

# Socialist Worker

**Abortion  
Referendum  
special  
supplement**

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

€1.00 / £0.70 STG

# Bigots beaten!

# Legislate for Choice

**BERTIE AHERN, the anti-abortion movement, and the Catholic Church have been beaten — again.**

We have rejected the Government's proposed constitutional amendment on abortion.

Fianna Fail threw all their weight behind a yes vote. But voters in Ahern's constituency of Dublin Central voted against the proposals — by 59 per cent in that case.

Fianna Fail had taken to the streets for the first time in years but stopped canvassing door to door in the week before the vote because they had received too much abuse on the doorstep.

**No**

A No vote will preserve the status quo in relation to abortion in Ireland, from the Supreme Court judgment in the X case which allowed a suicidal rape victim to have an abortion.

A Yes vote would have removed the threat of suicide as grounds for abortion and would have introduced a 12 year jail sentence for abortion.

Even the backing of the Pope and thousands of Yes leaflets being delivered inside the Referendum Commission booklet couldn't get

that through.

But instead of introducing legislation immediately FF have said they will do nothing because the country is divided.

Backed by the corporate media they are still trying to create confusion on the issue by claiming the extreme right were behind the No vote.

The idea that it was the far right of the anti abortion movement that won this vote is nonsensical.

The referendum was overwhelmingly defeated in urban centres.

Dublin, Waterford Cork and Galway produced huge No votes.

Every tally pointed to high no votes in working class areas in other constituencies.

Wherever working class people came out and voted they voted against the referendum.

Some have claimed the low turnout was the cause of the No vote but the highest turn out was in the constituencies with the highest no votes and the lowest turnout was in those constituencies that voted yes.

In 1992, the first time people defeated the government on abortion the turn out was higher.

On an issue that always brings out the cowardice in politicians, even parties who supported a No vote are now refusing to recognise that this No vote was a vote for choice.

Michael Noonan has said that he wants a "consensus to lead to a new status quo!".

While senior Labour figures were defending their dropping of the parties "right to choose" position during the campaign, Labour said it would need long consultation before legislating.

**Reality**

The reality of the thousands of women who go to England for an abortion meant working class people wouldn't let the church and FF roll back the clock.

Thousands of Women need abortion rights, not after consultation but now.

At the count of the votes Fianna Fail didn't turn up and the anti-abortionists burst into tears because they knew they had lost.

They have lost, but we have yet to win full abortion rights in Ireland.

We need to keep the pressure on parties such as Labour and Fine Gael to make sure that they make good on their commitment to bring in legislation — legislation that gives a liberal interpretation of the X case judgement and introduces real access to abortion rights for the women who need it.

If you want see the right to choose here, now, then join the socialists.

**MAKE  
IT FREE,  
SAFE &  
LEGAL**