

**Polling Day:
Wednesday
November 25**

**The Government
advocate
a "YES" vote
in all three
referendums**

**The Referendums
on
The Right to Life,
Travel and Information**

Key Questions and Answers

**An
information publication
from the Government**

On Wednesday the 25th of November, the people will be asked to vote on three referendums.

The result of these referendums will decide whether Article 40.3.3° of the Constitution is to be amended, in relation to three separate issues — the Right to Life, Travel and Information.

The Government have taken a balanced and considered approach to what everyone agrees is an extremely difficult problem. They recognise the genuineness and the depth of people's feelings and concerns about the whole subject — whether from a pro-life or pro-choice or other point of view. They are putting these referendums to the people only after many months of very careful thought.

The Government's objective is to do what is right in the public interest, motivated by deep concern for the right to life of women and also fully committed to the protection of the right to life of the unborn. There is no human right more fundamental or more important than the right to life.

The purpose of this booklet is to set out the facts as seen by the Government on the issues in these referendums. The Government advocate a "yes" vote in all three cases.

Why these referendums?

The need for these referendums follows mainly from the Supreme Court decision earlier this year in the *X* case.

That decision established that, under the existing Constitution, the possibility of suicide by the expectant mother is acceptable as a ground for terminating a pregnancy. *It is clear that this was unacceptable to very many people.*

The Supreme Court also decided that, under the existing Constitution, an injunction can be given to restrain a woman from travelling abroad for an abortion if there is *not* a real and substantial risk to her life. *It is also clear that this was unacceptable to very many people.*

Previous court decisions had laid down that disseminating such information about abortion is unlawful. Following the *X* case, it would be lawful in cases where there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the expectant mother — but only in those cases. The European Court of Human Rights has recently found the present restrictions to be in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. This will also be resolved by the amendment.

