

# Opinion group votes in favour of gay marriage in Ireland

**The Irish constitution should be changed to allow for civil marriage for same-sex couples in Ireland, according to a public opinion group.**

The constitutional convention was established by the government to examine proposed changes to the Irish constitution.

The vote was 79% in favour and 18% against, 1% no opinion and 2% of the ballots were spoiled.

The Irish government must now decide whether to accept the recommendation.

If they do accept the recommendation, a referendum will have to be held before any change can be made to the constitution.

## **Status**

The government has promised to decide on whether to accept the recommendation after the Irish parliament debates the convention's reports later this year.

The outcome represents a major boost for the campaign for equality for gay and lesbian couples and children in their households with the rest of the families in the state.

The convention heard that legalising same-sex marriage would improve the status of gay and lesbian couples in Ireland in over 160 ways.

However, the Catholic bishops told the convention that the move would make the roles of mothers and fathers completely irrelevant in the bringing up of children.

## **'Adequate'**

A spokesperson for the Catholic communications office said: "While the result of the constitutional convention is disappointing only the people of Ireland can amend the constitution.

"The Catholic Church will continue to promote and see protection for the uniqueness of marriage between a woman and a man, the nature of which best serves children and our society."

However, the co-founder of the Church of Ireland group said the existing strong protections in the constitution for freedom of religion were "entirely adequate" and there was no need to amend them "in the light of the extension of civil marriage to same-sex couples".

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Marriage Equality and Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) welcomed the decision as "an historic step".

1. Do you think that gay couples have the right to adopt kids?
2. Do you think that we should have gay sex education in texts, too?
3. Some countries have already legalized gay marriage, do you think it will influence the economy?
4. Do you think that homosexuals have the right to get married in churches?
5. Should the law protect gay rights more?
6. For devout Christians, homosexual is against human nature. If legalizing gay marriage means that changes should be made, do you think we have the power to rewrite the Bible?
7. Do you think that legalizing gay marriage will reduce the discrimination against homosexuals?
8. If you are the adopted child of a gay couple, what will you think?
9. If you are a homosexual, would you stand up for your rights? Or would you choose not to say anything?
10. Do you think that politic plays an important role in legalizing gay marriage?