

Press Release  
Youth Work Ireland  
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## Leading Youth Organisation Publishes Legislation to Amend Constitution Allowing for Under 35s to run for President

Youth Work Ireland has today published a Bill which would provide for a constitutional amendment to allow people under the age of 35 to run for president. The organisation has revived a 2006 proposal from then Green Party TD Dan Boyle which would remove what it believes is a major form of discrimination from the Constitution. The organisation says it hopes all presidential candidates will endorse the bill and that the Government will add it to measures it is already putting to the people at the same time as the presidential poll. The group believes that removing this discrimination against young people is at least as important as some of the other issues people are voting on in the second half of the year.

“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. This is a simple piece of legislation which can be tacked on to proposals which are being put to the people the same day as the presidential election on judges pay, Oireachtas enquiries and other matters” Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

[Twenty Ninth Ammendment to the Constitution Bill 2011](#)