



the Friday Briefing

27th April, 2018

The 'Friday Briefing' is an informal series of talks and conversations hosted by Congress, on Friday mornings throughout the year, dealing with topical and workplace issues.

Talks take place in Congress Head Office, unless otherwise indicated, starting at 10.30am, refreshments provided.

REPEAL OF THE 8TH AMENDMENT

THIS CONGRESS FRIDAY BRIEFING WILL FOCUS ON PRESENTATIONS BY SENATORS IVANA BACIK AND CATHERINE NOONE ON REPEAL OF THE 8TH AMENDMENT

Referendum - Thirty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2018

The Government has made an order appointing **Friday 25th May, 2018** as the polling day for the referendum to be held on the proposal for the amendment of the Constitution contained in the Thirty Six Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2018.

The referendum will ask us if we want to remove (repeal) Article 40.3.3 and insert additional wording allowing the Oireachtas to legislate for abortion in Ireland (enable). This is called 'repeal and enable'.

Congress opposed the 8th amendment to the Constitution back in 1983 and has since reiterated its position. We believe that repealing the 8th amendment will lead to a more compassionate Ireland that allows abortion care for women who need it and will help secure an Ireland where:

- Restrictions on women's healthcare are removed from the Constitution.
- The Oireachtas can legislate for access to abortion care for women and girls in Ireland.

This month's Friday Briefing provides an opportunity for people to hear about the issues involved in the referendum and will hear from long time campaigner for women's reproductive rights, Ivana Bacik and Senator Catherine Noone, Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on the 8th Amendment which recommended that **Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution should be repealed.**



Senator Ivana Bacik is a barrister and Reid Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology at Trinity College Dublin.

First elected as a Senator for Dublin University in 2007, she was re-elected in 2011 and 2016, and currently leads the Labour senators in Seanad Éireann. She is a feminist and civil liberties campaigner, and has written on human rights law, equality law, criminal law and criminology. Her recent publications include (with Dr Mary Rogan), *Legal Cases that Changed Ireland* (Clarus Press, 2016) and she chairs the Vótáil 100 committee organising the events in the Oireachtas to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in 2018.



Senator Catherine Noone was first elected to the Industrial and Commercial Panel of the 24th Seanad in April 2011, where she served as Fine Gael Seanad spokesperson on European Affairs.

She was re-elected in 2016 as Deputy Leader of the Seanad and Seanad spokesperson on Children. She has been a consistently strong vocal advocate for children's health and wellbeing.

Catherine is a solicitor with expertise in the area of commercial litigation and speaks fluent Italian having studied at the Università di Verona. Catherine has a keen interest in health policy and has had a particular focus on childhood obesity. Most recently Catherine was appointed the Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on the 8th Amendment.

Friday, 27th April, 2018 at 10.30am
Congress Offices, 31-32 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

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Please confirm your attendance to: eileen.sweeney@ictu.ie