

**Winter News**

***Homelessness, child  
poverty, health crises..***

**ANOTHER**

**IRELAND**

**IS POSSIBLE**



**Joan**

**INDEPENDENTS 4 CHANGE**

**COLLINS TD**



**139,000 children living in  
consistent poverty, 680,000 on  
hospital waiting lists, 8,270  
homeless people, 3048 homeless  
children, 141 repossessions taking  
place each month, one in five  
workers on low pay... Enough!  
*It's Time4Change.***

In early November over 500 people attended a conference in Dublin on the theme **ANOTHER IRELAND IS POSSIBLE**. The conference discussed the possibility of building a mass citizens' movement to fight for the implementation of the Right2Change policy principles which came out of the tremendously successful anti water charges campaign.

Right2Water was the biggest popular social movement in the history of the state. It involved mass national demonstrations, hundreds of local demo's and protests, a mass non-payment campaign, and communities blocking the installation of water meters.

In the last general election the outgoing government lost an unprecedented 50% of its seats. Labour lost 80%, but instead of change we now have a right wing Fine Gael government propped up by Fianna Fail. This means a continuation of the same failed policies on issues like housing and health.

The crises in these areas are not an accident. The obvious solution of building public housing is not being pursued for one reason only. It clashes with the interests of banks, property developers, landlords, estate



R2W demo 2015



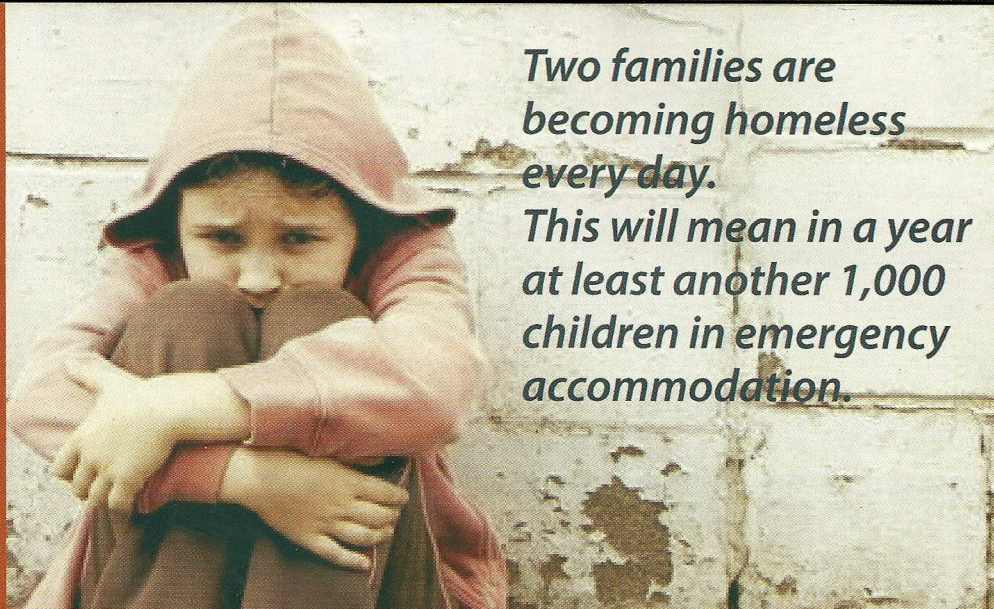
## Where's our referendum?

**RIGHT2  
WATER**

It is now a year since the bill Joan Collins introduced for a referendum on the public ownership of water passed second stage in the Dail. The government have been stalling, trying to keep the bill in pre-legislative scrutiny. Now they say they are not opposed to it, but it is not a priority. That's a lie, they are very opposed to it.

Maybe we will have to do a Catalonia, and organise our own referendum?





***Two families are becoming homeless every day. This will mean in a year at least another 1,000 children in emergency accommodation.***

agents, and all the other vested interests in the private housing market.

A properly funded, universal public health service would also clash with the interests of private healthcare providers and private healthcare insurance. If we had a decent public health service no one would need private insurance or private care.

These are just two key issues. The R2C policy principles cover other key areas like education, a referendum to keep water services in public ownership, workers' rights, the right of women to control their own bodies, no sell-off of our natural resources. In fact, they amount to a charter for a New Republic, for Another Ireland.

To achieve a New Republic we need to build a mass citizens' movement with the aim to elect a left government to implement real change. This means bringing together unions, left political parties and independents, with a mass citizens' activist base, to work together and co-operate to achieve common goals.

Part of this discussion was the idea of a Not for Profit, democratically owned, co-operative alternative media. The mainstream media is a weapon in the hands of the elite, which 'shapes the news' in their interests. We are constantly bombarded with 'experts' who tell us there is no alternative to the way things are.

We need an alternative which brings out the realities, the experiences and views of ordinary people, and explores in an honest way the alternative ways in which society could be organised. Such an alternative media could be funded by small contributions from working people.

I hope to hold a series of public meetings in the next few weeks so that people can come along, find out more, and put forward their views. You can also get involved by visiting [right2change.ie](http://right2change.ie).



**Cllrs Paul Hand and Pat Dunne of Independents 4Change at the opening of the new Weaver Park playground.**

**Congratulations to all those in the local community who campaigned for this much needed community facility.**



# Cllr Paul Hand joins Independents4Change in Dublin Sth Central

I am very pleased that Cllr Paul Hand has joined our team in Dublin South Central.

Paul is an excellent public representative and activist working in the Ballyfermot, Bluebell, Inchicore, Drimnagh and Walkinstown areas.

Paul shares a similar political outlook as myself, working to create a fairer and just society.

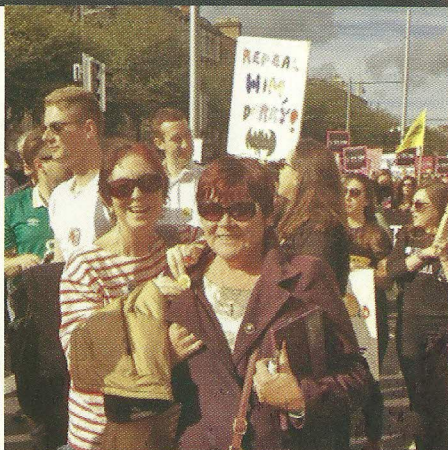


## Repeal the 8th

There will a referendum on the Eight Amendment to the Constitution next summer. A Dáil committee is presently discussing the report from the Citizens' Assembly which recommended removal of the 8th and the introduction of much more liberal abortion laws in Ireland.

However, recent comments by Fine Gael TDs and the motion passed at the recent Fianna Fail Ard Feis show there will be significant opposition to this. They will attempt to limit any change to a minimum.

We need to keep the pressure on for a referendum to completely remove the 8th and for legislation which will give women the right to



## Paradise Lost: Global Tax Avoidance

The intent of the poet John Milton in his epic poem "Paradise Lost" was to "justify the ways of Gods to men". The current defenders of mass tax avoidance see their role in the same way.

The latest revelations in the Paradise Papers show tax avoiders range from Bono to Dermot Desmond to the Queen of England. It is easy to get lost in the names of those who are shirking their responsibility to society. We can't lose sight of the fact that globally and locally this affects people's everyday services like schools, hospitals, roads etc.

Resistance to this theft starts by not supporting those who would "justify the ways of Gods to men" like those in our establishment parties.

## Standing with our community



Joan Collins is an Independents4Change TD for Dublin South Central. She was first elected to Dublin City Council in 2004, and was re-elected in 2009.

In 2011, she was elected to Dail Eireann and re-elected in 2016. She has earned a well deserved reputation as a hard working, capable and experienced public representative.

Joan worked as a clerk in An Post and is a member of the Communications Workers Union. Joan lives in Inchicore. Text 087 7675691 to get involved.



# Working with Cllr Pat Dunne

*I work very closely with my colleagues Cllrs Pat Dunne and Paul Hand. We are a team working together for you.*

Pat is pleased to report some positive results attained following his campaigning and lobbying, these include improvements in **Willie Pearse Park**, planned upgrade of the **playground in Brickfield Park**. Other local environmental improvements are planned for Dolphins Barn.

Pat also arranged a public meeting of local residents to oppose the unsuitable planning application for a 4 storey development on the **Hub site in Crumlin Village**. He is pleased it was rejected. There will also be new improvements to the east side of the village to begin early next year.

We are also working very closely with the **sporting and community groups in the South West Inner City** and have reached agreement to provide much needed sports and leisure facilities within the **St. Teresa's Gardens regeneration plan**.

Pat has participated in the community workshops which ensured that the planned **Bridgefoot Street Park** meets the needs of the community.



Cllr Pat Dunne

Pat is a member of the Housing SPC and has voted consistently for public and affordable housing to be built in the area. He was among other Left councillors in proposing a motion to delay the passing of the recent **Council budget vote** and instead enter into real negotiations with central government to secure the required funding to build 12,000 much needed homes on public owned land in the city.

The money is there he argued. The FG government supported by FF have put aside €1.3Billion for a rainy day fund. He says that the rainy day is now, for the homeless families and those who have spent years on the waiting list. Unfortunately the motion was defeated by

# Working with Cllr Paul Hand

Paul has been campaigning for numerous improvements to the local area throughout his time as a Councillor in the area. Although not all are realised, some of them are and earlier this year the wall linking **Slievebloom Park and the Long Mile Road** was reinforced and refurbished. This follows on from representations Paul made the previous year to have hand rails installed at the steps. Paul is satisfied that this area is now safer for all pedestrians in the local area.

Paul has been campaigning for improvements to **Bunting Road Park in Walkinstown**. Later this year, extra railings will be installed at the **Somerville Avenue** entrance, replacing the hedging at that location. Paul will continue to campaign to have railings surrounding the entire park.

In 2017 Paul was Chairperson of the **Dublin 12 Local Policing Forum**. He worked pro-actively with many residents groups to ensure an effective Garda response to issues as they arose. If anyone has any local policing issues feel free to get in touch and Paul will liaise with Gardai on your behalf.



Cllr Paul Hand

Paul is a member of the Transportation Committee of Dublin City Council. Paul is deeply concerned at the proposed **privatisation of routes 17, 18 and 76** which service residents in the South Central Area. Go-Ahead, the British company who that won the tender have a terrible record in providing services in the UK as well as a bad record on workers rights. Paul opposes any and all attempts to privatise our public services.

Despite the promise that the property tax would be used to fund increased services, this has not happened. Instead the government has cut the amount the council receives from central funds.



# Joan Collins TD stands for :

**Housing is a right** that should be available to everyone. We need to build enough public housing units over the next five years to solve the crises. Tenants need real rent controls and security of tenure. No family who genuinely cannot pay their mortgage should be evicted.

**Universal Free Healthcare** for all. This means creating a single-tier public health service that is well funded, free at the point of access and a decent place to work for all its staff.

**Decent work for everyone** with a national living wage of €11.50 per hour, a 4% increase for private sector workers and pay restoration in the public sector. Workers also need guaranteed hours and a right to be represented by a trade union.

**Our water in public ownership** with a referendum to ensure our public water system remains owned by us and is not sold for profit. Scrap water charges completely and replace Irish Water with a national water board.

**Education equality** by removing the baptismal barrier, ensuring that facilities are of high quality for all and ending pay discrimination among teachers.

**Tax justice** through a wealth tax, a new band of income tax for higher earners and ending tax avoidance by multinationals.

**A new economy** with state investment to develop Irish industry, 21st Century infrastructure and modern technology such as quality broadband.

**Repeal the Eight Amendment.**



Joan  
**COLLINS TD**

If you need any assistance you can contact me at my constituency office at **10A Old County Road.**

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You can also phone me at Dáil Éireann  
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