

19/11/2012

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Trans Memorial Day**

The Equality Commission will be marking Trans Memorial Day tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday 20th November) at an event run in partnership with the Trans Forum at Queen's Film Theatre. The event will include contributions from a number of Trans individuals and representatives who will speak about the issues faced by this community. The audience will observe a minute's silence for those killed due to transphobia, and light candles on a tree of remembrance.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, Jane Morrice, will open the event. 'Across the world, trans people face hatred and prejudice because of who they are,' she said. "Trans Memorial Day provides a space to remember those killed due to transphobia, and raise awareness of the issues this group faces."

'The Equality Commission is proud to be members of the Trans Forum, which provides a mechanism for statutory bodies and individuals to tackle and overcome barriers together. This event will be an opportunity to bring home the importance of the Forum's work in improving the lives of trans people in Northern Ireland.'

'Our recent [Equality Awareness Survey](#) demonstrated a high degree of negativity towards the trans community and we are working with others to tackle that, through events like this, the publication of a rights leaflet, and training for employers and service providers on best practice. We will be doing more in the New Year as part of broader gender promotional work, to spread awareness of rights and how to secure them.

The Trans Forum is made up of statutory and voluntary sector organisations that come together quarterly to discuss issues relevant to the trans community.

