

MOVING FORWARD. TOGETHER.
AG BOGADH AR AGHAIDH. LE CHÉILE.

FIANNA FÁIL WOMEN'S MANIFESTO



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Why Fianna Fáil

In 2026, Fianna Fáil will celebrate the centenary of our founding, marking 100 years since Constance Markievicz chaired the first party meeting at La Scala Theatre, O'Connell Street. By then, Markievicz was the leader in the struggle for a more equal Ireland.

Markievicz was the first woman member of the Dáil, as well as the first woman elected to Westminster. She became Europe's first female cabinet member when she assumed the role of Minister for Labour as part of the first Dáil in the Spring of 1919.

As we approach our centenary year, Fianna Fáil continues to be inspired by Countess Markievicz.

Fianna Fáil is running 34 female candidates in GE2024, more than any Irish party has ever run.

We are doing our utmost to promote gender equality, support women in politics and create a more equal Ireland, of which our first party chair would be proud.

Fianna Fáil Women's Network

Our female candidates are supported by the Fianna Fáil Women's Network (FFWN), who work to remove barriers to participation, by tackling the 5 Cs – culture, confidence, childcare, cash and candidate selection.

The FFWN have ensured that our women candidates have the money to enable them to run strong campaigns. This is done through direct support and in enabling the candidate to fundraise for themselves. The Network also undertakes pioneering work on safe participation in politics and ensures female candidates have 24/hr access to counselling supports.



Achievements in Government

Fianna Fáil enters this election with a proven track record of delivery, ambition for our country and a determined focus to build on the good work done over the last four years.

Over the lifetime of the last Government, we made strides in women's health, expanding free contraception to all women aged 17-35 and developing Ireland's first *Women's Health Action Plan*, funding dedicated clinics for women's health issues, including menopause, endometriosis and gynaecology. We have also introduced publicly funded IVF, providing free fertility treatment for the first time. Under Budget 2025, we allocated €20 million under for the provision of free HRT products for women experiencing symptoms of menopause.

We are supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis. We provided extraordinary cost-of-living supports with electricity credits of €1,350 per household, as well as reductions in the cost of 3rd level education and transport. We supported vulnerable citizens with the expansion of the Fuel Allowance and the Working Family Payment lump sum. Childcare costs are now 50% lower on 2019 and a record number of families are benefitting from the National Childcare Scheme.

Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) is a scourge on our society. Fianna Fáil is working with external stakeholders on how we can bring about change from all angles; how we can change the culture of misogyny to respect, what improvements are needed right across the legal system to support victims and their families and ensure access to justice, and what unexplored avenues can better support women in the workplace, community and online. In Government, we have worked to implement the *Zero Tolerance* strategy. Progress has been made with the establishment of Cuan, the new statutory DSGBV Agency and the introduction of a standalone stalking offence and two new offences criminalising the sharing, or threatening to share, intimate images of a person without their consent.

Work on bringing about a safer tech space is also on going. The new regulator, Coimisiún na Meán, is delivering a new regulatory framework for online safety and will enforce rules for broadcasters and video on-demand providers.

While we have achieved much progress on equality in the workspace, there are some areas in which female workers still face discrimination. We are taking action. Fianna Fáil established the Working Group on Women in Agriculture, provided 60% TAMS rates for women farmers and is working towards at least 40% female representation on Agrifood State Boards. We committed €10.5 million to improve pay and conditions for childcare workers and are enhancing sustainability for providers.

Fianna Fáil is wholly committed to a *sport for all policy*. To increase the participation of women and girls in sport, 50% of Government funding is withheld until national boards and Local Sports Partnerships reach 40% gender representation. We also introduced the *Similar Access Rule*, meaning State funding will not go to sports facilities which do not provide similar access between men and women.

Despite progress in many areas, challenges remain and more needs to be done to ensure equality and that everyone in our society can live their lives safely, free from discrimination, harassment and violence. Guided by the legacy of Countess Markievicz we will continue our work to create a more equal Ireland for all.

Moving Forward. Together.

At this very challenging moment in Europe and the wider world, Ireland must be clear in its values and its direction. We must stand with other democracies and move assertively to protect our interests and our future success. This document is the blueprint for how Fianna Fáil in Government will protect the progress we all value and how we will deliver sustained action on the most important issues for Ireland's future.

This is our plan for moving Ireland forward, together.

Our Commitments:

- Require employers to disclose proposed salaries in job advertisements.
- Implement the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.
- Deliver the recommendations of the *Women in Agriculture Action Plan*.
- Provide greater employment opportunities for Travellers and Roma.
- Extend the free contraception scheme to all women.
- Complete the national network of 21 same day gynaecology clinics.
- Invest and advance specialist endometriosis care.
- Expand eligibility to State-funded IVF and establish the AHR Regulatory Authority to support Assisted Human Reproduction.
- Continue to improve health services for LGBTQI+ people.
- Introduce free post-birth pelvic floor physical therapy.
- Deliver the first in-patient Mother and Baby Mental Health Unit.
- Expand specialist services for eating disorders and self-harm.
- Invest in breastfeeding supports and increase the number of lactation consultants.
- Extend Parent's Leave and Benefit to 12 weeks.
- Allow parents to take leave and access benefits for up to five years following the birth or adoption of a child.
- Enact *Jennie's Law* to establish a coercive control – domestic violence register and disclosure scheme.
- Expedite the delivery of 150 more refuge units.
- Ban sex for rent.
- Introduce *Valerie's law* to ensure those convicted of killing their partners or a parent of their child will lose guardianship rights over their children.
- Treat *deep fakes* and cyberflashing in a manner equivalent to the non-consensual sharing of genuine intimate images.
- Empower citizens to identify disinformation.
- Ensure full transparency for online political advertising.

- Increase the income disregards for the Carer's Allowance, with a view to abolishing the means test and increase the Carer's Support Grant to €2,500.
- Enable pension age carers to retain the rate at which they are paid their Carers Allowance and concurrently receive the State Pension.
- Provide full-rate Carer's Allowance for those caring for two individuals.
- Invest in respite services and the Home Support Emergency Respite Scheme.
- Support foster carers by providing access to the State's contributory pension and the Back-to-School Allowance, as well as an increased After Care Allowance.
- Bid for AIG Women's Open at Portmarnock Golf Club.

Advancing Equality

Ireland has made immense progress on gender equality, rolling back unfair laws and strengthening the rights of citizens. But this hard-won progress needs to be advanced and deepened across all sectors of society to fully realise the rich potential of our country.

Fianna Fáil will:

- Require employers to disclose proposed salaries in job advertisements to promote full transparency.
- Raise the compensation limit of €15,000 for claims made under the Equal Status Act 2000.
- Launch a successor strategy to the National Strategy for Women and girls.
- Achieve gender balance on department boards and on the boards of state agencies.
- Publish and implement a new National Disability Strategy.
- Advance the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.
- Eliminate the employment provision that permits pay reductions based on disability.
- Deliver the recommendations of the Women in Agriculture Action Plan, in particular addressing barriers for women farmers within the taxation system.
- Provide greater employment opportunities for Travellers and Roma through a strengthened Traveller employment support programme, a new Public Service Traveller and Roma Internship Programme and enterprise supports.

Investing in Women's Healthcare

Our investment in women's health has dramatically altered the landscape of the health service. Our focus now is on expanding capacity and improving delivery.

Fianna Fáil will:

- Further extend the provision of free contraception.
- Complete the national network of 21 same day gynaecology clinics.
- Invest and advance specialist endometriosis care, providing timely access to specialist excision surgery.
- Develop an empowering model of care for managing menopause.
- Expand eligibility to State-funded IVF.
- Establish the new AHR Regulatory Authority to support Assisted Human Reproduction, including IVF and surrogacy.
- Assign targeted health measures for Travellers, Roma, migrants and other marginalised women.
- Continue to improve investment in and access to health services for LGBTQI+ people.
- Develop a national cardiovascular health policy, based on the success of the National Cancer Control Programme, and address gender health inequalities in cardiac care.

Expanding Access to Mental Healthcare

Fianna Fáil will:

- Expand specialist services for eating disorders and self-harm.
- Fund the national mental health policy Sharing the Vision.
- Increase acute psychiatric bed provision to the recommended 25 per 100,000 population.
- Extend free primary care counselling to GP card holders.
- Prioritise culturally appropriate mental health supports for Traveller and other minority communities.
- Support local groups like Women's Sheds and retirement communities.

Reforming Addiction Services

Fianna Fáil will:

- Establish a 10-bed stabilisation service to create pathways to access detox and rehab treatment for marginalised members of our society; women/pregnant women, Travellers, LGBTQI+ and new communities.
- Implement a new Urban Communities Initiative focused on city centres and the areas of highest disadvantage, which would bring together all state agencies to implement community development planning, schemes for disadvantaged youth and expanded education programmes.

Progressing Perinatal Care and Maternity Rights

Fianna Fáil will:

- Develop a successor to the National Maternity Strategy.
- Build the new National Maternity Hospital.
- Introduce free pelvic floor physical therapy for women after childbirth.
- Deliver the first in-patient Mother and Baby Mental Health Unit. This will allow women to receive care, while continuing to care for their infant, thus facilitating mother-infant bonding and attachment.
- Double the number of multidisciplinary teams for pregnant women.
- Invest in additional supports for breastfeeding and increase the number of lactation consultants both in the community and in hospitals.
- Extend Parent's Leave and Benefit from 9 to 12 weeks.
- Extend the duration of Parent's Leave and Benefit to allow parents to take leave and access benefits for up to five years following the birth or adoption of a child.

Providing Quality Menstrual Care

Fianna Fáil will:

- Mainstream menstrual health into the secondary school curriculum.
- Build on the pilot Worryfree scheme which provided free period products to ETBs and provide period products to schools, public buildings and universities.

Tackling Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

The scale of violence against women in our society is extensive. Unfortunately, there are men who believe that women should be submissive to them and that violence and coercive control is an acceptable way of achieving this. Changing this requires a dramatic alteration of the views those men have of women and of what they see as acceptable behaviour.

Fianna Fáil will:

- Enact Jennie's Law to establish a register of those convicted of coercive control and domestic violence. This register will be available to An Garda Síochána who will be empowered to make a disclosure to persons in, or entering, relationships with those convicted of such offences.
- Expedite the delivery of 150 more refuge units.
- Ensure victims of DSGBV can access Free Legal Aid.
- Legislate to make it a criminal offence to seek sex in exchange for rent.
- Ensure faster access to Court in rape cases.
- Increase funding allocated to Sexual Assault Treatment Units.
- Introduce Valerie's law to ensure those convicted of killing their partners or a parent of their child will lose guardianship rights over their children.
- Develop a Family Law and Children's Court Complex.
- Ensure separate legal representation for children who are subject to childcare proceedings by Tusla.



Valuing carers

We are the Party that introduced the Carer's Allowance. We have increased the rates of payment and income disregards, extended Carer's Benefit to the self-employed and introduced a long-term Carer's Scheme to help long-term carers access the State Pension. The steps that we have taken have made a difference, but we want to go further. We want to improve how the State values and compensates carers.

If returned to Government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Allocate a minimum of €600 million to increase the income disregards to qualify for the Carer's Allowance, with a view to abolishing the means test for this payment over the term of Government.
- Ensure that on reaching pension age carers can retain the rate at which they are paid their Carers Allowance and concurrently receive the State Pension.
- Provide full-rate Carer's Allowance for those caring for two individuals and a Half-Rate Carer's Allowance for any additional people.
- Increase the annual Carer's Support Grant to €2,500.
- Invest at least €15 million more annually in respite services.
- Increase funding for the Home Support Emergency Respite Scheme for unpaid carers in need of urgent respite.
- Continue to support respite houses.
- Enhance alternative respite options, including home sharing, after-school clubs, weekend breaks, and tea-time respite.



Supporting Foster Carers

Since entering Government in 2020, Fianna Fáil has increased the foster care allowance for children under 12 to €400 per week and to €425 per week for children over 12.

If returned to Government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Recognise foster care through social welfare credits so that foster carers can access the State's contributory pension.
- Extend the Back-to-School Allowance to foster carers.
- Increase the After Care Allowance in line with the increase in the Foster Care Allowance for young people who remain living with foster carers after the age of 18 years and continue in education/training.
- Ensuring a Safe Digital Sphere
- Fianna Fáil is committed to maintaining a safe digital environment. More work needs to be done to ensure that the many benefits of tech advancement are not outweighed by very real risks and dangers. Robust measures must be put in place to tackle online fraud, misuse of personal data, extremism and disinformation. But we must go further.

Ensuring a Safe Digital Sphere

Fianna Fáil will:

- Fully resource Coimisiún na Meán to enable it to carry out its important work.
- Provide An Garda Síochána and Coimisiún na Meán with powers to seek a court order requiring the immediate removal of illegal or harmful content.
- Treat deep fakes and cyberflashing in a manner equivalent to the non-consensual sharing of genuine intimate images.
- Require online platforms to detect and remove fake advertisements.
- Amend legislation so that online platforms can only publish advertising for financial products and services from companies that are regulated to provide such products.
- Publish the National Counter Disinformation Strategy and an implementation plan to empower citizens through media literacy, education, and awareness so they have the skills to identify disinformation.
- Empower the Electoral Commission to tackle the scourge of online disinformation.
- Fully implement the Electoral Reform Act to ensure full transparency for online political advertising.
- Recognise the harm of catfishing, both for the person who has been catfished and then the person whose identity was stolen and make it a criminal offence.



Assuring inclusivity in Culture, Arts and Sport

Fianna Fáil will:

- Support the establishment of the National Women's Museum.
- Review the national collection, with a view to better reflect the cultural contributions of women.
- Bid for AIG Women's Open at Portmarnock Golf Club.





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