

## The Eighth Amendment Referendum 2018

### Background

The National Library has been preserving Irish websites in its Selective web archive since 2011. During this time, the NLI has archived many political collections, including all elections and referendums that have been held since 2011. The NLI has also archived selected websites surrounding the abortion debate in Ireland since 2012.

When published, the Eighth Amendment Referendum 2018 collection will be the largest referendum collection in the NLI's web archive. This referendum collection forms part of a larger collection in the National Library of Ireland which will include published, printed and ephemeral material.

### Site selection

Site selection was carried out by Maria Ryan, Web Archivist, in accordance with the National Library's [collection development policy](#).

### Extent

In early 2018, the NLI made an advance commitment to allocate staff resources and half of its total 2018 web archiving budget to collect 100 websites related to the upcoming referendum as part of the selective web archiving programme for 2018.

### Scope and content of resulting collection

#### Site identification & Selection:

- The NLI selective web archive operates on a permissions basis. Each website that is selected for inclusion in the web archive as well as the NLI's technical partner has to be notified in writing in advance of archiving. It is common that the contact details of a site owner are difficult to locate and much time is spent trying to identify the webmaster or site owner. Every effort is made to locate contact details for sites scoped. This is an ongoing issue for the NLI selective web archive. Where contact details cannot be found, the site is discounted and a substitute is sought.
- Site identification and scoping of websites began in January 2018 and continued until the referendum date.

- The web archivist made use of the data compiled by TREF, [Transparent Referendum Initiative](#).
- The web archivist also made use of analysis made by the British Library and [Justin Littman](#) of George Washington University library on the most popular hashtags used in the Referendum.
- Extensive scoping was carried out on social media. One method involved was to search the follower/following lists of the primary Twitter accounts on both sides of the campaign. Any relevant websites/social media accounts were added to the list.
- The following categories were devised to ensure a wide range of websites were archived:
  - Diaspora
  - Primary Campaign groups
  - Regional/ Local groups
  - Medical professionals
  - Artists
  - Students
  - Commentary
  - Specialist Groups
  - State Bodies
  - Political Parties
- 683 websites, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook sites were identified in the following categories
  - Pro-Repeal websites
  - Anti-Repeal websites
  - Contextual websites
- As this exceeded the budget allocated to the collection, a selection of websites was sought to represent the campaigns on both sides of the debate and the context of the referendum.
- For the purposes of providing context, relevant independent and regulatory bodies were included in the crawl. The websites of all main political parties were included. Also, online only commentary was also included in the crawls, for example, The Journal and Tuirisic.

### Resulting Collection:

- In total 102 websites were archived. This included:
  - 37 Pro & Anti Repeal websites [74 in total]
  - 28 commentary, independent bodies, political party websites, etc.
- There was one website failure on the Pro-Repeal side. The website had been removed prior to archiving and a redirect put in place.
- There was one refusal on the Anti-Repeal side.

### Excluded Websites:

- Personal Twitter Accounts: Many individuals and campaigners played a significant role in this referendum. The number of these identified exceeded the resources available to the NLI for

this collection. The accounts of Tara Flynn and Cora Sherlock were included as they had been previously archived.

- Facebook- Technical restrictions make it difficult for the web crawler of the NLI's technical partner to access and archive Facebook accounts.
- Politicians- Many politicians played a prominent role in the campaign. The number of these identified exceeded the resources available to the NLI for this collection.
- Other websites: These include websites hosted by WordPress. These present technical issues which restrict archiving. Also included are websites which rely heavily on audio & video which cannot be captured.

Any further queries can be directed to the web archivist [webarchives@nli.ie](mailto:webarchives@nli.ie)

Abortion After Care	<a href="http://www.abortionaftercare.ie/">http://www.abortionaftercare.ie/</a>
Abortion Never	<a href="http://abortionnever.ie/">http://abortionnever.ie/</a>
Abortion Rights Campaign	<a href="http://www.abortionrightscampaign.ie/">http://www.abortionrightscampaign.ie/</a>
Abortion Rights Campaign	<a href="https://twitter.com/freesafelegal">https://twitter.com/freesafelegal</a>
Abortion Rights Campaign	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKntWy5ntiHf_p34aiz9GKQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKntWy5ntiHf_p34aiz9GKQ</a>
About the 8th	<a href="https://twitter.com/Aboutthe8th">https://twitter.com/Aboutthe8th</a>
Alliance for Choice	<a href="https://twitter.com/All4Choice">https://twitter.com/All4Choice</a>
Amnesty International Ireland	<a href="https://www.amnesty.ie/">https://www.amnesty.ie/</a>
Artists for Repeal	<a href="https://twitter.com/artistsrepeal8">https://twitter.com/artistsrepeal8</a>
Assoc for improvements maternity services	<a href="http://aimsireland.ie/">http://aimsireland.ie/</a>
Broadsheet	<a href="http://www.broadsheet.ie/">http://www.broadsheet.ie/</a>
Cats 4 Choice	<a href="https://twitter.com/cats4choiceirl">https://twitter.com/cats4choiceirl</a>
Cherish All the Children Equally	<a href="https://cherishthechildren.ie/">https://cherishthechildren.ie/</a>
Cora Sherlock	<a href="https://twitter.com/CoraSherlock?lang=en">https://twitter.com/CoraSherlock?lang=en</a>
Crisis Pregnancy	<a href="http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/">http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/</a>
Doctors For Choice	<a href="https://twitter.com/Doctors4Choice">https://twitter.com/Doctors4Choice</a>
Doctors For Life Ireland	<a href="https://twitter.com/doctors4lifeire">https://twitter.com/doctors4lifeire</a>
Election Literature	<a href="https://twitter.com/electionlit?lang=en">https://twitter.com/electionlit?lang=en</a>
Every Life Counts	<a href="http://www.everylifecounts.ie/">http://www.everylifecounts.ie/</a>
Every Life Counts Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/EveryLifeCount">https://twitter.com/EveryLifeCount</a>
Farmers For Yes	<a href="https://twitter.com/FarmersR8th">https://twitter.com/FarmersR8th</a>
Fianna Fail	<a href="https://www.fiannafail.ie/">https://www.fiannafail.ie/</a>
Fine Gael	<a href="https://www.finegael.ie/">https://www.finegael.ie/</a>
Gael ar son Rogha	<a href="https://twitter.com/GaeilArSonRogha">https://twitter.com/GaeilArSonRogha</a>
Gianna Care	<a href="http://giannacare.ie/">http://giannacare.ie/</a>
Good Counsel Ireland	<a href="http://goodcounselnetwork.org">http://goodcounselnetwork.org</a>
Home to Vote (Anti)	<a href="http://hometovote.uk/">http://hometovote.uk/</a>
Home to Vote (Pro)	<a href="https://hometovote.com/">https://hometovote.com/</a>

In Her Shoes	<a href="https://twitter.com/InHerIrishShoes">https://twitter.com/InHerIrishShoes</a>
Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	<a href="https://www.rcpi.ie/faculties/obstetricians-and-gynaecologists/repeal-the-eighth-amendment-info-for-the-public/">https://www.rcpi.ie/faculties/obstetricians-and-gynaecologists/repeal-the-eighth-amendment-info-for-the-public/</a>
Irish Family Planning Association	<a href="https://www.ifpa.ie/">https://www.ifpa.ie/</a>
Irish Post	<a href="https://www.irishpost.com/">https://www.irishpost.com/</a>
Irish Pro Life USA	<a href="https://twitter.com/IrishProLifeUSA">https://twitter.com/IrishProLifeUSA</a>
Joe.ie	<a href="https://www.joe.ie/">https://www.joe.ie/</a>
Kerry For Choice	<a href="https://twitter.com/KerryForChoice">https://twitter.com/KerryForChoice</a>
Kerry Life and Family	<a href="https://twitter.com/KerryForLife">https://twitter.com/KerryForLife</a>
Know your Repealers	<a href="https://twitter.com/YourRepealers">https://twitter.com/YourRepealers</a>
Labour	<a href="https://www.labour.ie/">https://www.labour.ie/</a>
Lawyers for Choice	<a href="https://twitter.com/Lawyers4Choice">https://twitter.com/Lawyers4Choice</a>
Leanbh Mo Chroí	<a href="https://lmcsupport.ie/">https://lmcsupport.ie/</a>
Life Institute	<a href="http://www.thelifeinstitute.net/">http://www.thelifeinstitute.net/</a>
Life Zone - Pro-Life Info	<a href="http://www.prolifeinfo.ie/">http://www.prolifeinfo.ie/</a>
London Irish Repeal	<a href="https://twitter.com/LdnIrishARC">https://twitter.com/LdnIrishARC</a>
London Irish United For Life	<a href="https://twitter.com/LdnIrishU4L">https://twitter.com/LdnIrishU4L</a>
Love Both Project	<a href="https://loveboth.ie/">https://loveboth.ie/</a>
Love Both Project	<a href="https://twitter.com/loveboth8">https://twitter.com/loveboth8</a>
Love Both Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClrJnGbCqeTf1BcVv3rOg0Q/videos">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClrJnGbCqeTf1BcVv3rOg0Q/videos</a>
Men4Yes	<a href="https://twitter.com/Men4Yes">https://twitter.com/Men4Yes</a>
Merrion Street	<a href="https://merrionstreet.ie/en/">https://merrionstreet.ie/en/</a>
National Womens Council of Ireland	<a href="http://www.nwci.ie/">http://www.nwci.ie/</a>
Not at home Ireland	<a href="https://twitter.com/NotAtHomeIre">https://twitter.com/NotAtHomeIre</a>
Nurses Together For Yes	<a href="https://twitter.com/NursesForChoice">https://twitter.com/NursesForChoice</a>
Nurses4LifeIreland	<a href="https://twitter.com/Nurses4lifeIrl">https://twitter.com/Nurses4lifeIrl</a>
One Day More	<a href="http://onedaymore.ie/">http://onedaymore.ie/</a>
Our Future	<a href="https://twitter.com/OurFutureHQ">https://twitter.com/OurFutureHQ</a>
People Before Profit	<a href="http://www.pbp.ie/">http://www.pbp.ie/</a>

People with Disabilities Together For Yes	<a href="https://twitter.com/PWDTogether4Yes">https://twitter.com/PWDTogether4Yes</a>
Photo Ireland	<a href="http://2018.photoireland.org/">http://2018.photoireland.org/</a>
Precious Life	<a href="https://twitter.com/PreciousLifeCom">https://twitter.com/PreciousLifeCom</a>
Pro Life Campaign	<a href="https://twitter.com/prolifecampaign">https://twitter.com/prolifecampaign</a>
Pro Life Ireland	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ProLifeIreland">https://www.youtube.com/user/ProLifeIreland</a>
Pro Life TCD	<a href="https://twitter.com/lifefrontsquare">https://twitter.com/lifefrontsquare</a>
Pro-life Campaign	<a href="http://prolifecampaign.ie/">http://prolifecampaign.ie/</a>
protectthe8th.ie	<a href="https://protectthe8th.ie/">https://protectthe8th.ie/</a>
Rachels Vine Yard Ireland	<a href="http://www.rachelsvineyard.ie/">http://www.rachelsvineyard.ie/</a>
Radical Queers Resist	<a href="https://twitter.com/radqueersresist?lang=en">https://twitter.com/radqueersresist?lang=en</a>
Rally For Life	<a href="https://rallyforlife.net/">https://rallyforlife.net/</a>
Refcom 2018	<a href="https://refcom2018.refcom.ie/">https://refcom2018.refcom.ie/</a>
Referendum Comission	<a href="http://www.refcom.ie/">http://www.refcom.ie/</a>
Referendum Comission on Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/RefCom_ie">https://twitter.com/RefCom_ie</a>
Renua Ireland	<a href="https://www.renuaireland.com/">https://www.renuaireland.com/</a>
Repeal Eight	<a href="https://twitter.com/repealeight">https://twitter.com/repealeight</a>
Repeal Eight	<a href="https://www.repealeight.ie/">https://www.repealeight.ie/</a>
ROSA Women	<a href="https://twitter.com/RosaWomen">https://twitter.com/RosaWomen</a>
RTE News	<a href="https://twitter.com/rtenews">https://twitter.com/rtenews</a>
Rte.ie	<a href="https://www.rte.ie/">https://www.rte.ie/</a>
Save 8	<a href="http://www.save8.ie/">http://www.save8.ie/</a>
Save Eighth Supporters	<a href="https://twitter.com/SaveEighth">https://twitter.com/SaveEighth</a>
Save the 8th	<a href="https://twitter.com/Savethe8thInfo">https://twitter.com/Savethe8thInfo</a>
Save the 8th Youtube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuYBZ7Vo1KOWysEopUe53ow/featured">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuYBZ7Vo1KOWysEopUe53ow/featured</a>
Sinn Fein	<a href="http://www.sinnfein.ie/">http://www.sinnfein.ie/</a>
SIPO	<a href="http://www.sipo.ie/en/">http://www.sipo.ie/en/</a>
Social Democrats	<a href="https://socialdemocrats.ie/">https://socialdemocrats.ie/</a>
Social Media For Yes	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJk6kLdctO5YXMBJDHrbuzQ/videos">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJk6kLdctO5YXMBJDHrbuzQ/videos</a>
Tara Flynn	<a href="https://twitter.com/TaraFlynn?lang=en">https://twitter.com/TaraFlynn?lang=en</a>

Terminations for Medical Reasons	<a href="https://twitter.com/tfmrire?lang=en">https://twitter.com/tfmrire?lang=en</a>
The Green Party	<a href="https://greenparty.ie/">https://greenparty.ie/</a>
The Iona Institute	<a href="https://ionainstitute.ie/">https://ionainstitute.ie/</a>
The Journal	<a href="http://www.thejournal.ie/">http://www.thejournal.ie/</a>
The Liberal	<a href="http://theliberal.ie/">http://theliberal.ie/</a>
The Workers Party	<a href="http://workersparty.ie/">http://workersparty.ie/</a>
This Is My Life	<a href="http://thisismylife.ie/">http://thisismylife.ie/</a>
Together For Yes	<a href="https://twitter.com/Together4yes">https://twitter.com/Together4yes</a>
Together for yes	<a href="https://togetherforyes.ie/">https://togetherforyes.ie/</a>
Together For YesLe Cheile ar son Ta	<a href="https://twitter.com/LeCheileArSonTa">https://twitter.com/LeCheileArSonTa</a>
Transparent Referendum	<a href="http://tref.ie/">http://tref.ie/</a>
Tuairisc	<a href="https://tuairisc.ie/">https://tuairisc.ie/</a>
Union of students Ireland	<a href="http://usi.ie/">http://usi.ie/</a>
Waterford Whispers	<a href="http://waterfordwhispersnews.com">http://waterfordwhispersnews.com</a>
White Flag Movement	<a href="https://whiteflagmovement.com/">https://whiteflagmovement.com/</a>
Womens Health in Ireland	<a href="https://www.womenshealthireland.ie/">https://www.womenshealthireland.ie/</a>
Youth Defence	<a href="https://twitter.com/YouthDefence">https://twitter.com/YouthDefence</a>