

Nov. 9, 2004

Statement of Katherine Zappone and Ann Louise Gilligan

Ann Louise Gilligan, my beloved partner, and I are delighted with the outcome of the judgement this morning.

Twenty three years ago we made a commitment of life partnership to each other. We have been exceptionally blessed by our unconditional love for and fidelity to one another. Yesterday and today are simply the first steps to seek legal recognition of our life-long love and faithfulness. This case is about equality, fairness and human rights – as our legal team has so ably outlined in the court. For us, it is a case as well about equality and human rights in the context of love.

We wish to thank, at this point, all of our family, friends, communities and colleagues who have enabled us to get to this day and who have promised to walk the path ahead with us – four square. Our parents have provided us with exceptional models of love and married life and we are inspired by them and are grateful to them. We want to acknowledge as well the Equality Authority and all its important work in this arena. Finally, we wish to thank our legal team – Phil O’Hehir of Brophy Solicitors, Ivanna Bacik and Gerard Hogan, for their legal excellence and their personal sensitivities and generosity.

Today is a happy day. This is a happy case.

ENDS