

The background of the top half of the page is a collage of various faces and gender symbols (male and female) in shades of orange and blue. The symbols are stylized and overlaid on the faces.

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Your equality rights in the provision of services

Gay?
Lesbian?
Bisexual?
Heterosexual?

www.equalityni.org

Legislation

It is unlawful for service providers to discriminate against individuals on grounds of their sexual orientation (actual or perceived) in the provision of goods, facilities and services, the management and disposal of premises (including land), the provision of education and the exercise of public functions.

You may have been discriminated against if, for example you have been:

- refused a service;
- unable to access services;
- provided with a service in a lower standard;
or
- provided with a service on worse terms, such as being charged more than other people;

because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Examples of services include:

- access to/use of a public place, where members of the public are permitted to enter;
- accommodation in hotels, guest houses, or similar establishment;
- facilities by way of banking, insurance, grants, loans, credit or finance;
- facilities for education;
- facilities for entertainment, recreation or refreshment;
- facilities for transport/travel;
- services of any professional or trade organisation; and
- services or any local or public authority.

Have you been discriminated against by
a **school, college or other educational
establishment** by:

- being refused admission, or offered different terms of admission; or
- being denied access to benefits, facilities or services or treated unfavourably in any other way

because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation?

Have you been discriminated against by anyone **selling premises (including land), or managing property**, for instance:

- by being denied the premises for sale;
- by being denied the chance to rent premises;
- by being offered premises on different terms;
- by being removed from housing lists; or
- by facing eviction.


because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation?

Or, have you been discriminated against where a relevant relationship has come to an end and where the discrimination arises out of or is closely connected to it.

If so, you have the right to make a complaint to the County Court within six months of the date of discrimination took place.

For complaints that relate to certain public sector educational establishments there is a requirement to give 2 months notice to the Department of Education.

Free and confidential information and advice on making a complaint (including time limits) is available from the Equality Commission.



If you have been unlawfully discriminated against in employment or vocational training on grounds of sexual orientation please contact the Equality Commission for advice and assistance.

The Equality Commission has a range of advisory leaflets and guidance materials on sexual orientation which are available either to download from our web site (www.equalityni.org). You can request a hard copy from the Commission.

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