



## PRESS RELEASE

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*Lawyers for Choice also provide #AskALawyer services with local #Together4Yes groups around the country.*

Today, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, [Lawyers for Choice](#), launched “A Plain English Guide to the Referendum”, a clear and comprehensive [guide](#) to the upcoming Referendum.

The campaign group, who are calling for a Yes vote on 25 May, have joined forces with [Aboutthe8th.com](#), an independent academic initiative, to answer common questions about the referendum.

Speaking at today’s launch at the [Legal Eagle](#), Chancery Place, were:

- **Amanda Mellet, *Mellet v Ireland* (TMFR)**
- **Natalia Fernandez and Krysia Lynch, Migrants and Ethnic-minorities for Reproductive Justice**

- **Emma Burns and Maria Laura Serra, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy**

- **Katie Dawson BL**

Organiser, Dr Ruth Fletcher, Senior Lecturer in Medical Law, QMUL, said:

“I’m proud to be part of the legal campaign for Together4Yes because medical law needs to work *with* pregnant people, not *against* them.

Lawyers for Choice work to improve public understanding of Irish abortion law. We want to be part of answering those questions. That’s why we’ve produced this guide.

This Referendum could be an important step in telling a different story about Ireland. The campaign could create the space for a different kind of public legal conversation, one that listens to pregnant people’s experiences and works with them to make a caring legal system. But this kind of legal storytelling needs good quality legal information, and to hear from those who have been excluded from the conversation in the past.”

Speaking at the Launch, Katie Dawson BL said:

“At canvasses and meetings throughout the country people are asking tough questions about abortion law, about consent and secrecy in sex, pregnancy and health care, and about the proper role of the constitution in a legal system. Telling a new

story about Ireland through this public legal conversation is not easy. If we want to make the most of what the referendum might be, we need to find new ways of listening and turning what we hear into legal guidance.

Organiser Sinead Williams said:

“That’s why Lawyers for Choice have invited speakers to our Launch who have different experiences of the Eighth Amendment and how it contributes to a harmful legal environment. We need to learn from the resourcefulness of migrants, people with disabilities, human rights litigants and social justice lawyers.

Together, with quality legal information and knowledge of people’s everyday lives, we can overcome the cruelty of the Eighth Amendment. With a yes vote on the 25<sup>th</sup> May we can tell a new legal story of Ireland, one that speaks to the everyday compassion we see around us making tough situations a little better.”

For more information please contact Ruth Fletcher on [phone number redacted] or [lawyers4choice@gmail.com](mailto:lawyers4choice@gmail.com)