NWCI
Women and the recession
Response
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There is No Alternative?
A window from the past
(1929 UK Gen Election)
The rise of mé-féinism

• The ‘deserving poor’
• ‘Lifestyle choices’ – must incentivise..
• Smaller State = more choice and greater prosperity
• Concept of social solidarity under attack
• Why should THEY have it?
• Examples at beginning and end of lifecycle..Household X and Household Y
The Icelandic experience

• There is some scope for domestic policy choice
• Adjustment is never easy – it ought to fall on those who can afford cuts in living standards
• Facing up to power
• Future political landscape?
Narrowing the deficit
The Irish experience

• Adjustments have been very uneven
• No senior bondholder has been left behind
• No bank has ‘failed’ (strictly speaking)
• Millionaires still pay only 40% of ‘gross income’ in tax (income, PRSI, USC)
• The young, children, unemployed, lone parents, migrants have taken the greatest proportionate hit
Chart 5.4a Trends in poverty by gender, 2006-2010 (%)
The Irish experience

- Political discourse has been narrowly defined, set, maintained and carefully channelled from day one.
- Alternative and dissident voices have been marginalised if not excluded.
- A very divisive approach ....
  - Public sector workers vs private
  - Insiders vs outsiders
  - Young vs old
If A isn’t working try Plan B

• Stop further cuts to Capital programme
• No further discretionary cuts to overall spend on ‘non-pay’ current spending.
• Raise discretionary taxes by 2.3bn (in addition to 1.5 bn in revenue bouyancy)
• Hold close to EU spending levels for coming five years
• Consolidation of 2.7 bn
• Investment stimulus of 500m in 2013
Re-claiming the debate

• Must get away from ‘cuts’ mindset
• We must have the courage of our empirical data
• We must challenge bad economics
• We must put alternatives on the table

... 

• We must work together and not against each other