

Mr. Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD,  
Minister of State at the Dept. of Justice and Equality,  
94, St. Stephens Green,  
Dublin 2

*Our Ref.: M1/1114*

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**

**Re: Motion Passed at Meeting of South Dublin County Council (M1/1114)**

Dear Minister Ó Ríordáin,

The following Motion under the heading Mayor's Business was Passed at the meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 10th November 2014:-

**"That South Dublin County Council supports the right of every LGBT person to live their lives openly and without fear. However, this basic human right is denied to many LGBT Teachers and other employees of institutions that claim a religious ethos, through the continued existence of Section 37.1 of the Employment Equality Act 1998 which provides a broad opt-out from equality legislation for such institutions.**

**We join with the LGBT community, the trade union movement and many others in calling for an end to this state sanctioned discrimination which creates an unacceptable 'chill factor' for Teachers in particular who happen to be LGBT.**

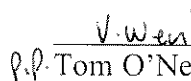
**We note that government have committed to amending Section 37.1 and we call for legislation as a matter of urgency, and certainly before next Spring's marriage equality referendum, so that no LGBT person has to choose between their job on the one hand and making a public life long commitment to their loved one on the other.**

**The right of employers to select candidates on the basis of a genuine occupational requirement is already enshrined in other provisions of the Employment Equality Act. Section 37.1 is both unnecessary and repugnant to the principles of equality and non-discrimination. It is also in conflict with EU framework directive law.**

**Government needs to act accordingly."**

I should be grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

  
P.P. Tom O'Neill,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Corporate Services Department.

Cc: Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Mr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin TD,  
Minister of State at the Dept. of Arts,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht,  
23, Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

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**Re: Motion Passed at Meeting of South Dublin County Council (M1/1114)**

Dear Minister Ó Riordáin,

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“That South Dublin County Council supports the right of every LGBT person to live their lives openly and without fear. However, this basic human right is denied to many LGBT Teachers and other employees of institutions that claim a religious ethos, through the continued existence of Section 37.1 of the Employment Equality Act 1998 which provides a broad opt-out from equality legislation for such institutions.

We join with the LGBT community, the trade union movement and many others in calling for an end to this state sanctioned discrimination which creates an unacceptable 'chill factor' for Teachers in particular who happen to be LGBT.

We note that government have committed to amending Section 37.1 and we call for legislation as a matter of urgency, and certainly before next Spring's marriage equality referendum, so that no LGBT person has to choose between their job on the one hand and making a public life long commitment to their loved one on the other.

The right of employers to select candidates on the basis of a genuine occupational requirement is already enshrined in other provisions of the Employment Equality Act. Section 37.1 is both unnecessary and repugnant to the principles of equality and non-discrimination. It is also in conflict with EU framework directive law.

Government needs to act accordingly.”

I should be grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Tom O'Neill,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Corporate Services Department.

Cc: Department of Justice and Equality.