

November 2007

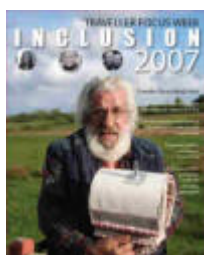
Welcome to the fourth edition of Equality Focus - the e-newsletter of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. We hope you find this useful and that you will pass it on to anyone you think would find it interesting. We welcome any suggestions or comments you may have.

Equality Commission Eighth Annual Report

The Eighth Annual Report of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, covering the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, has been laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Report records the Equality Commission's achievements in another busy and productive year.

Please [click here](#) to access the Report.

Traveller Focus Week



Next week is Traveller Focus Week, 3 - 7 December. The Commission is involved with Traveller organisation An Munia Tober in a range of events, exhibitions, drama and discussions. For more details [click here](#)

Anti-Homophobic Week

As part of Anti-Homophobic Week, 19 - 23 November the Equality Commission and Equality Authority, its counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, launched the report "Enabling Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Individuals to Access their Rights Under Equality Law", which summarised the key findings and recommendations of the research project, at an event in Stormont. The report was launched on Tuesday 20 November and is now available online. Please [click here](#)

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Changes to the Disability Discrimination Act came into force on 31 October 2007. The changes make improvements in the protection afforded to people with disabilities and widen the scope of the existing law.

The definition of disability has been amended so that people with cancer, multiple sclerosis or HIV are now covered from the point of diagnosis. The requirement that a mental illness must be 'clinically well recognised' before it can count as impairment for the purposes of the Act has also been removed.



The Commission has launched a micro-site, detailing the changes to the law and how they will operate in practice. This can be accessed at <http://www.youarenowcovered.org/>

Promoting Good Relations

We have also just published 'Promoting Good Relations - A Guide for Public Authorities', which provides public authorities with information and advice on implementing their good relations duty under Section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It includes good practice recommendations, as well as a wide range of examples of where public authorities have been proactive in addressing this duty. To access the guide [click here](#)

Investing in People

The Equality Commission has been awarded formal recognition as an Investor in People following assessment in May 2007. Investor in People is a performance improvement standard based on developing and training an organisation's staff. The standard requires assessment against ten indicators of good practice. For further information please [click here](#)

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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Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Equality House, 7 - 9 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DP
Tel: (028) 90 500 600 **Enquiry Line:** (028) 90 890 890 **Fax:** (028) 90 331 554
Textphone: (028) 90 500 589 **Website:** <http://www.equalityni.org/>

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