Key messages for written submission to the Constitutional Convention:

Possible Title**: Please review the family in the Constitution.**

[Name of organisation or individual] call on the Constitutional Convention to undertake a progressive review of Article 41 as part of the Convention’s work for the following reasons:

* There is a unique opportunity to build on the work achieved to date by the Constitutional Convention in undertaking a progressive review of the definition of family. Such a review would build on both the same sex marriage recommendation from the Convention as well as the Children’s Referendum. If this work is not done then there will continue to be no Constitutional protection for many one-parent families and none for all non-marital families.
* The Constitution is currently out of step with the reality of family life in Ireland as well as with our social policy and legislation. Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights provides possible alternative wording in a review of the family. This would permit legislation and case law to determine how different families and family members would be treated and impediments to equality would be removed rather than guaranteed. This could potentially have benefits for many household and family arrangements.
* Census statistics and Growing Up in Ireland data show us the rich diversity of family life in Ireland today.  One in three children in Ireland are born to parents not yet married to each other; one‐in‐three families do not conform to the traditional model of a married couple in their first marriage; and one in five children live in one-parent families.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information on any of these issues.

Contact details.

I/We are a member of the **All Families Matter** coalition which is calling on the Constitutional Convention to progressively review the family in the Constitution.