



Press Release  
Youth Work Ireland  
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### **“Voting Age Reduction Would be Welcome but why Not Include Young People in the Constitutional Convention Process” Says Leading Youth Organisation**

Youth Work Ireland has welcomed the Government announcement that change may be coming in relation to the voting age although it believes the age should come down to 16. However the Youth Organisation, which represents 22 local voluntary youth services, has said the Government should explicitly include young people in the Constitutional Convention including those under 18 and has said that with proper support this group would have a lot to offer in a process that would profoundly affect their future.

“The Constitutional Convention is a major programme of change that could impact on our country years in to the future. It appears from today’s announcement that there could be change in relation to the voting age and this would broadly be welcome. However, most campaigners have sought a reduction to the age of 16. Similarly introducing different types of change in a sequential basis may not be the best way of proceeding. Most of all if this process is to assist in creating a better situation for young people in Ireland the Convention itself should include them in a full and equal way, this remains unclear.” Said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

“There are clearly a number of other relevant issues that the convention should address in this area. The age for standing and voting in elections is inconsistent and the age to stand for President is set way to high at 35. The Government does not need a referendum or Convention to; for example, change the age to stand in local or European elections so this could be brought in straight away, particularly to see how it works. So while the convention and changes to the voting age would be welcome a lot more needs to be looked at relating to constitutional change for young people.” Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

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