Equality Commission FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Focus

The e-newsletter of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

June 2009

Welcome to 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.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The UK Government is due to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on June 8. The Commission believes this is a very important development in promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal participation in all aspects of our society by disabled people. Click here to view statement.

Research on Minimum Standards for Traveller Accommodation

Research launched today (5 June) outlines minimum standards for traveller accommodation and makes a number of policy and legislative recommendations. A roundtable discussion was held to improve multi-agency working and gain specific commitments from statutory bodies responsible for the issue. The research is now available online, or email shookham@equalityni.org for a copy.

Race Relations Order (NI) 1997 (RRO)

The Commission provided a briefing to all MLAs ahead of the Assembly's debate on May 26 on the reform of the RRO.

Dates for your diary

Notes & Briefing Lunch - date on current developments in equality legislation and recommended employment practice for managers and HR professionals. 11 June 2009 at 12.15 at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.

Basic Introduction to Employment Equality Legislation in Northern Ireland - a seminar for voluntary sector employers on meeting their responsibilities under employment equality legislation. 17 June 2009 at 09.45 at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.

Responses to consultations

Our response to Department of Education's consultation on Transfer 2010. The focus of this response is on the proposed admissions criteria.

ECNI in the news

ECNI comment on House of Lords ruling on ex-prisoners' appeal

The House of Lords has ruled in a decision handed down on May 20 that people who have used, or approved the use of, violence for political ends, are not protected against discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, even though they may have changed their views.

Equality Commission Welcomes Criminal Justice Inspection Report

The Commission for Northern Ireland welcomed the report published on May 12 by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland.

Commission expresses its revulsion at Coleraine murder

Chief Commissioner Bob Collins spoke for the Commission on May 27, condeming the murder of Kevin McDaid.

Need advice or guidance about equality or discrimination?

The Commission provides free and confidential advice to individuals, employers and service providers on all aspects of equality. We also provide a range of training services.

Contact our Enquiry line on 028 90 890 890 or view our advisory publications **here**.

If you have any comments on this newsletter or would like it in other formats please email: Christina Martin, Communications Officer at **cmartin@equalityni.org**
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