



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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Presidential Candidates Asked to Support Change to "Hard Wired Constitutional Discrimination" in the Election to the Office of President

Youth Work Ireland has announced today that it will ask all nominated presidential candidates to support change to the eligibility criteria for the office. Such a change would allow 1.2 million young people under 35 to be eligible to be candidates. The organisation has said that the current age restriction is a form of systematic discrimination hard wired into the constitution. While it is effectively the Government and the Dáil who could initiate a referendum in this area the youth organisation believes that support from all the candidates will make such a move a lot easier.

"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 Government like Leo Varadkar and Lucinda Creighton 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." Mc Loughlin added

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