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Department of Social Protection**

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Tánaiste welcomes Government approval of Marriage Bill 2015

Welcoming Government approval today (Wednesday, 16 September 2015) for the publication of the Marriage Bill 2015, Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton T.D., commented:

“The publication of the Marriage Bill 2015 brings us one further step closer to the day when same-sex couples can marry. It represents another staging post on the road to making marriage equality a part of our laws and our reality.

“In May, after the referendum had passed, I said that a rainbow movement had created a rainbow nation. I want to pay a further tribute today to the countless volunteers and ordinary citizens who brought us to this point. Thanks to them we have a more compassionate and egalitarian Constitution, and we will shortly have that change reflected in the laws of our land.

“We have travelled an incredible journey as a country. Not so long ago, to be gay in this country was to risk being criminalised. Ireland has changed since then, and for the better.

“I would like to acknowledge the work and close co-operation there has been between my Department and the Department of Justice and Equality in the drafting of the Bill.

“I look forward to the Bill making its way through the Oireachtas and being enacted without any further delay, so that couples who wish to marry under the new legislation can do so as soon as possible.”

ENDS