

## IN BRIEF

- The undermining of marriage and family follows divorce. Cohabitation has increased fivefold here since 1996. 35% of children in the Republic of Ireland now are non-marital.
- The Referendum proposal is to repeal par. i of Article 41.3.2° regarding the waiting time for divorce; and in a new subsection, Article 41.3.3°, to leave it to the Oireachtas to legislate for the recognition of foreign divorces.
- European States have shown that pro-marriage, rather than pro-divorce policies, are good for the economy - on housing, employment, health, and education.
- The children of divorce fare worse in the long term - not just emotionally, and in relationships, but educationally, and in employment - than do the children of intact families.
- Most marital conflicts involve unresolved problems each partner brings to marriage from his/her own family background. This proposal militates against any serious attempt at resolving marital conflicts.
- Except where separation or annulment are indicated, most marital conflicts, arising from those unresolved problems, can be resolved.
- Many couples give up very quickly in their attempts to resolve marital conflicts, because they have been sold the belief that the immediate happiness of the individual spouses is the only thing that matters.

## LET US REMEMBER THE CHILDREN AND RESPECT MARRIAGE



# VOTE NO

IN THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM,  
FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

- 1 Article 41.3.1o of Bunreacht na hÉireann/Constitution of Ireland, states that: 'The State pledges itself to guard with special care the institution of Marriage, on which the Family is founded, and to protect it against attack.'
- 2 The Referendum proposal, actually, is to repeal par. i of Article 41.3.2° regarding the waiting time for divorce; and in a new subsection, Article 41.3.3°, to leave it to the Oireachtas to legislate for the recognition of foreign divorces. The proposal militates against any serious attempt at resolving marital conflicts.
- 3 While it is true that the Republic of Ireland has one of the lowest divorce rates in Europe, what we are not told, that frequently, is that cohabitation has increased fivefold since 1996; see further Institute for Family Studies/Wheatley Institution, Global Family and Gender Survey (GFGS). In other words, divorce in the Republic of Ireland has been followed by an everincreasing reluctance to get married.
- 4 European States have found that pro-marriage policies are also good for the economy. Rather than making it easier for married couples to divorce - to the detriment, in particular, of their children - the State should ensure that adequate housing, stable long-term employment, proper health facilities, and fair educational facilities, are provided, so that families do not have to endure the stress that often leads to marital conflict and, ultimately, to the seeking of a divorce.
- 5 Overall, the children of divorce fare worse in the long term - not just emotionally, and in terms of relationships, but educationally, and in employment - than do the children of intact families.
- 6 The welfare of the children was hardly mentioned at all in the Oireachtas discussion of this Referendum Bill; only 4 TDs were present for the Referendum Bill's passing in the Dáil; and only 5 in the Seanad.
- 7 Most divorces do not arise from severe marital conflicts. The children of low-conflict divorce suffer very much in the long term. Specifically their constancy - in love, commitment, and marriage - is often shattered, and that explains the enormous rise in the number of nonmarital children - 35% of children in the Republic of Ireland are non-marital, and in the Greater Dublin Area, it is 40%.
- 8 Nobody is perfect, and marital conflicts can arise even in the best of marriages. In some cases, separation, or even annulment, are the only solutions, but in most cases, with help, unresolved problems can be talked through, and overcome.
- 9 Many couples give up very quickly in their attempts to overcome marital conflicts. Divorce can be due, in many cases, to the 'psychological approach' to marriage, the idea that the only thing that is important is the immediate happiness of the individual spouses.
- 10 A second attempt at marriage, after divorce, very likely can end in breakdown of that relationship also.

For further information on these points, see the online articles and YouTubes of U.S. psychiatrist, Dr Richard P. Fitzgibbons, MD, especially **childrenofdivorcehealing.com**, **maritalhealing.com** and of Irish-born clinical psychologist and sociologist, Dr Patrick Fagan, at **marripedia.org**.

Issued by

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