

Hello,

I wish to make a comment on the proposed changes to the Equalities Act. As someone who has had to request copies of Equalities Impact Assessments over concerns that the Local Authority has failed to adequately consider the potential impact on people who share a protected characteristic, I am very worried about the proposed changes. At a time when councils are under pressure to reduce their spending, this is an essential tool in enabling us to challenge decisions which will adversely affect the vulnerable.

I wish to register my absolute opposition to the proposed changes. If the Coalition genuinely wishes to put equality at the heart of their policies, then watering down the Equalities Act and removing these duties is a backward step. I urge the Coalition to reconsider this. Instead, the change I propose is the addition of lower socio economic status as a protected characteristic. By considering how policy changes might impact on the poorest in society, we stand a much better chance of actually putting equality at the heart of society. It also sends a clear message to those who doubt the Coalition's commitment to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Kind regards,  
Siân

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