



European Women Lawyers Association

The Voice of Women Lawyers Across Europe

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PRESS RELEASE

EWLA welcomes Irish Referendum as a big step forward to Female Human Rights Protection in Europe

After the publication of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights negative Report on still existing denial of women's sexual and reproductive rights in Europe in December 2017, the Irish People have unmistakably voted this weekend in favour of safe and legal abortion care.

Having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in particular, the respect for human dignity, the principle of equality before the law and the prohibition of any discrimination based on grounds of gender EWLA welcomes this important step towards more respect for female human dignity. It is now up to the Irish government to reconcile both campaigning sides with a just and well-measured legislative proposal.

It is deplorable that obviously such a crucial voter's decision was reportedly again disturbed by dark-ads from abroad trying to influence the 'undecided'. It is high time to tackle this issue of voter's influencing on social media platforms on European level.

The President of EWLA, Katharina Miller, emphasises that "the elimination of discrimination in laws, policies and practices is a general principle of the European Union Gender Equality Law. Non-discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender equality aims to improve the actual position of women and achieve de facto, substantive equality of women and men in all areas and situations".

The European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) is registered in Belgium as an international non-governmental, non-profit, association (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif). It is a federation of national women lawyers associations from amongst the European Union countries and those of EFTA countries. Members of EWLA are also individual women lawyers and academics from these countries. EWLA pursues the co-operation of European women lawyers, in order to combine their specific expertise in monitoring law and politics seen from the angle of fundamental rights, and in particular gender equality.



The European Women Lawyers Association (**EWLA**) is registered in Belgium as an International Non-profit Association (**AISBL**)

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