constitution according to Youth Work Ireland which today called on all candidates to support a reduction in the age for candidates from 35. The group points out that practically all candidates have indicated that the nominations process is cumbersome and antiquated but there has been silence on the issue of changing the age for candidates. The organisation also believes that commitments to a smart economy and young people fall completely hollow when such a huge section of the population are excluded from the highest office in the land.

"It is quite unbelievable that a massively discriminatory provision like this is present at the heart of our Constitution relating to the highest office in the land. At a time when we hear a lot about young people being the future of the country it seems high time that the abolition of the 35 year old qualification for the office of President was introduced. The current provision excludes 1.2m of our citizens from eligibility and would for example rule out some very senior figures in politics like Leo Varadkar, Lucinda Creighton and Pearse Doherty purely on the basis of age!" said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

"There are a number of fine candidates offering for the office. It is clear there is a desire amongst the public to have people from beyond traditional politics as candidates. If there is to be a broader selection of candidates from the worlds of Sport, Business and the Arts it will be crucial to remove this discriminatory provision. The Government has proposed a constitutional convention and it would be important for candidates to express their views in advance of the election and this convention. We have written to all candidates and believe their response to this issue is an important indicator of how young people should view their respective candidacies" Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

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369 words