



BRENDAN RYAN TD

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Winter 2016/17

Labour Spokesperson for Transport, Tourism, Sport and Defence

Brendan in the Dáil

As Spokesperson for Transport, Tourism, Sport & Defence I have raised the following issues on the floor in this Dáil term:

Trade Union rights for members of the Defence Forces
Supporting the retention of planning conditions restricting night flights and noise for the second runway at Dublin Airport.

Promoting greater participation of women in our Peacekeeping operations overseas

Pressing Minister Shane Ross to upgrade our transport services for people with disabilities

#RightSteps

CHILDCARE CAMPAIGN

High quality child care and early education and adequate wages for child care workers go hand in hand —we can't have one without the other. Low wages are amongst the biggest obstacle to high-quality child care —the average child care worker earns €18,808 per year, just below half the average industrial wage in Ireland.

Quality care largely hinges on the positive relationships - low pay is linked with low morale and high staff turnover. For further information go to www.labour.ie/rightsteps and find out Labour's Plan for the future of childcare.

HOUSING & RENTS

The Labour Party has published "The Social and Affordable Housing Supply Bill". The includes measures to address key issues including affordability and supply, soaring rents and tenants' rights, the hoarding of land by developers, as well as clamping down on the super profits of unregulated vulture funds operating here.

The Labour Party Bill would link rent to the consumer price index to ensure that rent increases remain affordable and related directly to the general cost of living. The Bill also brings forward the Vacant Site levy introduced by the Labour Party when in Government last year. The levy, which consists of a 3 per cent charge of the market value for unused land, would encourage land owners to make land available for building homes.

WORKER'S RIGHTS

The Labour Party has brought forward legislation to provide greater certainty and employment security for thousands of atypical workers in sectors such as hospitality, retail and the care sector.

The Protection of Employment (Uncertain Hours) Bill 2016 will create an entitlement for workers to request the correction of employment terms so that weekly hours of work reflect the pattern of work actually done each week in the previous six months.

This would bring an end people being trapped in a succession of low-paid, low hours arrangements with little or no legal protections.

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TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE

I have signed up to support the coalition to Stop Climate Chaos campaign to support a rapid and just transition to a carbon free future. I met the coalition in November and I have supported their asks to: Introduce a fair payment for solar activity, Divest taxpayers money in fossil fuels, and to increase investment in cycling and clean public transport. Locally, we held a public meeting on Climate change in Donabate on 29 November and we look forward to organising future events early in 2017

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Labour has called for the re-establishment of an Employer-Labour Conference.

The government is drowning in a sea of industrial relations problems. As each day of inaction from this decision-makers passes, these problems become more complex.

The Employer-Labour Conference existed in the 70's and 80's. It would complement the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour court, and help solve intractable disputes, pre-empt strikes and prevent an issue from becoming a crisis. The government are short of time and out of ideas and need to adopt the proactive proposal suggested by the Labour Party.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The Labour Party published a Bill calling for an amendment to our constitution to ensure that the electricity, gas and water networks continued to remain in public ownership. This would insert the following text in the constitution:

'The electricity and gas transmission and distribution networks and the public water supply and waste water treatment services shall be maintained in public ownership.'

If the amendment is approved at a referendum, it will not be possible for the Oireachtas to pass legislation to approve the privatisation of the companies that own our gas or electricity transmission and distribution networks or the public water supply and waste water treatment infrastructure.

Protecting our Rivers and Oceans

Labour has published The Prohibition of Micro-Plastics Bill 2016 which would make it an offence to manufacture, sell or advertise any products that use microbeads. Microbeads are tiny particles of plastic, commonly added to products such as facial or body scrubs, soaps, lotions and toothpastes, to make them more abrasive or for decoration. They often end up in our rivers and the sea, leading to concerns over their harmful impact on marine life and animals. Our Bill follows a similar one from the Green party which the Government defeated. It is vital this is kept on the agenda.

Supporting Craft Beer Industry

Labour recently Launched The Intoxicating Liquor (Breweries and Distilleries) Bill 2016 which would allow these businesses to sell their own produce to tourists and other visitors on site, which is not the case under current licensing laws. This Bill is aimed at boosting craft-beer tourism in Ireland by removing a major regulatory barrier for breweries, microbreweries, cider makers and distilleries. This will create jobs and boost tourism throughout Ireland.

ROGUE CRISIS PREGNANCY AGENCIES

The Labour Party has introduced legislation that will for the first time, require that those who provide counselling to women experiencing crisis pregnancies be registered and regulated. This issue was highlighted earlier this year by two brave young journalists who went undercover to reveal the true extent of what is happening in these agencies.

This behaviour is an appalling abuse of a position of trust and power, and it must be brought to an end by proper regulation.

CONSTITUENCY ADVICE CENTRES

Malahide:

Mondays, 11.00am in St. Sylvester's GAA Clubhouse, Church Road

Portmarnock:

Mondays 12pm in the Portmarnock Sports and Leisure Club

Donabate:

Thursdays, 5.30pm in St. Patrick's Parish Hall

Rush:

Thursdays, 7pm in Rush Community Centre, Main Street

Lusk:

Thursdays, 8pm in The Carnegie Library, The Green

Swords:

Fridays, 5.30pm in Swords Day Centre, Chapel Lane

Balbriggan:

Saturday, 11.00am in The Combined Clubs Community Centre

Skerries:

Saturday, 12.00pm in The Carnegie Library, Strand Street

OTHER AREAS BY APPOINTMENT 618 3421

