

PRESS RELEASE

12th July 2011

Unmarried parents set to lose out if new plan comes to fruition

Treoir the national organisation promoting the rights of unmarried parents and their children in Ireland, said that it could not support a Social welfare system where unmarried and lone parents would lose out.

Speaking at a consultative seminar organised by the Department of Social Protection, Assistant Chief Executive Margot Doherty said that it was a well known fact that lone parents are the group most vulnerable to poverty. Ms Doherty was responding to the Report: *Report on the desirability and feasibility of introducing a single social assistance payment for people of working age* published by the Department of Social Protection. In the Department's own assessment it showed that lone parents would be particularly badly hit if a new single payment for people of working age is introduced.

Speaking at the seminar Margot Doherty said:

Treoir fully supports the introduction of a single payment for people of working age but this should not be linked to an activation programme. The single payment should be introduced first and all the difficulties associated with that should be sorted out before moving to an activation programme.

Margot Doherty went on to say:

Given the lack of jobs and low cost or free, quality childcare, this is not the time to develop an activation programme.

Margot Doherty's presentation is available on www.treoir.ie in the policy section.

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Treoir is the Irish word for direction and guidance.

Treoir is a membership organisation which promotes the rights of unmarried parents and their children in Ireland.

Treoir operates a National Information Service for unmarried parents, their families and those involved with them.

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