

PRESS RELEASE

Chief Commissioner Congratulates NOW Graduates

"If Northern Ireland is to be a better society, everyone has to be included and enabled to participate in it." That was the message Michael Wardlow, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, gave around 80 graduates of NØW Training Services' vocational and skills courses for students with learning disabilities, at a graduation ceremony in Belfast City Hall on Wednesday 9 May 2012.

Congratulating the young graduates and their families on their success, Michael added "The Equality Commission works with NØW and with employers, policy makers and educators to make sure that people with disabilities are afforded the respect, equality and dignity to which they are entitled," Mr. Wardlow said. "Northern Ireland has signed up to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the



Commission has been striving to make these rights a reality. We are working with disability organisations to spread awareness of changes required in our laws and with Government to have these priorities included in their Disability Strategy."

"Through work such as that being done by NØW, people with learning disabilities are more actively involved in our society and everyone's life experience is enriched as a result," Michael Wardlow said.

Further information about the NØW Project is available online www.nowproject.co.uk