

From: The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>
Sent: Tuesday 21 November 2023 11:21
To: ELC Research
Subject: New submission from Research Form

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1. What is your view on the five proposed research strands? Are there amendments or additions you would suggest?

Stand D should be amended to include LGBTQI+ as an underrepresented cohort. At present, less than 2% of the Dáil is LGBTQI+ compared to at least 10% of the general population. Within the LGBTQI+ community, some groups are particularly underrepresented. In the entire history of the State, just one lesbian woman was elected to the Dáil. We have yet to elect an openly bisexual, intersex, non-binary or transgender TD.

2. Which of the research questions under section 4 would you consider most important and why?

Democratic and electoral participation.

3. Are there additional research projects that you consider important to promote and enhance Ireland's democracy and electoral events? If yes, please specify?

We would like to see a research project on LGBTQI+ participation in politics. As set out above, LGBTQ+ people are currently underrepresented at all levels of Irish politics. In particular, there are additional barriers for lesbian and bisexual women, as well as intersex, non-binary and transgender people that need to be addressed.

4. Are there any other comments or observations that you wish to make regarding An Coimisiún's research programme?

The research programme should be reviewed to ensure that due consideration is given to the nine equality grounds set out in the Equality Acts.

Name

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Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?

I represent an Organisation

Name of Organisation

LGBT Ireland