

Draft Work Programme for remaining Weekends on the Eighth Amendment

For discussion and decision in the Private Session on 7th January 2017

Summary: Members are asked to consider the draft work programme for the remaining weekends on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution and to agree with the recommendation of the Chair that an additional (5th) weekend be set aside to allow for full consideration of the topic.

1. Presented below is a draft Work Programme for the Citizens' Assembly for the remaining weekends on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.
2. The draft work programme provides a broad overview of the key issues identified by the Chair and the 99 members (based on the feedback from the Members at the first meeting), together with the input from the Expert Advisory Group on how the work programme for the remaining weekends will be constructed.
3. The Chair is recommending that a further weekend be assigned to look at the topic of the Eighth Amendment. This will be put to the Members for a vote in Private Session on 7th January 2017.
4. This will bring the total number of weekends set aside to considering this topic to 5. A revised work programme for the life time of the Assembly is included as an appendix to this document.
5. This will not affect the Chair's previous commitment to complete the work in respect of the Eighth Amendment within the first half of 2017.
6. This Draft Work Programme is subject to further change, and any amendments/ additions will be made by the Chair in consultation with the members of the Assembly.

Draft Work Programme

Weekend 3- 4th and 5th February

Sessions to include:

- Rape- Medical and care path issues for women
- Rape- Legal issues
- Availability of legal terminations in other jurisdictions- Overview
- Case Study- The UK
- Regulation of the medical profession and issues arising including conscientious objection
- Discussion on submissions received

Weekend 4- 4th and 5th March

Sessions to include:

- Advocacy Groups
- First hand experiences
- Crisis pregnancy for vulnerable groups in Irish society
- Discussion on submissions received
- Member brainstorming on the issues in respect of which recommendations may have to be considered by the Assembly

Weekend 5- 22nd and 23rd April

It is intended to dedicate the final weekend to the consideration of the recommendation(s) to be made to the Oireachtas.

At this stage it is difficult to predict what presentations if any might be required by the Members, however some possible issues are listed below:

- Understanding the Eighth Amendment- further detail (may address for example the following issues: the consequences of repealing the Eighth Amendment; Rights of the unborn child beyond Article

40.3.3; and considering questions like is the Eighth Amendment about more than just abortion?)

- An in-depth look at possible legal options

At this stage it is anticipated that the majority of the weekend will be dedicated to brainstorming on a possible ballot paper format and structure, finalisation of the ballot paper and finally voting on the recommendations for the Oireachtas in response to the Assembly's terms of reference.

Revised Work Programme for the Citizens' Assembly

For discussion and decision on 7th January 2017

1	November 26 th	November 27 th	8 th Amendment
2	January 7 th	January 8 th	8 th Amendment
3	February 4 th	February 5 th	8 th Amendment
4	March 4 th	March 5 th	8 th Amendment
5	April 22 nd	April 23 rd	8 th Amendment
6	May 20 th	May 21 st	How we best respond to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population
7	June 10 th	June 11 th	How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change
8	July 8 th	July 9 th	The manner in which referendums are held Fixed-term parliaments