Recommendations

We recommend actions to:

• ensure effective equality/good relations strategies and action plans are implemented and updated across the full range of anti-discrimination grounds;

• set out a timetabled commitment to take this key work forward— including as regards a Gender Equality Strategy; a Racial Equality Strategy; a Disability Strategy; a Sexual Orientation Strategy; a Children and Young Person’s Strategy; an Active Ageing Strategy, as well as a Strategy to promote good relations (Together: Building a United Community: TBUC).

The Commission considers that further actions to address key inequalities include the need to ensure that effective equality and good relations strategies and associated action plans are in place, implemented and reviewed across a range of equality grounds.

These include a Gender Equality Strategy, a Racial Equality Strategy, a Disability Strategy, a Children and Young People’s Strategy, a Sexual Orientation Strategy, an Active Ageing Strategy, and a strategy to advance equality of opportunity and good relations on the grounds of religion and political opinion (Together: Building a United Community).

We recommend that the PFG includes a timetabled commitment to take this key work forward. Departments will be aware of the importance of developing and implementing effective equality and good relations strategies that set out clear visions, strategic aims and objectives and outcomes and that are underpinned by robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

It is however clear that, despite their importance, there have been significant delays in the development of some key equality strategies, including, for example, the Sexual Orientation Strategy.

“...comprehensive Sexual Orientation Strategy will send a strong statement of the Executive’s commitment to promoting equality for LGB people.”

ECNI Promoting Sexual Orientation Equality: Priorities and Recommendations 2013

Read more: www.equalityni.org/addressinginequality