

Welcome to the fifth edition of Equality Focus - the e-newsletter of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. We hope you find this informative and that you will pass it on to anyone you think would find it interesting. We welcome any suggestions or comments you may have.

20 Points for Keeping Section 75 Effective

The Equality Commission has finalised its recommendations after substantial consultee feedback on the Effectiveness Review Report, published last May. Plans are well advanced to publish a final report in the coming weeks. At this time the Commission would like to thank all those who responded and informed the final report.

The Commission has prioritised revising the Guide to the Statutory Duties along with several other recommendations including reviewing the timeliness of Commission interventions. Further information on work to revise the Guide, related recommendations and initial developments can be accessed by [clicking here](#). If you require more information contact Aubrey McCrory, Section 75 Policy Manager, on 028 9089 0853 or e mail amccrory@equalityni.org



Intercultural and Anti Racism Week



Intercultural and Anti Racism Week will take place from the 7 - 13 April 2008. The theme of the week is 'Education', focusing on all aspects of both formal and non formal education. A range of events are scheduled to happen throughout the week.

The week is coordinated by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI). Intercultural and Anti Racism Week is part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 please [click here](#) for further details.

Code of Practice on Equal Pay

The Commission's draft Code of Practice on Equal Pay is out for public consultation until Friday 7 March 2008. The aim of the document is to provide guidance to employers, advisers and employees on the scope of the law relating to equal pay, and on good practice in tackling the gender pay gap. To view the draft code or consultation questionnaire, please [click here](#) or contact Deborah Howe, Manager, Promotion and Education, on 028 9050 0599.



Flags and Emblems

The media in Northern Ireland have covered a substantial number of stories in recent weeks regarding the display of flags and emblems by Public Authorities. Bob Collins, Chief Commissioner has clarified the Commission's position in a recent Sunday Life article (10 February 2008). To view the article please [click here](#).

Formal Investigation



A Report - The Accessibility of Health Information for People with a Learning Disability - was launched in January following a Formal Investigation under the Disability Discrimination legislation. The investigation reviewed the provision of both written and verbal health information for people with a learning disability in Northern Ireland.

The report highlights barriers to good communication for people with a learning disability and outlines a series of low-cost and practical recommendations. The implementation of the key findings will improve the provision of health information for people with a learning disability. The report is available online, to view the full report, summary report or easy read report please [click here](#).

Photograph Competition

The Commission was pleased to present the 12 winners of a photographic competition with digital cameras, on 20 February 2008. The competition was part of the Equality for All campaign and coincided with the EU Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007. The winning pictures were reproduced as a calendar for 2008.



The theme of the competition was "Transforming Images - What Diversity Means to You". It aimed to foster a better understanding of both equality and diversity issues and the benefit of having a just society amongst young people.

The competition was organised by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in partnership with the Equality Authority and the European Studies programme, involving 200 schools across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

If you have any comments on this newsletter or would like it in other formats please email: Kelly Loughran, Communications Officer at kloughran@equalityni.org

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