



## Transition Year Seanad Debate for *Vótáil100*

### *D'ospóireacht Idirbhliana an tSeanaid do Vótáil100*

#### **Additional Information**

The Houses of the Oireachtas have organised a programme of events to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in 1918 called *Vótáil100*. As part of the outreach elements of the *Vótáil100* programme of events, we are offering the exciting opportunity to up to 20 Transition Year students to participate in a debate in the Seanad Chamber on 20 April 2018. In addition, to make this a more memorable learning occasion, mentoring will be provided to these students prior to the Seanad debate. This will be a key event for the 2018 centenary celebrations, with the aim that Oireachtas Members will be encouraged to attend and interact with students in the Seanad Chamber.

The event and the mentoring workshops will be led by the Communications Unit in the House of the Oireachtas, with assistance from expert volunteers who have extensive experience in running debating workshops. The workshops will also give students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the workings of Parliament and with the centenary. The volunteers will act as mentors for the delegates, offering their valuable experience for the public speaking development of the young people. With this support, we are encouraging those students with no previous public speaking experience to take part.

Participation will give the young people involved the opportunity to develop their confidence and willingness to present in front of an audience. It will also develop their insight into the role of the Oireachtas, gender equality, the role of civil society in democracy, and the legacy of the women who fought for the vote.

A letter of invitation, along with an application form and a poster for schools, is being sent to all second level schools participating in Transition Year in mid-August 2017 and application forms will also be available online. The application process will involve a completed application form, and a letter of motivation for participation (300 words max). If shortlisted a **2 min video** will be requested for uploading to a secure location. In the video applicants can speak on the following topics:

a. The Future of Europe after Brexit b. the impact of Social Media on Democracy c. How to increase women's participation in politics d. The role of Children's' Rights in Education.

Applications will be reviewed by the convening team which will include an external judge. Successful applicants will be informed by 27 October 2017.

Closing date for entries is **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** and further information as well as an application form can be found in the enclosed pack, and on our webpage, [www.oireachtas.ie/votail100](http://www.oireachtas.ie/votail100).

### **Approximate Timeline for Competition**

<b>15 August 2017</b>	Formal invitation to participate to be sent to all schools
<b>29 September</b>	Deadline for applications
<b>14 October</b>	Applicants will be shortlisted and asked for a 2 minute video
<b>27 October</b>	Deadline for video submissions
<b>November</b>	Applicants will be contacted with results
<b>December - March</b>	Mentoring workshops
<b>20 April 2018</b>	Open Debate with delegates in Seanad Chamber with guest chair

### **General Format of the Competition**

1. We will seek to have a balanced selection of students across all regions and genders and with due regard to the originality displayed by the applicant.
2. In the letter, applicants will be expected to display their own unique motivation for participating.
3. If shortlisted at this stage students will be asked to submit a 2 minute video to a secure location on a topic as set out below. While students will be expected to display the potential to be able to speak publicly, students will not be expected to be already trained.
4. Up to 20 students will be chosen and successful applicants will be informed by mid-November, and all successful applicants will be required to take part in the subsequent workshops. Further details of workshop dates and participation will issue to successful applicants.
5. At least three 3 hour workshops will take place before the Seanad debate, each one building and developing the students' capacity in preparation for the Seanad debate. These workshops will take place in Leinster House.
6. The first of these will include a tour of Leinster House and a short overview of the Suffrage Centenary. These workshops will be led by experienced debaters, who will work in small groups with participants, and each one will focus on different social and political themes such as, The Future Europe, Economic Inequality, Social Media and Democracy, Voting, Women in Politics, Climate change, and Children's Rights.
7. Delegates will have the opportunity to have mock debates, and get constructive feedback focusing on methods of persuasion, argument, content, fluency and teamwork.
8. The purpose of these workshops will be to develop a student's capacity to deliver well in the Seanad chamber in April 2018, as well as to get to know the other participants and learn from each other.