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PRESS RELEASE

Supporting Pride 2017

“Once again we are delighted to support this year’s Pride” said the Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission Dr. Michael Wardlow.

“It provides an annual opportunity to celebrate the increasing diversity in our society and to reflect on how far we have come in achieving equality in this place we call home. It is clear that if we are to achieve a thriving and prosperous Northern Ireland, we need to continue tackle prejudice and harassment in all its forms in our society. Many challenges still remain.”

“We cannot afford to stand still and so, we need to renew our focus on tackling those challenges which are still faced on a daily basis by many people – simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity”, Dr. Wardlow added. “To make the maximum impact we need strategies to enhance and protect LGB and trans rights coupled with appropriate actions to remove the remaining legal barriers. For example, Northern Ireland is now the only jurisdiction in the British Isles where same-sex marriage is not permitted.”

“We hope everyone enjoys the Pride celebrations and hope that the sun will shine,” concluded Dr Wardlow.

The Commission will be attending a number of events during the week participating in the parade and hosting a stall at Pride Village on 5 August.

Note to Editors:

ECNI’s sexual orientation and gender policy documents are available online:

- [‘Promoting Sexual Orientation Equality - Priorities and Recommendations’](#)
- [Gender Equality: Priorities & Recommendations](#)
- [Read Commissioner Duane Farrell’s blog about Pride](#)