

## **NOMAD YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Government Equalities Office

Zone GIO

9th Floor

Eland House

Bressenden House

Bressenden Place

London

SW1E 5DU

Friday 15th April 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in response to the public consultation on issues relating to the Equalities Act 2010. Having project managed a small charity in the voluntary sector for over 10 years; I believe we provide a valuable local service to many children, young people and families. I not only know this in practice, but am told it by the many professional and statutory organisations who partner with us through referrals and funding as well as our service users. As a voluntary sector organisation we seek to do the following:

- Provide excellent value for money and run services in the local community which people (particularly those disadvantaged through social and or economic factors) would otherwise find difficult to access. Very little is spent on administration as we choose to direct funds towards the front line services.
- Be open to work with everyone who wants our support in the local community and will turn no one away regardless of race, age, religion, gender, sexuality or any other equalities factor.
- To provide a quality service and having worked hard to establish our work and in recognition we now receive funding from local authorities for a number of projects.
- To operate a fair recruitment policy believing that it is crucial to have the right people working together on a small staff team.

All our staff and the Trustees and Advisory Board, welcome fairness, justice and are strongly against any discriminatory practice.

We are defined as a faith based organisation, which is set up as a charity in its own right, but which has grown out of the efforts of the local churches. We do not evangelise, but simply live out our faith in very practical ways. Because of that it does feel that we are sometimes being discriminated against and it is becoming an increasing burden as we spend more and more time in trying to convince the funders that we seek to work with the very highest of integrity. For example:

- I have recently spent two days developing an Equalities and Diversity Survey and planning our response to the additional requirements of the local authority in this area. That time should have been spent meeting clients and filling in funding applications to cover some of the funding deficits we face. It will take me even more time to evaluate the survey and write up the reports etc.
- Like many organisations we have an Aims and Values Statement. In addition this is under pinned by our ethos. I am told now that if we want to continue to procure funding from the local authority we may have to change our ethos. It is a document that purely describes who we are and how we endeavour to work and serve people in the local community. We would like to continue to do what we have always done in the way I have already described above.

I would like to appeal to the government to relax this law, particularly in the area of Public Sector Equality Duty and remove the burden on all of us, in order to allow organisations like ours to continue to do the work we/they are good.

Along with the government we abhor discrimination, so please make it fair for all of us whatever our beliefs, religion, gender, age, sexuality etc.

Yours truly,

Sue Prior

Nomad Project Manager.