

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**26/08/2011**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Meet the Equality Commission at Belfast Mela 2011**

The Equality Commission will be joining tens of thousands of people on Sunday, 28 August 2011 in Botanic Gardens to celebrate this year's Belfast Mela.

Bob Collins, Chief Commissioner, said ahead of the event: "People from around the world have chosen Northern Ireland as the place where they wish to live and establish roots. We should all seize the opportunity to embrace the wealth of other cultures, and the added richness this brings to our society."

Belfast Mela is Northern Ireland's largest multi-cultural festival and has attracted over 60,000 visitors since the first one in 2007. It is the only event in Northern Ireland to promote so many different cultures at one time and in one place.

The Chief Commissioner added: "It is encouraging to see such a variety of events, and the good turn-out every year shows that the great majority of people here see racial diversity as something desirable and beneficial to society. However, racism and racial discrimination are still too common in our society and the Equality Commission will continue to challenge them."

Anyone who has a problem with discrimination can contact the Commission on 028 90 890 890 or email [discriminationadvice@equalityni.org](mailto:discriminationadvice@equalityni.org) Or, at Mela on Sunday, they can visit the Equality Commission stand where staff will be available to speak to them.