



the **Argument** *for* **Preserving Marriage** in a nutshell

- ◆ **Every society has an interest in encouraging mothers and fathers to raise their own children together**
- ◆ **Every society in history has developed the institution of marriage mainly for that purpose**
- ◆ It is this child-centred view of marriage which is enshrined in Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ◆ Abundant research shows that the family based on the marriage of a child's biological mother and father generally produces the best outcomes for children (See note below)
- ◆ Changing the definition of marriage to accommodate same-sex couples logically leads us to say that being raised by their own mother and father does not matter to children or society
- ◆ It is not discrimination to treat something that is unique in a unique way, and marriage as currently defined is uniquely pro-child
- ◆ While it is obviously true that not all married couples have children, nonetheless it is equally true that every child has a mother and father

Note: 'Research clearly demonstrates that family structure matters for children, and the family structure that helps the most is a family headed by two biological parents in a low conflict marriage' – Marriage from a Child's Perspective (A Child Trends Research Brief. This is a summary of many studies about marriage and its effects on children)

(Research showing that children do as well when raised by same-sex couples is based on very small samples and the samples are usually not randomly chosen)

The **Key Question about Marriage:**

*Should we have an **institution**
which encourages **fathers** and
mothers to **raise their**
children together?*



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The Iona Institute
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel 01 6619 204
Email: info@ionainstitute.ie Web: www.ionainstitute.ie