

***PRESS RELEASE 14.10.2010***

***There should be no disincentives to family formation***

**RE: The Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection**

**Treoir, the National Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children, made the following recommendations in its Submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs (Social Protection) on financial disincentives to cohabitation and marriage. (This Submission may be viewed on our website at [www.treoir.ie](http://www.treoir.ie)).**

**Treoir recommends that any changed system should be based on the following**

- the principles of adequacy, equity, consistency and affordability**
- the recognition that it is in the best interest of children for both parents to be involved in their lives as much as possible and therefore there should be no financial disincentives to cohabitation, or indeed marriage**
- families with dependent children should be the focus of support from the Government regardless of the marital or employment status of their parents**
- the structure of the income tax and social welfare systems should move from a system based on contingency to one based on individualization**
- There is a need to challenge the culture of dependency as well as the motivation to fraud within the system because of inequities.**

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