

Citizens' Assembly

Work Programme Item 1: The Eighth Amendment of the Constitution

Weekend 4

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

10.40am Sessions 1 and 2: Legal Presentations from John O'Dowd and Emily Egan

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 did you think was important in the presentation you just heard?
2. How are the interests of the unborn child protected in medical decision-making?
3. In what ways are the rights of unborn children protected outside the context of abortion?

12.30pm Session 3: Legal presentation from Brian Murray

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 did you think was important in the presentation you just heard?
2. What issues of power for the courts and for the Oireachtas arise from the options of retention, repeal and amendment?

Saturday Afternoon

4.10pm Roundtable Discussion on First Hand Experiences

The purpose of this round table discussion is to:

- Allow the members to reflect on what they have heard from each of the women who have shared their stories
- Allow for a calm, reflective, non-judgmental conversation on each of the six experiences.

Please be mindful that some members may be moved by what they have heard and may find it difficult to engage with the discussion immediately. Please be as sensitive as possible to their needs in this regard.

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

Conversation Starters/ Suggested Questions to guide discussions:

1. What are your reactions to the testimony you have heard?