

That Seanad Eireann:

believes:

- that a secure home is a basic human right;
- that covid highlights the essential protection a secure home provides;
- that far too many of our citizens are homeless;
- that essential middle-income workers are struggling to secure an affordable home;
- that young people should expect to secure an affordable home;
- that the state has responsibility to protect citizens right to a home;

acknowledges:

- Our new Governments historic housing and homeless prevention budget;
- Governments radical and ambitious Affordable Housing legislation which will see the state, under this Government, lead the provision of social, affordable and affordable cost rental homes;
- Statutory establishment of the Land Development Agency to work with local authorities and other stakeholders to maximise the use of state lands to sustainably develop social and affordable homes for purchase and rent;
- Historically state provision of housing is determined by prevailing and changing political will;
- Post-Covid Ireland aspires to a society where everyone has a safe place to call home;
- Bunreacht Na hÉireann explicitly protects private property rights in Articles 43 and 40.3 but does not include a corresponding right to a secure home;
- A constitutional right to housing would permanently assert the states responsibility to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing;
- A constitutional right to housing would permanently propel the state to sustainable housing policies designed to ensure access for all to secure housing;
- A constitutional right to housing would not guarantee everyone a free home;
- That the Programme for Government ‘Our Shared Future’ commits to establishing a Commission on Housing to examine issues such as tenure, standards and sustainability in the provision of housing;

Senators Mary Fitzpatrick, Malcolm Byrne, Eugene Murphy, Paul Daly, Ollie Crowe, Catherine Ardagh, Pat Casey, Fiona O’Loughlin, Timmy Dooley, Dennis O’Donovan, Ned O’Sullivan, Shane Cassells, Gerry Horkan

- That the Programme for Government ‘Our Shared Future’ commits to holding a referendum on housing;

and calls for:

- Government to exercise every resource to achieve a sustainable post-covid future where every Irish citizen has a safe and secure home;
- For Irish citizens to be given the opportunity through a constitutional referendum to mandate future Governments to pursue sustainable housing policies which ensure every citizen has a secure home by amending Bunreacht Na hÉireann to include a right to housing;
- Article 43A of Bunreacht Na hÉireann to be amended as follows:
  - o 1. The State recognises, and shall vindicate, the right of all persons to have access to adequate housing.
  - o 2. The State shall, through legislative and other measures, provide for the realisation of this right within its available resources.
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to advise the house on the holding of such referendum to allow the Irish people insert a constitutional protection to secure housing for every citizen in Bunreacht na hÉireann.

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