



Press Release (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017)

## **Treoir Welcomes the Commencement of the Adoption (Amendment) Act 2017**

Treoir welcomes the commencement of the Adoption (Amendment) Act 2017 which amends the Adoption Act 2010 to give legislative effect to the thirty-first amendment of the Constitution (Children) Act 2012. The Act amends adoption law to recognise those who are caring for children, irrespective of their biological ties.

Damien Peelo, Treoir's Chief Executive Officer, said: "*Treoir welcomes the many positive changes introduced by the Adoption Act 2017, in particular, the provision allowing step-parent adoption without the peculiar requirement for the biological parent to adopt his or her own child*". Until now the only way for a step-parent to adopt a child was to apply jointly with the child's natural parent.

Treoir welcomes that the best interests of the child will be the paramount consideration in relation to any adoption matter, application or proceedings. The Act also makes it compulsory that the views of the child should be ascertained and be given due weight by the Adoption Authority or by the court.

In particular, Treoir values that The Act 2017 inserts a requirement to the Child and Family Agency that every reasonable effort has been made to support the parents of a child before that child can be adopted without the consent of the birth parents. Also, unmarried parents who meet the assessment criteria will no longer have to adopt a child as a single person.

*"The Adoption (Amendment) Act 2017 modernise adoption legislation in Ireland to meet the needs of contemporary families and their children. We look forward to representing unmarried parents in the upcoming consultation in respect of the potential introduction of open or semi-open adoption in Ireland"* Damien Peelo added.

### **For further information contact:**

#### **Treoir**

**Damien Peelo, CEO**

Mobile: 087 971 48 90

Phone: 01 6700 120

Email: [damien@treoir.ie](mailto:damien@treoir.ie)

## Notes to the Editor

### **About Treoir**

Treoir is a membership organisation that promotes the rights and best interests of unmarried parents and their children through providing specialist information and advocating for their rights.

Treoir believes that unmarried families should have the same right to respect, support, protection and recognition as families based on marriage.

Treoir, the national federation of services for unmarried parents and their children, is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital, registered in Dublin, Ireland, registered company number 82321. It is also a charity with CHY number 8877.