

Task Force on Safe Participation in Political Life

Request for Written Submissions

A *Task Force on Safe Participation in Political Life* has been established to examine and make proposals on how to safeguard and support participation in political life and to promote civil discourse. The Taskforce has been set up in response to reports in the media and survey results that indicate there is a significant level of abuse, including on-line abuse, and harassment experienced by those who participate in political life and that this abuse disproportionately impacts women, and will have long term negative impact on women's and minority groups' participation in political life.

The Task Force invites written Submissions from interested groups or individuals which will inform the work of the Task Force as set out in its Terms of Reference.

The Key Topics are:

1. The prevalence of abuse and harassment for those who participate in political life in Ireland.
2. Experiences of abuse and harassment, including Impacts on the person, the institutions and political life.
3. Mitigation measures – Measures available to prevent abuse/harassment, protect and support those who experience abuse/harassment, and respond to it, including international measures
4. Role of social media platforms in online abuse/harassment and measure they take to address it.
5. Role of the Houses of the Oireachtas and Political Parties in addressing abuse/harassment and promoting civil discourse.

The submission should address any or all the key issues set out above and it should be clearly indicated in the submission which key issue is the focus of the submission.

The Task Force is not an Oireachtas Committee and as such submissions accepted by it will not enjoy the protection of parliamentary privilege. All submissions received by the Task Force must respect defamation laws and the privacy rights of individuals. The Task Force may, at its discretion, redact certain parts of the submission prior to publication or circulation amongst Task Force members, for reasons including to protect the privacy and personal rights of third parties.

You should be aware that all or part of your submission may be included in any report prepared by the Task Force, or may be published on the Oireachtas website. Should you wish for your submission, or any part of your submission, to remain confidential, or to be used solely for the private deliberations of the Task Force, please explicitly state this in your submission.

Any personal data submitted to the Task Force will be processed in accordance with GDPR and the Privacy Notice of the Task Force. [\[Link to Privacy Notice\]](#)

Closing date : The closing date for receipt of submissions is **5 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 August 2023.**

How to send your submission

Please email an electronic document (searchable PDF/MS Word or equivalent) to taskforcesp@oireachtas.ie

Please do not send hard copies of your electronic submission, as this may cause confusion and duplication.

Please do not send your submission to individual Task Force members. The Secretary will ensure all members receive copies of all suitable submissions.