

**04/11/2009**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Anti-Homophobia Week takes to the road**

The message of Anti-Homophobia Week will be highly visible on the streets of Northern Ireland this week. A travelling billboard will be visiting towns all over the country to spread the message that homophobia has no place in a civilised society.



The Equality Commission is supporting the Rainbow Project, Cara Friend and Lesbian Advocacy Service initiative.

Chief Commissioner Bob Collins said at today's launch of the travelling billboard, "There are clear protections in law against acts of discrimination and harassment against people on grounds of their sexual orientation. The legislation does not encroach on any person's beliefs, but it does require that gay, lesbian and bisexual people are afforded the respect and equality of treatment due to every human being. The law dealing with hate crime imposes specific penalties for homophobic attacks and marks the abhorrence with which the majority of people here view such behaviour.

"These laws demonstrate that we, as a society, reject the prejudice and hostility which leads to discrimination, harassment and physical attacks and that we are determined to afford protection against such activities."

*The picture shows, from left, Bob Collins, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; Mirjam Bader, Director, Rainbow Project and Keith Johnston, PSNI.*

## Anti-Homophobia Week Mobile Billboard Timetable

Date and Time	Area	Specific Location	Action
<b>Tues 3th November</b>			
10am-1pm	Belfast	City Hall/Photo Opp	Parked
1pm-2.00pm	Belfast		Driving
2.15pm-3pm	Lisburn		Driving
3.30pm-4.30pm	Banbridge		Driving
5pm-6pm	Newry		Driving
<b>Wed 4th November</b>			
11am-3pm	Coleraine, Ballymena &Ballymoney		Driving
3pm-5pm	Belfast	Stormont/Photo Opp	Parked
5pm-7pm	Belfast		Driving
<b>Thurs 5th November</b>			
11am-12.30pm	L'Derry	Derry City Council, Photo Opp	Parked
12.30pm-2pm	L'Derry		Driving
2.30pm-3.30pm	Strabane		Driving
4pm-5pm	Omagh		Driving
6pm-7pm	Enniskillen		Driving