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PRESS RELEASE

Commissions Welcome PSI Report on Disability

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission today have welcomed the publication by OFMdFM of the Promoting Social Inclusion report on disability.

Key themes included in the report range over many factors which impact on the lives and experiences of disabled people.

The Commissions have been jointly appointed as the independent monitoring mechanism of the recently ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Chief Executive of the Equality Commission, Evelyn Collins CBE said: "We are pleased to see this report, which provides a key opportunity for government departments here to progress their obligations under the Convention. The implementation of the recommendations of this report should be considered in the light of the Convention's provisions and we will be looking for detailed action plans as part of our monitoring role, as well as evidence of effective implementation."

Peter O'Neill, the Chief Executive of the Human Rights Commission said: "This is an important day to focus on the rights of people with disabilities. We are committed to making certain that the full potential of this report and its contribution to the full implementation of the Convention is not lost as we celebrate the International Day of Disabled People."

ENDS

Note to editors:

1. Further information about the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) working group on Disability can be found on the following website: www.ofmdfjni.gov.uk/disability-promoting-social-inclusion
2. The UK ratified the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD) on Monday 8 June 2009.
3. The UNCRPD sets out the obligations on State Parties to promote, protect and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are protected. The Convention has modified, transformed and added to traditional human rights concepts (describing new rights including a number of collective or social group rights such as awareness raising, social protection and poverty reduction, international cooperation and extensive exposition of rights to leisure, tourism and recreation).
4. Monitoring roles have been assigned to the GB Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI). Collectively, these bodies represent the UK's "independent mechanism" and are tasked with promoting and monitoring the UK and devolved government's implementation of the Convention.