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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Annual meeting of human rights and equality commissions**

The annual meeting between the human rights and equality commissions of the United Kingdom and Ireland was held in Belfast.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the implications of the forthcoming UK government negotiations to leave the European Union. The Commissions' reaffirmed the value of human rights and equality to people across these islands and the importance of maintaining existing levels of protection in the future.

The meeting examined follow up work on recommendations made by international treaty bodies and the performance of the governments in meeting their obligations. An update was also provided on the variety of circumstances that prevail on the issue of manifesting religion and belief in each society alongside the work being done by equality and human rights organisations in this field.

Finally, the individual work programmes of the Commissions, including their successes and challenges, were shared alongside a discussion on possible future partnerships.