

1 Muirhevna
Dublin Road
Dundalk
Co.Louth
PH:- 087-2543997

A Chara,

Dr. Noreen O'Carroll's insight and reflection on motherhood and fatherhood as being valid qualifications in the political process (Irish Times May 13th) is welcome. However some of your readers have contacted me, mistakenly believing that that I have been disqualified from standing in this week elections.

In fact, after exhortation from the 30 women and men who assented to my nomination, I reluctantly allowed the description "FATHER" to be crossed off the nomination form. Having incompletely (but apparently legally) described my calling, pursuits and occupation as one-dimensional, citing only the wage earning economic element of "college lecturer", while denying my complex reality and the core of my social being as a father, I will now be included on the ballot paper in County Louth.

I have challenged the decision to refuse my nomination as a "Father" in the courts and on Monday May 13th, the Supreme Court crystallised the institutionalised discrimination against fathers, by declaring that the word "Father" cannot be used to describe an occupation.

Meanwhile two candidates, one in Cork South-West, Ms. Theresa Heaney, Chairperson of the National Union of Mothers of Ireland, and in Cork East, Ms. June Murphy, a Sinn Fein candidate have both had their nominations accepted as "Mother". I wish them well and I fully admire their occupation as mothers, nurturing Ireland's most valuable asset, our children. I am also nurturing my children, so could have also reasonably request parity of esteem.

Yours Etc.,
Liam O Gogain