

equality

OUR TALE OF TWO COUNTIES

MONAGHAN 1955 • MONAGHAN 2015

A CHANGING SOCIETY





1955
Monaghan



THIS BOOKLET TELLS THE TALE OF TWO COUNTIES, COUNTY MONAGHAN IN 1955 AND COUNTY MONAGHAN IN 2015. THROUGH A SERIES OF CHARACTERS WE TRACE THE CHANGES IN SOCIETY OVER THIS 60 YEAR PERIOD. WE HAVE CREATED A PROFILE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN MONAGHAN IN 1955 AND THE LIVES THEY LED. WE THEN LOOKED AT HOW THE LIVES OF THOSE CHARACTERS DIFFER IN 2015. ALL THE CHARACTERS ARE FICTITIOUS, BUT BASED ON THE REAL STORIES UNCOVERED THROUGH RESEARCH.

WHAT IS DISCRIMINATION?

DISCRIMINATION is described as treating someone in a less favourable way than another person is, has been or would be treated in a similar situation.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION COVERED BY IRISH LAW:

DIRECT DISCRIMINATION occurs when a person is treated less favourably than another, in similar circumstances, based on one of the nine grounds.

INDIRECT DISCRIMINATION is about a practice or policies which either intentionally or more often un-intentionally, result in discrimination against a minority ethnic group or groups.

DISCRIMINATION BY ASSOCIATION happens when a person associated with another person who belongs to a particular ethnic minority is treated less favourably because of that association.

9 GROUNDS OF DISCRIMINATION

Under equality law there are 9 grounds of discrimination. What this means is, it is against the law to treat someone from any of the 9 groups identified differently to someone else in a similar situation.

THE 9 GROUNDS ARE:

GENDER

Treating someone differently because they are male or female.

AGE

Treating someone differently because of their age.

CIVIL STATUS

Treating someone differently because they are single, or married, or divorced or in a civil partnership.

FAMILY STATUS

Treating someone differently because of their family make-up (for example someone who is parenting alone).

DISABILITY

Treating someone differently because they have a physical, intellectual or mental disability.

SEXUALITY

Treating someone differently because they are straight or a member of the LGBT community.

RELIGION

Treating someone differently because of their religion.

RACE

Treating someone differently because of their race.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRAVELLING COMMUNITY

Treating someone differently because they are a member of the Travelling community.

The Equal Status Act came into law in 2000. The Act has been amended by the Equality Act 2004, the Disability Act 2005 and the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008. They are known collectively as the Equal Status Acts 2000 – 2008.

EQUALITY IS BASED ON YOUR HUMAN RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR OWN SOCIETY. **EQUALITY** IS ABOUT ENSURING THAT INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE TREATED EQUALLY AND NO LESS FAVOURABLY THAN OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS FOR A BROAD RANGE OF DIFFERENT REASONS. THESE REASONS ARE KNOWN AS GROUNDS OF DISCRIMINATION.

EQUALITY GIVES EVERYONE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY, NOT EVERYONE WILL WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN EVERYTHING IN SOCIETY BUT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE CHOICE AND THE OPPORTUNITY.

WHAT IS equality

EQUALITY LAW

EQUALITY LAWS IN IRELAND AIM TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, AND TO PROMOTE **EQUALITY** OF OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.

EQUALITY DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN TREATING EVERYONE THE SAME. DIFFERENT SUPPORTS MAY BE NEEDED BY DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO ACHIEVE **EQUALITY**.

WHAT DOES equality LAW COVER?

EMPLOYMENT

The Employment Equality Acts, 1998 and 2004 prohibit direct and indirect discrimination in employment across the nine grounds. This includes advertising of a vacancy, equal pay, access to employment, terms and conditions of employment, promotion and dismissal.

GOODS AND SERVICES

The Equal Status Acts, 2000 and 2004 prohibit discrimination when trying to access goods and services on the nine grounds.

THE ACT APPLIES TO PEOPLE WHO:

- Buy and sell a wide variety of goods
- use or provide a wide range of services
- obtain or dispose of accommodation
- attend at or are in charge of educational establishments

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Banking, insurance, grants, loans, credit or financing
- Entertainment, recreation or refreshment
- Cultural activities
- Transport or travel
- A service or facility provided by a club which is available to the public or a section of the public
- A professional trade or service



MARRIED WOMEN

19 **55** — Mary is 24 she lives just outside Clones. Mary works in the County Council as a clerical officer, she really likes her job and thinks she is good employee. Mary is getting married to John in the summer, she is excited to become a wife and **MARY IS 24 SHE LIVES JUST OUTSIDE CLONES. MARY WORKS IN THE COUNTY COUNCIL AS A CLERICAL OFFICER, SHE REALLY LIKES HER JOB AND HAS MANY FRIENDS THERE.** “marriage ban” she will have to leave her job when she gets married.

MARY IS JUST HOME FROM HER HONEYMOON, SHE HAD A GREAT TIME SEEING ALL THE SIGHTS. MARY IS GOING BACK

TO WORK ON MONDAY — 20 **15**

According to the “Marriage ban” a woman working in the public service was required to leave her job once she married. This ban was removed in 1973.



AGE+ CHILDREN

19 **55** — Tommy is 10, he goes to the school beside his house. Tommy likes school but he isn't very good at spellings.

When he gets his spellings wrong he gets five slaps with the leather strap. Tommy will try harder tomorrow to get all his spellings right.

TOMMY IS 10 HE IS IN FOURTH CLASS IN SCHOOL IN EMYVALE.

TOMMY LOVES SCHOOL MOST OF THE TIME, BUT NOT THE

HOMEWORK! TOMMY HAS A SPELLING TEST EVERY FRIDAY.

TOMMY'S TEACHER GIVES OUT GOLD STARS FOR EVERY

SPELLING HE GETS RIGHT. TOMMY IS HOPING TO GET TEN

GOLD STARS THIS FRIDAY — 20 **15**

In 1955 there were few if any laws in place to protect children, Corporal punishment (slapping and hitting) was common in schools. Corporal punishment was banned in schools in 1982, by 1996 it had become a criminal offence.



SEXUALITY

19 **55** — Joe lives just outside Castleblaney. He will be 19 in a couple of weeks. He works in the post office and goes to

dances with his brothers at the weekend. Joe doesn't really

JOE IS FROM CASTLEBLANEY, HE STARTED COLLEGE IN DUNDALK LAST YEAR, HE LOVES IT. HE HAS JUST STARTED TO DATE MARK. JOE TOLD HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT HE like girls and he has never had a girlfriend like all his brothers. Joe seems to be the only one who doesn't like the girls at the dances, his friends call him a "nancy boy"

WAS GAY LAST CHRISTMAS. JOE WAS AFRAID OF WHAT HIS Joe doesn't say anything, he thinks this is for the best.

FAMILY WOULD SAY, BUT THEY SAID IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE Joe has never told anyone how he really feels, it's his secret.

TO THEM. JOE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO INTRODUCING MARK

TO ALL HIS FAMILY & FRIENDS — 20 **15**

Following the enactment of the CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) ACT, 1993 homosexuality was no longer illegal in Ireland.

RACISM

In the 1950's 400,000 people left Ireland to find employment. Many Irish people experienced racism and prejudice in other countries where they went to find a new home. Currently there are over 550,000 people living in Ireland who came here to make a new life.

19 **55** — Mick is from Ballybay, but he lives in London now, he came here with his two friends 6 months ago. Mick misses

SARA'S FAMILY IS FROM RWANDA BUT SHE WAS BORN IN A HOME A LOT BUT THERE IS NO WORK FOR HIM AT HOME AND THE REFUGEE CAMP. SHE LIVED IN THE CAMP FOR TEN YEARS MONEY IS GOOD IN LONDON. MICK AND HIS FRIENDS COULDN'T FIND WITH HER FAMILY. THEY HAD TO FLEE THEIR COUNTRY SOMEWHERE TO LIVE FOR A LONG TIME, NOBODY WANTED TO RENT A BECAUSE OF WAR AND THEY WERE AFRAID THEY WOULD BE ROOM TO IRISH PEOPLE. THEY ARE GETTING USED TO IT AND THEY MURDERED. SARA AND HER FAMILY HAVE LIVED IN HOPE THEY CAN GO BACK TO WORK IN IRELAND SOON.

MONAGHAN FOR ALMOST 2 YEARS. SHE LIKES IRELAND,

MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE VERY NICE AND FRIENDLY, BUT

SOME PEOPLE SHOUT NAMES AT HER ON THE STREET AND

SOMETIMES STARE AT HER — 20 **15**

The Equal Status Act 2000 made it illegal in Ireland to discriminate against someone because of their race when providing goods, services or in advertising.



LONE PARENT

19 **55** — Ann is 17, she is pregnant and will have her baby soon. Ann is not married. Ann's parents have told her she must give her baby up to be adopted. Ann would love to keep **ANN IS 23, SHE WORKS PART TIME IN A LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL. SHE LOVES HER JOB. ANN HAS A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER CALLED SUSIE. SUSIE IS 6, ANN IS A LONE PARENT. SHE DIDN'T PLAN TO HAVE SUSIE AT 17, BUT SUSIE IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO HER. ITS TOUGH SOMETIMES BUT ANN LIVES NEAR TO HER FAMILY AND SUSIE SEES HER DADDY ALL THE TIME** — 20 **15**

1973, the Government introduced the "Unmarried Mothers Allowance" this provided financial support for the first time to mothers who were not married.



GENDER+ WOMEN

19 **55** — Jane is from Monaghan town she works in the Civil

Service in Dublin. Her brother Sean works in the Civil

JANE IS FROM MONAGHAN TOWN, SHE WORKS FOR THE
Service with her. Jane does the same work as Sean, works the

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION. THERE ARE SIX
same hours and has the same skills. Sean gets paid more

PEOPLE IN HER OFFICE, 4 WOMEN AND 2 MEN.
money than Jane, because Sean is a man.

THEY ALL DO THE SAME TYPE OF WORK AND THE SAME

NUMBER OF HOURS EACH WEEK. THEY ARE ALL PAID THE

SAME SALARY — 20 **15**

Before the Equality Employment Act 1977, men were paid
more than women to do the same job.



Disability

DIS- ABILITY

19 **55** — Jimmy is 14, he lives with his family in Ballybay.

Jimmy has a learning disability. He has heard people call him

JIMMY IS 14, HE LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY IN BALLYBAY.

a Mongol. Jimmy would love to go to school with his brothers

JIMMY HAS DOWN SYNDROME, HE DOES EVERYTHING HE

and sisters but he isn't allowed so he stays home.

WANTS TO DO JUST LIKE HIS FAMILY. JIMMY GOES TO

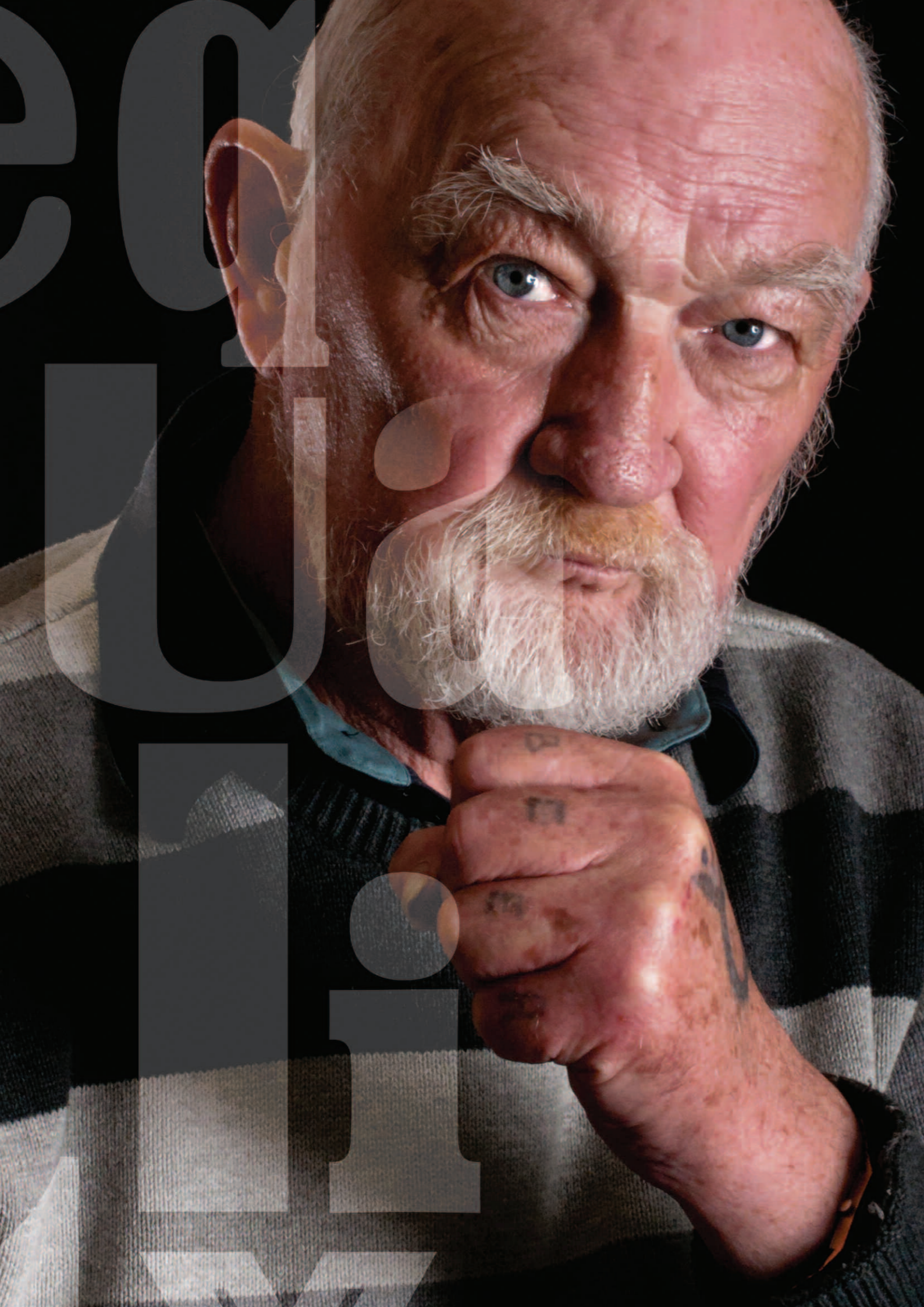
SCHOOL WITH HIS SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN BALLYBAY,

HE LIKES SCHOOL BUT DOESN'T LIKE STUDYING FOR EXAMS.

JIMMY HOPES TO BECOME A COOK WHEN HE FINISHES

SCHOOL AND WORK IN THE LOCAL CAFE — 20 **15**

1955 children with learning disabilities did not attend mainstream school. Patricia Farrell, who had a son with Down Syndrome placed an ad in the Irish Times in 1955 looking for other parents of children with special needs to come together. A group of parents got together and started the work that has led to the provision of special needs education for children with a disability.



TRAVELLERS

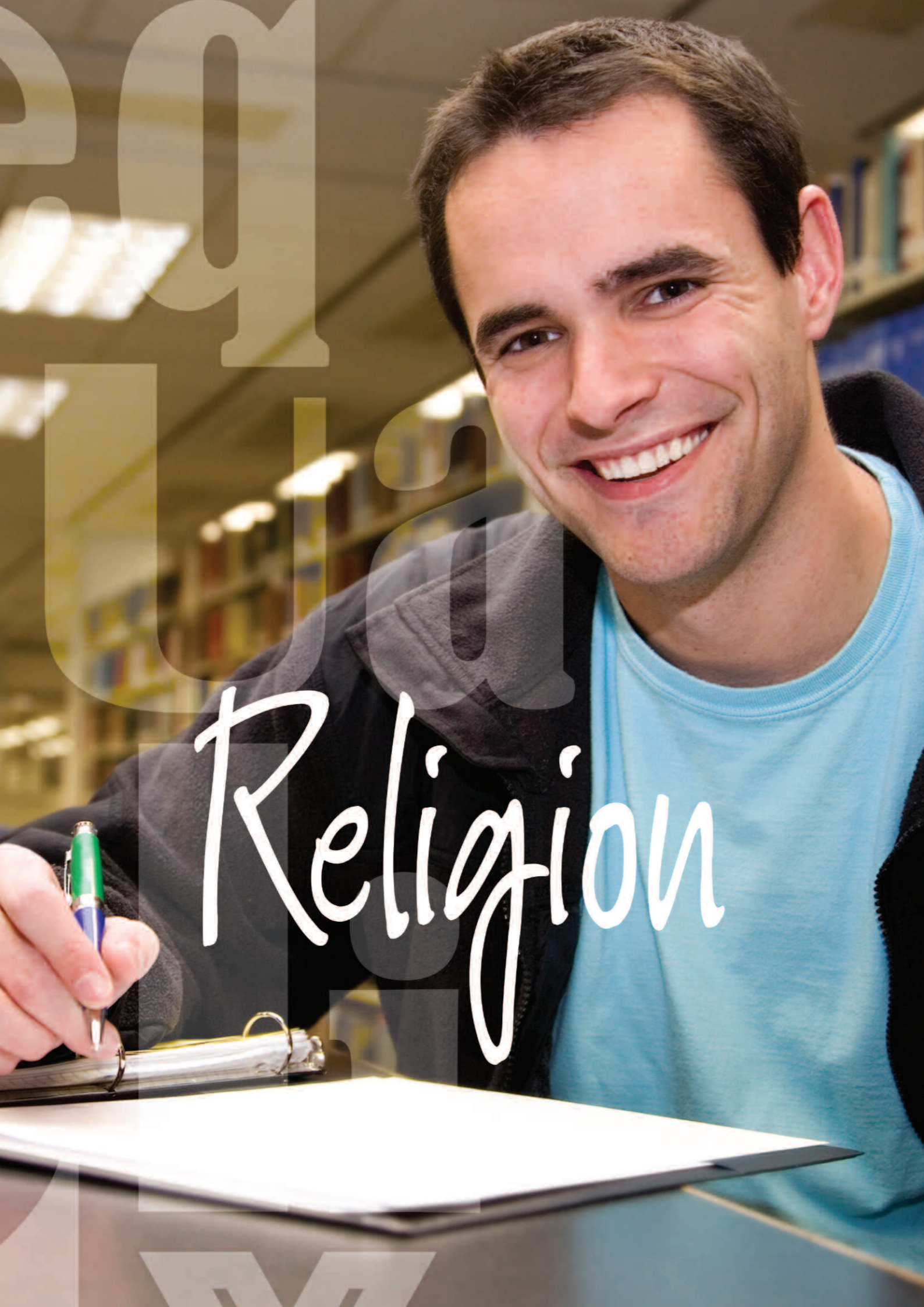
19 **55** — Paddy is a Traveller man, he lives in a Barrell wagon
PADDY IS A TRAVELLER MAN, HE LIVES IN A HOUSE IN
in a small camp with his family and other families near
MONAGHAN TOWN. PADDY HAS NEVER REALLY GOT USED TO
Monaghan town. Paddy and his family will travel to Wexford
LIVING IN A HOUSE, HE GREW UP IN A BARRELLED WAGON.
soon for the summer. They will travel back to the camp in
PADDY SUPPOSES LIVING IN A HOUSE IS BETTER FOR HIS
Monaghan when summer is over. Paddy is a tinsmith, like his
CHILDREN. PADDY IS UNEMPLOYED, HE HAS BEEN
grandfather. Paddy makes saucepans, pots and milk-cans and
UNEMPLOYED FOR A LONG TIME. NOT MANY PEOPLE WILL
sells them locally. The people in Monaghan are mostly
GIVE TRAVELLERS A CHANCE OF A JOB. PADDY IS PROUD OF
friendly, the odd time people wouldn't be too nice, but only
BEING A TRAVELLER, BUT HE GETS UPSET WHEN HIS
the odd time.

CHILDREN TELL HIM THEY GET CALLED NAMES IN SCHOOL,

THEY DON'T DESERVE THAT, THEY ARE NO DIFFERENT TO

ANY OTHER CHILDREN — 20 **15**

In 1963 the government published the "Report of the Commission on Itinerancy". This report looked at problems "caused" by Travellers, rather than problems faced by Travellers. The report recommended programmes that would absorb Travellers (assimilation) into the wider community. Many Travellers feel this led only to further exclusion for Travellers. The Equal Status Acts 2000-2008 protects members of the Travelling community from discrimination. Many Travellers in Monaghan still feel that they experience discrimination in society.



RELIGION

19 **55** — John lives in Magheracloone, with his family.

John dreams of being a Doctor. He would love to study in

Trinity College where his neighbour Doctor Smith trained.

JOHN IS FROM MAGHERACLOONE. HE ALWAYS

John is a Catholic and the Catholic Church has banned
WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR. HE GOT A PLACE TO STUDY
Catholics from attending Trinity College, without special

MEDICINE IN TRINITY IN 2013. HE IS ENJOYING HIS
permission from the bishop.

STUDIES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO OPENING HIS OWN

PRACTICE SOME DAY IN MONAGHAN — 20 **15**

The Catholic Church had in place a ban on Catholics attending Trinity College, Dublin. In some cases Bishops granted special permission for someone to attend. In 1970, Cardinal Conway announced the lifting of the “ban” on Catholics attending Trinity.

TEN THINGS A WOMAN COULDN'T DO IN IRELAND IN 1955

Keep their job in civil service once married

Women were not allowed to keep their jobs in the public service or in a bank once they married. **How it changed:** The marriage bar in the public service was removed in July 1973, on foot of the report of the first Commission on the Status of Women. In 1977, the Employment Equality Act prohibited discrimination on the grounds of gender or marital status in almost all areas of employment.

Sit on a jury

As only home owners could sit on a jury and women couldn't own their own home outright they couldn't sit on a jury. **How it changed:** Mairín de Burca and Mary Anderson challenged the Act and won their case in the Supreme Court in 1976. The old Act was repealed and citizens over 18 on the electoral register are eligible for juries.

Women couldn't buy contraceptives.

According to the 1935 Criminal Law Amendment Act, the import, sale and distribution of contraceptives was illegal. As a result the majority of women had no access to contraceptives. **How it changed:** In 1979, an Act was passed to allow doctors to prescribe contraceptives to married couples only. A 1985 Act allowed contraceptives to be sold to anyone over 18 but only in chemists. In 1991 the sale of contraceptives was liberalised.

Drink in a pub in the 1950's

Many bars refused to allow women to enter a pub. Those who allowed women to enter generally did not serve females pints of beer. **How it changed:** In 2002, the Equal Status Act banned gender discrimination in the provision of goods and services. It defined discrimination as "less favourable treatment". Service can be refused only if there is a reasonable risk of disorderly or criminal conduct.

Collect their Children's Allowance

In 1944, the legislation that introduced the payment of child benefits to parents specified it could only be paid to the father. **How it changed:** Responding to the report of the Commission on the Status of Women, the 1974 Social Welfare Act entitled mothers to collect the allowance.

Women were unable to get a barring order against a violent partner

A women who was hospitalised after a beating by her husband faced a choice of either returning home to her abuser or becoming homeless. Abusive spouses could not be ordered to stay away from the family home. **How it changed:** Women's Aid campaigned for changes in the law, and in 1976 the Family Law Act, Ireland's first legislation on domestic violence, enabled one spouse to seek a barring order against the other where the welfare or safety of a spouse or children was at risk.

Unable to own their home outright

According to Irish law, women had no right to share the family home and her husband could sell their property without her consent. **How it changed:** Under the Family Home Protection Act of 1976, neither spouse can sell the family home without the written consent of the other.

Women could not refuse to have sex with their husband

A husband had the right to have sex with his wife and consent was not an issue in the eyes of the law. **How it changed:** It was not until 1990 that marital rape was defined as a crime.

Choose her official place of residence

Once married, a woman was deemed to have the same "domicile" as her husband. **How it changed:** Acting on a report from the Law Reform Commission, the then Junior Minister for Women's Affairs Nuala Fennell introduced the Domicile and Recognition of Foreign Divorces Bill in 1985. It granted married women the right to an independent domicile.

Women could not get the same pay for jobs as men

In March 1970, the average hourly pay for women was five shillings, while that for men was over nine. In areas covered by a statutory minimum wage, the female rate was two-thirds that of men. **How it changed:** Legislation on equal pay was introduced in 1974 and employment equality legislation followed in 1977, both as a result of European directives.

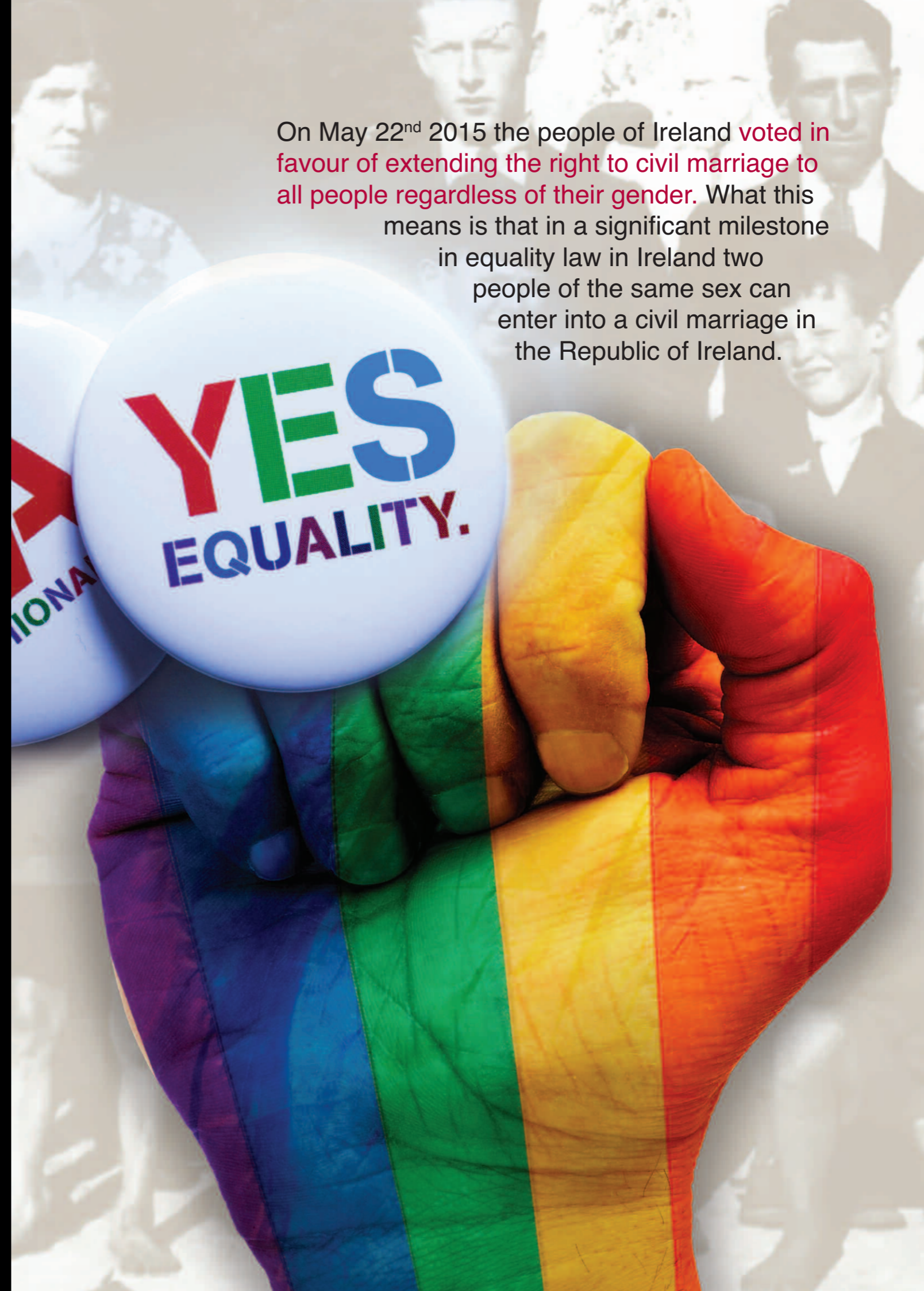


35,000 children aged 15 or under were in employment in 1946, half of these in the agricultural sector. Over 60% of households in Ireland in 1946 didn't have piped water supply. Almost half of all households in Ireland in 1946 didn't have a flushing toilet. One in 3 babies born in 1955 were born at home. In 1950 there were 6,000 children detained in industrial schools and reformatories throughout Ireland. Most of these children were girls, and 40% of were under 10 years old. At the same time there were 578 adults detained in prisons throughout the country. Television was seen in Ireland for the first time in 1951 on a stand at the Spring Show at the RDS. In 1966, only half of the homes in Ireland had a television set. Four out of every five children born in Ireland between 1931 and 1941 emigrated in the 1950's. One child in 16 born in 1950 did not live to see her or his fifth birthday. In 1954 there were only 7,900 students attending university in Ireland, in 2015 there are 111,339 attending third level education.

STILL A LONG WAY TO GO...

“If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world. If you have money in your bank, your wallet, and some spare change, you are among 8% of the world’s wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture or the horrible pangs of starvation, you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering. If you can read this message, you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read at all.”

On May 22nd 2015 the people of Ireland voted in favour of extending the right to civil marriage to all people regardless of their gender. What this means is that in a significant milestone in equality law in Ireland two people of the same sex can enter into a civil marriage in the Republic of Ireland.



OUR **equality** a tale of two counties CHANGING SOCIETY

design: www.ph7.ie

This booklet gives you a chance to look back on how society was for the people of County Monaghan in 1955. You can see that many things we take for granted in society in 2015 were fought for by those who went before us. Change in society is slow, the changes we can see in this booklet happened over a long time, people who felt they were being treated unfairly spoke out and challenged governments to changes laws. In the pages of this booklet you will see reference to the laws that were passed that made a difference.



equality

For further information on any aspect of this publication, please contact: Bernie Bradley on: bbradley@monaghancoco.ie