


Equality Awareness Survey

awareness, attitudes
& perceptions



Research, Evaluation & Knowledge Management

w : www.equalityni.org/research
 @ : research@equalityni.org

Equality Commission
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The 2008 Survey

Coverage; questions & key findings

Equality Commission
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND **Equality Awareness Survey 2008** www.equalityni.org/research

Survey Methodology

- ∞ Comparative
 - ∞ 2005 Survey; NI Life & Times; EURO Barometer
- ∞ Representative
 - ∞ 1,071 adults aged 16+
 - ∞ Quotas: age, sex, religion, area of residence
- ∞ Face-to-face
 - ∞ In respondents' own home (previously via phone)
- ∞ Fieldwork
 - ∞ September 2008

Equality Commission
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND **Equality Awareness Survey 2008** www.equalityni.org/research

Key Questions: awareness, attitudes, experiences

- 1. perceptions / social attitudes**
- 2. unfair treatment & harassment**
- 3. equality laws**
- 4. the Equality Commission**

Equality Commission
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND **Equality Awareness Survey 2008** www.equalityni.org/research

Key Findings

- 1. perceptions & social attitudes**
 - ∞ positive attitudes largely predominate
 - ∞ strongest negative attitudes towards Travellers; LGB; migrants; those with mental ill-health.
- 2. unfair treatment & harassment**
 - ∞ 36% felt aware of rights; 16% had experienced.
- 3. equality laws**
 - ∞ Considerable support; changing understanding
- 4. Equality Commission**
 - ∞ Increasing Awareness; majority support

Equality Commission
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND **Equality Awareness Survey 2008** www.equalityni.org/research

1. perceptions & social attitudes

perceptions and attitudes of specified equality groups and the composition of public bodies

Equality Commission
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND **Equality Awareness Survey 2008** www.equalityni.org/research

Social attitudes: Question Focus

- ∞ **perceptions** of discrimination & unfairness in Northern Ireland
- ∞ **personal attitudes** in general
- ∞ **personal attitudes** in **specific scenarios**

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Perceptions of Northern Ireland: Discrimination over last 5 years

- ∞ More Common
 - ∞ Ethnic Group / Racial discrimination
- ∞ No Change
 - ∞ Age; Gender; Disability
- ∞ Less Common
 - ∞ Religion
- ∞ Mixed
 - ∞ Sexual Orientation

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Perceptions of Northern Ireland: Group Treated MOST unfairly

24% Ethnic groups

16% Travellers

15% Older People

12% LGB

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Personal Attitudes in General

- ∞ **Generally positive attitudes**
- ∞ Most negative attitudes towards:
 - 28%** Travellers
 - 21%** Lesbian women or gay men
 - 20%** Eastern European Migrants

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Attitudes in specific scenarios

- ∞ **Influence of Proximity / 'Social Distance'**
- ∞ **"Would you mind"...**
 - ∞ as a work colleague?
 - ∞ as a neighbour?
 - ∞ if a close relative married / formed relationship with (LGB) a member of the specified group.

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

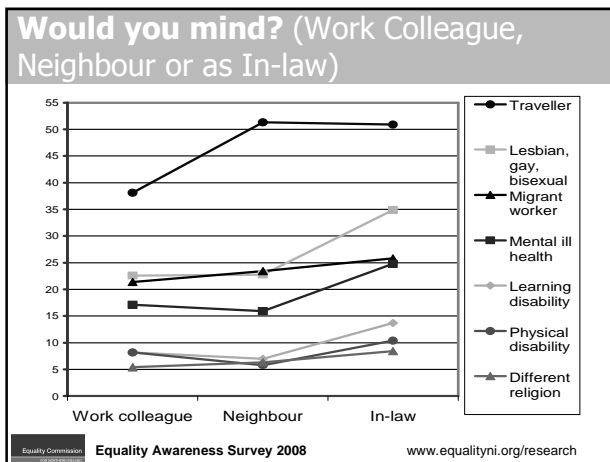
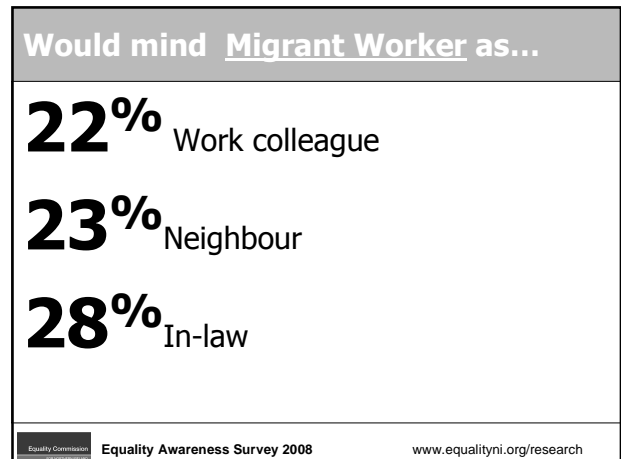
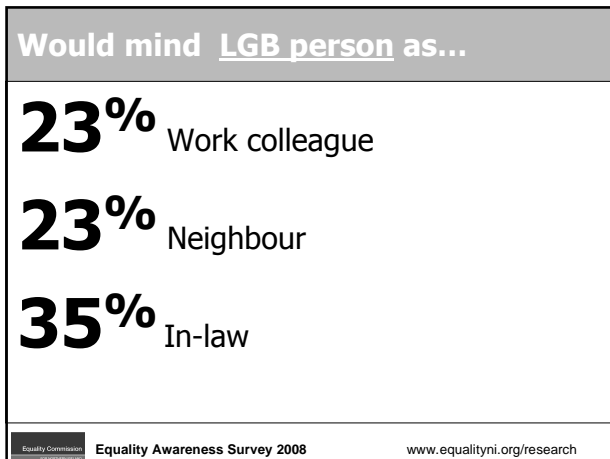
Would mind Traveller as...

38% Work colleague

51% Neighbour

51% In-law

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research



Importance of Upholding Rights of Specific Groups

Group	Very Important %
Women	68
People over 70	67
Disabled people	66
People of a different religion	57
Eastern European migrants	47
Chinese	47
Lesbian women / Gay men	46
Indian	46
Portuguese	45
Travellers	41

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

2. unfair treatment & harassment

Personal experiences & factors relevant in making a complaint

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

- ### unfair treatment: Question Focus
- ∞ **Knowledge** of equality rights
 - ∞ **Experience** of unfair treatment
 - ∞ **Making** a complaint
- Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Unfair Treatment or Harassment

36% would know their rights

47% felt they would not

16% had experienced one or more forms of unfair treatment / harassment in last 3 years

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Unfair Treatment: Making Complaints

20% made a complaint

∞ (**31%** in 2005 survey)

Reason for not complaining		
Reason	2005	2008
	%	%
Didn't want to cause trouble	22	25
Too trivial	24	21
Didn't know who to complain to	10	15
Too stressful	-	9
Didn't know I could complain	4	8
Length of time involved in resolving issue	7	6
Too complex	3	6
Afraid of reaction of employers and / or workmates	5	4
Total	100	100

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

3. equality laws

understanding; awareness and support for specific equality laws in Northern Ireland

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

equality laws: Question Focus

- ∞ **Importance** of equality issues & laws
- ∞ **Understanding** of equality laws
- ∞ **Awareness** of specific equality laws & underlying duties

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Importance of Equality: 'Considerable support'

79% -equality same/more important

92% -need for equality laws

78% -support a single equality law

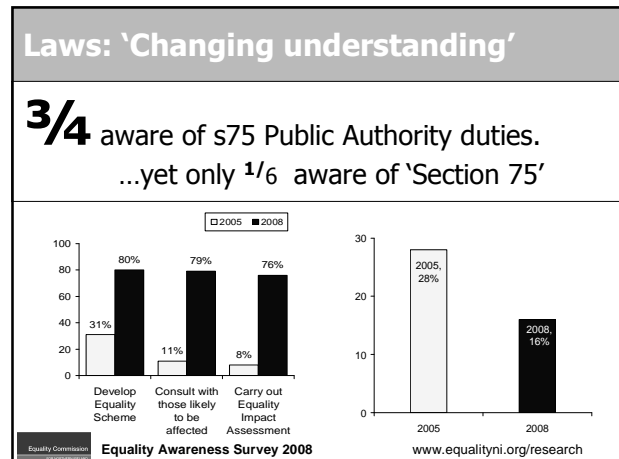
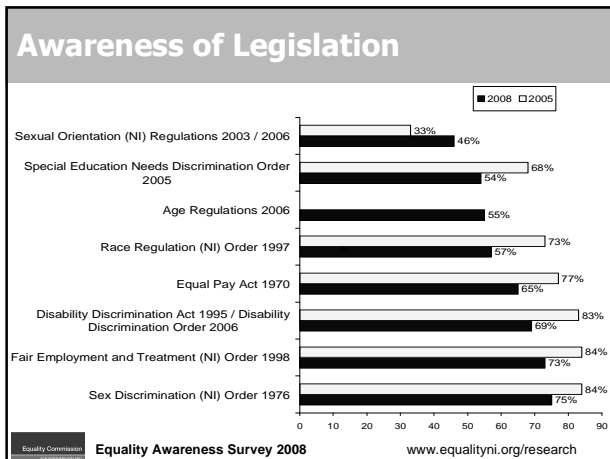
Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Laws: 'Changing understanding'

1/2 fair or better understanding of anti-discrimination laws. **1/2** poor or worse.

1/2-3/4 aware of specific anti-discrimination statutes by name

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research



4. awareness of the Equality Commission

Awareness of, and public confidence in the Equality Commission

Equality Commission
Equality Awareness Survey 2008
www.equalityni.org/research

Equality Commission: Question Focus

- ∞ **awareness of body** with overall Responsibility for equality / anti-discrimination in NI
- ∞ **awareness of the Commission**
- ∞ **confidence** in the Commission

Equality Commission
Equality Awareness Survey 2008
www.equalityni.org/research

Overall responsibility for Equality / Dealing with Anti-Discrimination in NI

30% Equality Commission

- ∞ **11%** in 2005
- ∞ Next most common response:
 - ∞ **5%** Equal Opportunities Commission

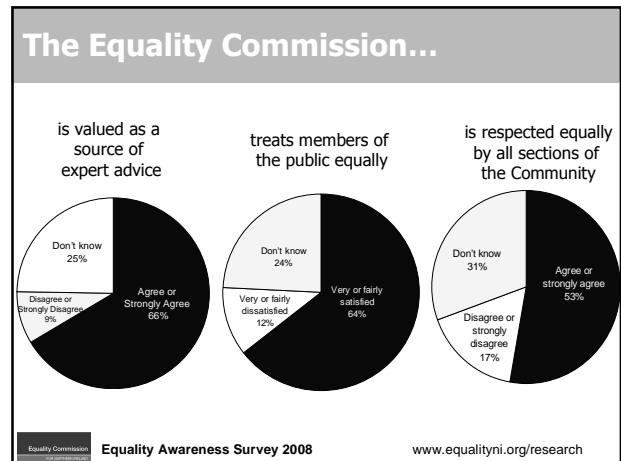
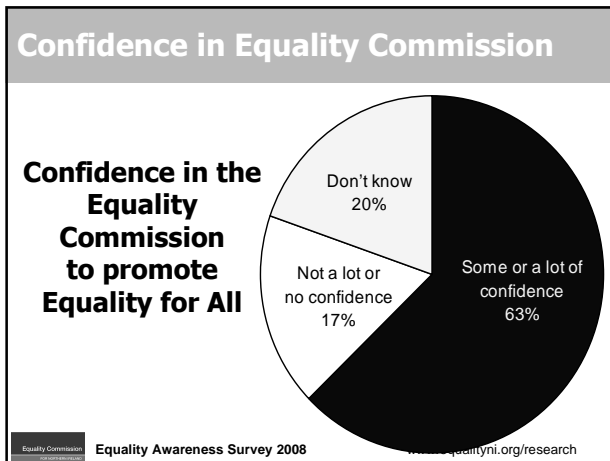
Equality Commission
Equality Awareness Survey 2008
www.equalityni.org/research

Awareness of the Equality Commission

55% had heard of the Commission

- ∞ Similar in 2005
- ∞ Of those who had heard of ECNI
 - ∞ **82%** indicated they knew something about ECNI's role or work (**65%** in 2005)

Equality Commission
Equality Awareness Survey 2008
www.equalityni.org/research



summary

awareness, attitudes & perceptions

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Summary

- ∞ Positive social attitudes largely predominate
- ∞ Ethnic Groups Perceived as most unfairly treated.
- ∞ Strongest personal negative attitudes towards Travellers; Lesbian / Gay; Migrants; those with mental ill-health.

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

Summary

- ∞ Awareness of rights / experience of discrimination mirror EU figures
- ∞ Support for equality legislation consistent over time. Changing Understanding
- ∞ Increasing awareness of the Commission

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research

More Information:

full & summary research reports (hardcopy & PDF) available via:

www.equalityni.org/research
research@equalityni.org

- ∞ Tel: 028 90 500 600
- ∞ Fax: 028 90 315 993
- ∞ Textphone: 028 90 500 589

Equality Commission Equality Awareness Survey 2008 www.equalityni.org/research