

## The Equality Awareness Survey 2011

# What people in Northern Ireland feel about some groups of people and how they are treated



**Do You Mean Me?**  
Discrimination: attitudes and experience  
in Northern Ireland

Easy read

# What this booklet is about

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

We are the  
**Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.**

We work to make sure everyone in Northern Ireland is treated fairly.



Every 3 years we ask lots of people in Northern Ireland some questions.



The questions are about what they think of some groups of people in Northern Ireland.

For example

- disabled people
- gay, lesbian and bisexual people
- people from other countries
- Travellers
- transgender people.



There is a list of what some of these words mean at the end of this booklet.



We ask people questions about things like

- what they think about these groups of people
- how these groups are treated
- other things to do with treating people fairly.



We asked over 1000 people these questions in 2011.



This booklet tells you what they said.

## What the people we asked said



## What people think of the different groups

Most people feel OK about the different groups of people we asked them about.



But some people do not always feel OK about

- Travellers
- transgender people
- people from Eastern Europe coming to Northern Ireland to work.



We also asked people how they would feel about different groups of people if they were

- a work colleague
- a neighbour
- part of the family.



People would feel less OK if the person was

- a Traveller
- a transgender person
- a person with mental health problems.

People would feel more OK about

- people from a different religion
- people with a learning disability
- people with disability to do with their body.



## **The groups that are treated badly in Northern Ireland**

People think these groups are treated badly in Northern Ireland

- People over 70 years old
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual people
- Disabled people.





People think that people over 70 years old are treated worse than other groups.

We asked people if it is sometimes OK to feel bad things about some groups of people.



Most people do not agree with this.

But some people do agree.

## **What people think about treating different groups fairly**

Some people think it is more important than before to make sure everyone is treated fairly.

Many people think it is most important to make sure people of different religions are treated fairly.







Some people think enough is being done to make sure everyone in Northern Ireland is treated fairly.



Some people think more needs to be done.



People are most OK about a man or woman being in charge of the government.

People are less OK about these people being in charge of the government

- A Traveller
- A transgender person
- Someone with mental health problems.



Many people think there should be more

- women managers
- disabled people with jobs
- women making big decisions about the country.



Most people think that groups like the Government and Police should have more people from both the Roman Catholic and Protestant religions.



More people think it is good for companies to make it easier for some groups of people to work for them.



Most people think it is important to have laws in Northern Ireland about treating everyone fairly.



## Being treated badly



More people than before say they have been treated badly because of who they are.

Some of the people who say they have been treated badly are

- people from different backgrounds and cultures
- lesbian, gay and bisexual people
- people from Belfast
- people with a serious illness that they have all the time.



Some people have made a complaint about the way they were treated.



Less people than before say they know what their rights are if someone treats them badly.

## The laws about treating people fairly



Most people say they know what the laws about treating people fairly say.

Many people know the laws talk about making things fair for



- people from different religions
- people of different ages
- disabled people
- people at work
- people at school, college or university.

Most people know that some groups have to show what they are doing to make sure everyone is treated fairly.



These are groups like

- the Police
- the Government
- health and care groups.



## What people know about us

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Some people know what we do.

People who know about our work know we do things like

- help people if they have been treated badly
- give people information.



More people than before think we are doing a good job. For example, with the advice we give people.



## Money problems at the moment in the country and the world

Some people have lost their job in the last year.

Some people still have their job but are working less hours.





These things are happening most to people we asked who have a serious illness all the time.



Some people are earning less money or have not had a pay rise.



Most people think their job will be safe in the next year.

Some people are not sure their job will be safe.



Some people think they will be OK finding another job in the next 6 months if they lose their job.

About the same number of people think they will not be OK.



## **What words mean**

### **Transgender**

Someone who feels like they have the wrong body.

This could be someone who has the body of a man but feels like a woman. Or the other way around.

### **Traveller**

People who may want to travel around and live in different places instead of staying in one place. But not everyone who is a Traveller does this.

### **Lesbian, gay and bisexual**

Lesbian means a woman who is attracted to other women.

Gay means a man who is attracted to other men.

Bisexual means someone who is attracted to men and women.

### **Different backgrounds and cultures**

Your background and culture is about lots of things like

- where you and your family come from
- the language you speak.