



Claiming Our Future
c/o 9 Cavendish Row
Dublin 1

9th February 2011

Dear

We are writing to you on behalf of Claiming our Future. We are concerned at the absence of issues of equality, environmental sustainability and participation in political decision making from the current political debate and from the policies being advanced by all parties in this election. This diminishes aspirations for a different and better future for Ireland and it sets unacceptable boundaries to the hopes of so many that inequality and disadvantage would be effectively addressed by any new Government.

Claiming our Future is a civil society based movement for a more equal, sustainable and thriving Ireland. We convened our first assembly late last year. Over one thousand people came to the RDS to deliberate and debate on the future for Ireland. The assembly agreed to prioritise six policy goals. We enclose a document outlining these priorities which focus on new ways to measure progress other than GDP, income equality, change in the banking culture, job creation in the social and green economy, political reform for a more representative parliament, public participation in political decision making, universal access to health, childcare and care for older people, and equality in access to education.

Today we met again in Tailors' Hall, scene of the Back Lane Parliament in 1792. The issue of the day in 1792 was political reform and the disenfranchisement of Catholics. Today the issue was once again disenfranchisement – this time of those parts of civil society committed to equality, environmental sustainability and participation. It was agreed that we would send you a copy of our policy priorities and request that these would form part of the policies that you bring forward and the debate that you promote over the coming weeks.

1792 turned out to be a disappointment for the Catholics as the King rejected the resolution of the Back Lane Parliament. We expect and demand a very different response from our political leaders of 2011.

Yours,