



National Mens
Council of Ireland

The Family - Marriage and Children

Some Observations

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The National Men's Council of Ireland, in keeping with the Irish Constitution, extols the virtue and value of the two-parent, Marriage-based family as the foundation of society. We hold that Marriage can only be the union of one man and one woman and is intended to be life-long.

We believe that the state and community should at all times promote and encourage the philosophy that sexual relations should be confined to lawful Marriage.

We trust in God, in rationality, in Bunreacht Na hÉireann and the Rule of Law.

We therefore use plain language in our statements and this might appear at first to be harsh but we believe that a constructive debate can not take place if it is confined by political correctness which insists on non-judgementalism and a rejection of common sense.

The National Men's Council of Ireland seeks to protect Families, schools, and places of worship against the cultural forces that threaten them, including biased, misandrist and offensive media attacks on religious and parental liberty.

In keeping with this role we monitor, on behalf of the Family men and women of Ireland, legislative changes and state social policy for its impact on the Family based on Marriage and especially on children.

Contrary to what the media would have us think and what the State is disseminating through its Legal Aid Board, Human Rights Commission and Information Services, Marriage is denoted, in law and in the Constitution, as the position that exists whereby the Husband is designated as the head of the household and as the authority within the Family unit.

This position of husbands as head of the Family and the position in law of his Wife and children as his dependents is outlined in his essay, "The constitutional protection of parental rights" by William Duncan in the Report of the Constitutional Review Group, 1996. In it he refers the reader to Katherine O'Donovan, Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Kent, where she states in her book, "Sexual Divisions in Law",

"Within the modern bureaucratic state the nuclear Family of Husband, Wife and their children is treated as a unit. The head and public representative of this unit is the Husband, whose Wife and children are legally constituted his dependants, not only economically but also because they are subject to his orders. His role is to control what goes on within the Family in private."

In this private aspect of Marriage provides for true equality between both parents.

The mother has the right of nurture by nature of the children and the husband has the right of Custody in law so he can protect his dependent wife and children.

If the Husband does not disentitle himself he is also guaranteed, in law, to continue to hold the right and duty of Custody if his wife deserts him. This

prevents mothers unilaterally abandoning the relationship for financial benefits and prevents the state from taking over the Custody of the children from the Husband.

We believe that the only legitimate role of the state is to provide services to effect a reconciliation where conflict occurs. Our research has uncovered the facts that lead us to believe that it is the State itself which is precipitating much of this conflict and sadly the Family Support Agency are spending most of our money on facilitating people to separate.

We can not find evidence which shows a benefit to children of the state supporting even an 'equitable' outcome for parents after separation as it fails to recognise the damage already done to children, adults and society by the separation itself.

The foremost public function of marriage is to regulate procreation and avoid incest. The prohibitions are extensive and purposely discriminate against legitimising sexual intercourse within certain pairings.

For a society to flourish it must look to the procreation of the next generation. To properly safeguard the health of its offspring society has to regulate who has sexual intercourse with who. The taboo of incest has served this function for hundreds of generations and this was codified in the 1835 Marriage Act and forbids certain blood relatives, step-relatives and relatives-in-law from getting Married ie from legitimately having sexual intercourse.

These restrictions are officially known as forbidden degrees of Relationship and all marriages after 1835, between persons within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity or affinity shall be absolutely null and void.

The law prohibits a man marrying his:

* Mother * Daughter * Sister * Father's mother * Mother's mother * Son's daughter * Daughter's daughter * Father's sister * Mother's sister * Brother's daughter * Sister's daughter * Father's daughter * Mother's daughter * Wife's daughter * Father's wife * Son's wife * Father's father's wife * Mother's father's wife * Wife's father's mother * Wife's mother's mother * Wife's son's daughter * Wife's daughter's daughter * Son's son's wife * Daughter's son's wife

The law prohibits a woman marrying her;

* Father * Son * Father's father * Mother's father * Son's son * Daughter's son * Brother * Father's brother * Mother's brother * Brother's son * Sister's son * Father's son * Mother's son * Former husband's son * Mother's husband * Former husband's father * Daughter's husband * Mother's mother's husband * Father's

mother's husband * Husband's father's father * Husband's mother's
father * Husband's son's son * Husband's daughter's son *
Daughter's daughter's husband * Son's daughter's husband

When one sees the extent of this list of prohibited 'degrees' one understands more fully how the primary function of Marriage is to regulate procreation and therefore what an absurdity it is for people to promote Marriage between people of the same sex who patently can not procreate.

These people show their ignorance further by arguing that preventing people of the same sex from marrying is a form of discrimination against them. If their argument was to be accepted as having any merit then obviously the people who are prohibited from marrying at present, by these degrees of prohibition, should also be allowed to marry as they surely are far more discriminated against than same-sex couples because, being heterosexual pairings they at least have the biological capacity to procreate!

We have applied for funding to the Family Support Agency to start to explain to the people the vital importance of Marriage to their own well-being and to society as a whole and how the Constitution protects their Family from interference from the State.

To date our request for funding to do this has been refused.

Our extensive inquiry into the law and outcomes for children and their parents leads us to require that the Constitution should ensure:

1. That Marriage be protected and defended from attack because it offers to children and adults the best arrangement for a satisfying stable Family life and provides the elemental structure required for a civilised society
2. That fault in Marriage carries a penalty because children hold their parents as role models
3. That the practice of unlicensed procreation be discouraged so as to encourage licensed procreation - Marriage.
4. That social policies, like tax and welfare codes, be geared to promote and benefit stable Families with children.
5. That parents are respected as the primary educators of their children with the state's function being confined to facilitating the parent's role.

We invite readers to visit our website www.family-men.com where they can view and download the reports and documents we have gathered which show how the State is undermining Marriage and what we require of the State to support Marriage. We operate an email magazine called "Family Matters" and can be contacted through our website and welcome contributions and affiliations from individuals and groups who wish to join us in this most important work.

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