

Citizens' Assembly

Work Programme Item 1: The Eighth Amendment of the Constitution

Weekend 3

Detailed Conversation Starters: Facilitators and Note Takers

General Instructions for Roundtable Discussions following presentations:

- Hear from everyone and as you do, enforce the groundrules, firmly and with good humour. In particular, encourage people to be respectful of others and to share the airtime.
- Remember that the speakers are available for any questions or clarifications if required during the discussion. The Secretariat is also available for any clarification.
- Spend the last 5-10 minutes recapping the conversation to ensure that the key points are captured for inclusion in the table summary.
- As members may still be nervous/ uncomfortable with speaking in the public Q&A session on this topic later, you should also capture the top 3 questions which emerge in the discussion, and should be prepared to ask them on behalf of the table if called upon to do so by the Judge.
- Complete the standard feedback template sheet based on the last 5-10 minutes of conversation. Retain the feedback sheet for collection at the end of the discussion.

Saturday Morning

10.00am Session 1: Member Discussion on Submissions

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- Hear from members on what their views on the submissions received are
- discussion and agree with the Members what key comments you might make on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **45 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. Was there anything that surprised you in the submissions you have read?
2. Did you come across arguments on either side of the debate that you had not encountered before?

12.15pm Sessions 2 and 3: Availability of legal terminations in other jurisdictions: Overview and Case Study: The UK

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **35 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. What do you think of the grounds for termination in the U.K. System? Were you surprised that the majority were under C?
2. What did you think about the fact that women do not need a referral for a termination (i.e. don't need to see their GP) and that compulsory counselling is not recommended?
3. What did you think about the number of Irish women who choose medical termination of pregnancy?

Saturday Afternoon

3.15pm Rape: Medical & Care Path Issues and Legal Issues

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **45 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. Were you surprised at the high number of contacts received by the DRCC and how few went on to attend the SATU?
2. Based on what you have heard from the first two speakers what do you now understand about the choices women are making when they become pregnant following rape?
3. If termination of pregnancy were to be permitted on grounds of rape, what sort of issues might arise?

Sunday Morning

10.05am Ethical Perspectives – Reproductive Autonomy

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **40 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. Following the presentations, what do you understand by reproductive autonomy?
2. Do you think there should be limits on respect for autonomy and if so, what limits?
3. How do you think respect for autonomy should apply in the context of pregnancy?

12.00pm Regulation of the medical profession and issues arising including conscientious objection

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- help members understand the information they have heard
- embed that knowledge and to document key themes arising from the conversation.
- capture the key questions which emerge during the discussion.
- Remember to use the last five minutes of the session to recap the discussion and agree with the Members what keys you might ask on their behalf (if required)

You'll have **30 minutes** for this part of the meeting.

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. What do you think the role of the Medical Council is in relation to providing guidance to doctors on ethical issues?
2. How should doctors act when they have a moral objection to carrying out a medical procedure for their patient?
3. Should the law allow doctors to refuse to carry out a medical procedure for their patients?