

# Press Statement

21st December 2010

## **Radical proposals for unmarried families challenging**

Treoir believes the proposals in the Law Reform Commission's Report "Legal Aspects of Family Relationships" are radical and far reaching. They provide an excellent opportunity to stimulate discussion to advance children's rights in relation to both parents and parent's rights and responsibilities in respect of their children.

Recommendations on automatic parental rights and compulsory birth registration will be challenging for some unmarried parents and will be warmly welcomed by others.

Margaret Dromey, CEO, said

*"The proposals, if implemented, would be of major benefit to children as it is generally in the best interests of children to have a legal connection with both parents and also to have accurate information available to them on their birth certificates".*

Treoir has for many years campaigned for guardianship (parental responsibility) rights for step-parents and grandparents and is delighted that it is proposed in the Report that parental rights be extended to them and also to civil partners

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***Treoir: Informing Unmarried Parents and those involved with them***

**About Treoir:**

Treoir, national federation of services for unmarried parents and children, was founded in 1976 to promote the welfare of unmarried families. It operates the National Information Centre for parents and professionals **LoCall 1890 252 084**. It is involved in research and lobbying as well as producing numerous information publications on rights and entitlements of unmarried parents. In excess of 50% of calls to the Treoir National Information Centre last year concerned parenting issues - custody, access, guardianship, maintenance and establishing paternity. See our website at [www.treoir.ie](http://www.treoir.ie)