

GEO STRATEGIC PLAN 2019/20



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1. Our Vision

The Government is committed to tackling the burning injustices that are created by the enduring inequalities that exist in our country. Tackling these is an essential part of the Government's vision to build a country that works for everyone. We need to strip away the barriers that hold people back so that everyone can go as far as their hard work and talent can take them.

At the Government Equalities Office, our mission to end discrimination and create a more inclusive society is central to that vision. From our new permanent home at the heart of government we will help to better articulate and co-ordinate a national mission to help everyone to tackle inequality. Working alongside the Race Disparity Unit, the new cross-cutting Disability Unit and others, we will be part of an Equalities Hub for all parts of central government and beyond. There are many committed to the cause of equality and working hard to deliver it. We will work in partnership with those people and organisations – local government, public bodies, businesses, sector bodies, academics, charities, community and interest groups and individuals – applying the best solutions, wherever they are from.

Our enhanced reach, from within the Cabinet Office, will build on our continuing leadership on policy relating to women, sexual orientation and transgender equality and maintaining and protecting the integrity of our equalities legislation and EHRC.

Too many in our society lack the support others take for granted to achieve their full potential, and face barriers to being as resilient as they can be. By continuing to dismantle these barriers and backing everyone to succeed, we can progress towards ensuring that everyone in the UK has as much freedom and choice, capacity and resilience, and support and protection, to be all they can be.

2. Strategic Objectives

- Our four strategic objectives for 2019/20:
- to put equalities at the heart of Government.
- to empower women to reach their full potential.
- to advance equality for LGBT people.
- to ensure our laws protect equality and provide equal rights for all.

Strategic Objective 1: to put equalities at the heart of Government.

We will lead a joined up approach to tackling inequality across Government.

1. Setting the strategy for Government by

- a. Working across government to ensure equalities are taken full account of in planning and policy development, including through the Spending Review, Single Departmental Plans and the Strategic Framework.
- b. Working with other government departments to deliver the Gender Equality Roadmap.
- c. Launching an annual Gender Equality Monitor to publish key gender equality metrics.
- d. Working with other government departments to deliver the LGBT Action Plan.

2. Working across Government on specific projects in 2019/20 to tackle inequalities by

- a. Joining up with the Race Disparity Unit, the new cross-cutting Disability Unit and others to better understand what can be learned from our data, such as how possession of more than one protected characteristic can lead to compounding inequalities and disparities.
- b. Setting up an advisory taskforce to find sustainable and comprehensive solutions to period poverty.
- c. Working with political parties to ensure disabled candidates are properly supported.
- d. Streamlining cross-government communications to employers around diversity and inclusion and simplifying gender pay gap reporting requirements.

3. Being an international trailblazer and exceeding our international commitments by

- a. Leading on gender equality developments globally, fulfilling our international obligations and driving forward progress to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries).
- b. Delivering an international conference on LGBT issues around the world, in partnership with DFID and FCO.

Strategic Objective 2: to empower all women to reach their full potential.

We will deliver the Gender Equality Roadmap, working across government and in partnership with civil society and employers.

1. We will increase women's economic empowerment by

- a. Working with DWP to monitor how the pensions system is working for women and help women in low paid, low skilled work to progress.
- b. Supporting programmes for people who have been out of work due to caring responsibilities and who want to return to work, including marginalised women.
- c. Working with a diverse range of SMEs across England to develop their recruitment and employment practices so that more opportunities are accessible to people returning to work after taking time out for caring responsibilities.

2. We will close the gender pay gap by

- a. Ensuring transparency in all large organisations through annual reporting of their gender pay gap, and effective action plans to address it.
- b. Developing sector-based actions for the areas with the worst inequalities and working with partners like the Women's Business Council to drive action.
- c. Continuing to develop our evidence base on what works to tackle inequality at work, and using this evidence to support employers of all sizes to take action.
- d. Supporting smaller employers to close their pay gaps and continuing to encourage voluntary reporting of pay gaps by SMEs.
- e. Working with the Hampton Alexander Review to increase the proportion of women in senior positions in large businesses.

3. We will help parents and carers to make informed choices by

- a. Working with BEIS to evaluate the parental leave system to ensure it enables a better balance of caring between men and women and consider next steps on modernising the system.
- b. Working with BEIS, HMRC, DfE, DWP, DHSC and HMT to provide better and more joined-up information that parents want and need on childcare support, parental leave, family friendly policies, and the first 1001 days.
- c. Improving uptake of flexible-working, including by supporting BEIS to consult on creating a duty for employers to consider whether a job can be done flexibly at advertising stage.

4. We will tackle discrimination, violence and health inequalities faced by women by

- a. Conducting a survey to better understand sexual harassment, consulting on legal protections and developing policy interventions.
- b. Supporting DHSC to deliver a Reproductive Health Action Plan and Women's Health Taskforce to improve women's health across the life-course.

5. We will tackle negative gender stereotyping by

- a. Building our evidence base on gender stereotyping issues, and developing policy interventions.
- b. Supporting educators and community influencers by researching the best way to talk to men and boys about harmful stereotypes.
- c. Working with DCMS and the advertising industry to challenge harmful stereotyping.
- d. Working with the DfE to increase girls' take up of, and interest in, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Strategic Objective 3: to advance equality for LGBT people.

We will deliver the LGBT Action Plan, working across government and society to deliver its 75 commitments.

1. Improving LGBT people's experiences of our health and allied services

- a. Supporting the national LGBT health adviser to provide leadership on reducing the health inequalities that LGBT people face.
- b. Tackling LGBT health inequalities in partnership with the five grantee organisations of the £1m LGBT Health Grant programme.
- c. Working with the DHSC to jointly develop a plan focused on reducing suicides amongst the LGBT population.
- d. Producing advice about the Gender Recognition Act for GP surgeries and gender identity clinics.

2. Supporting LGBT people in education

- a. Delivering our extended anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying programme in schools across England with £1m of additional funding.
- b. Working with the EHRC to publish comprehensive guidance for schools on how to support trans pupils.
- c. Updating the statutory guidance on Relationship Education and Relationships and Sex Education.

3. Improving consideration of LGBT people across public services and in the law

- a. Reviewing the Gender Recognition Act 2004 to consider how we might reform the Act to make it less bureaucratic and intrusive for the people that use it.
- b. Reviewing responses to our call for evidence on the issues faced by people with variations in sex characteristics and launch a further call for evidence on the issues faced by non-binary people.
- c. Working with the ONS and the Government Statistical Service to develop monitoring standards for sexual orientation and gender identity across central government.

4. Strengthening the safety of LGBT people

- a. Bringing forward proposals to end the practice of conversion therapy in the UK.
- b. Researching the experiences of LGBT homeless people and auditing existing service provision so as to provide non-statutory guidance for local authorities on how best to provide support.
- c. Working with the HO, MoJ and the Law Commission to review Hate Crime Legislation so as to better reflect the experiences and needs of LGBT people.

Strategic Objective 4: to ensure our laws protect equality and provide equal rights for all.

We will do this by:

- 1. Ensuring our equalities legislation is world-leading and fit for purpose.
 - a. Ensuring protections covered in and under the Equality Act 2006, the Equality Act 2010 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland continue to apply as and after the UK leaves the EU.
 - b. Delivering civil partnerships for opposite sex partners by the end of 2019.
 - c. Ensuring the Equality Advisory Support Service continues to advise and assist individuals on issues relating to equality to a high standard.
- 2. Ensuring effective enforcement of equalities legislation.
 - a. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the EHRC as a regulator, including by monitoring the implementation of recommendations in the 2018 Tailored Review.

Annex A: Our Budget

The Government Equalities Office Budget allocation for 2019-20 agreed by HM Treasury is set out below.

GEO Budget 2019/20	£m
Admin	5.8
Programme	12.2
Total	18.0

Annex B: Performance Indicators

Objec	tive	Performance Indicators
the h	it lities at eart of rnment.	Milestones Inclusion of high quality equalities objectives in 2019-20 Single Departmental Plans. Launch of the Gender Equality Roadmap and annual Gender Equality Monitor (GEM) in summer 2019. Delivery of the Gender Equality Roadmap and LGBT Action Plan commitments for 2019/20, and progression of commitments for delivery over a longer timeframe. Establishment of a new advisory taskforce to find a sustainable solution to period poverty in the UK. Delivery of the agreed outcomes from the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Coordination and publication of the United Kingdom's Voluntary National Report on Sustainable Developments Goals 5 and 10. Fulfilling our obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and responding to their March 2019 Concluding Observations and Recommendations. Delivering an international conference on LGBT issues around the world. Indicators 95% on-time compliance of employers in-scope of Gender Pay Gap reporting. Number of disabled candidates supported by the interim EnAble Fund for Elected Office. Contextual Indicators Questions in British Social Attitudes Survey 2019 on attitudes towards disabled people serving as MPs.
wom thriv	e and n their full	Milestones The Gender Equality Roadmap will be delivered over 4 years. In 2019/20 we will: Agree sector level action in key sectors and sub-sectors. Launch the refreshed Women's Business Council. Deliver a survey to gather information on sexual harassment and a consultation to ensure sexual harassment laws provide sufficient protection, over Autumn 2019. Create a barometer to measure the prevalence of harmful gender stereotypes in advertising. Strengthen the evidence-base for 'what works' to engage men and boys on gender issues, close the gender pay gap and achieve gender equality in the workplace. Undertake research to better understand the root causes of gendered aspirations and attitudes.

Indicators

 \cdot 95% on-time compliance of employers in-scope of Gender Pay Gap reporting.

Contextual Indicators

Gender Equality Monitor measures:

Attitudes and leadership

Improved attitudes to gender roles

• Proportion of people agreeing/disagreeing that "a man's job is to earn money; a women's job is to look after the home and family"

More gender diversity in senior management and on company boards

- Proportion of managerial positions held by women
- Proportion of FTSE 350 company board members, Executive Committee members and Direct Reports who are women

Equal opportunities to start and grow businesses

 Proportion of small and medium businesses (SMEs) that are majority-led by women

Increased gender diversity in prominent public roles

- Proportion of women court judges, police officers and head teachers
- Proportion of women MPs
- Proportion of women public appointments

Education and Skills

Educational choice that is not limited by gender stereotypes

- Gap in proportion of GCSE exam entries by subject
- Gap in proportion of A Level exam entries by subject
- Gap in proportion of higher education enrolments by subject
- Gap in proportion of apprenticeship starts by sector subject area

Economic Participation and Progression

Reduced gender pay gap

• Gender pay gap in median gross hourly earnings (excluding overtime)

Increased labour market opportunities for women

- Gap in part-time employment rates
- Gap in unemployment rates
- Gap in economic activity rates

Increased full-time employment of women

• Gaps in full-time and part-time employment rates

Improved gender diversity across occupations and industries

- Proportion of men and women in workforce by occupation
- Proportion of men and women in workforce by sector

Balanced sharing of parental roles and caring responsibilities

- Number of individuals claiming Shared Parental Pay
- Hours of unpaid domestic and care work for men and women

- · Gap in employment rates of parents
- Percentage of people providing informal care by gender

Reduced gender gap in pension outcomes

- Gap in average weekly income of single male and female pensioners
- Participation in workplace pension schemes

Crime and Justice

Reduced violence against women and girls

- Percentage of individuals aged 16 to 59 who experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months
- Percentage of individuals aged 16 to 59 subjected to sexual assault in the last 12 months

Health and Wellbeing

Balanced life spent in good health

- Gap in healthy life expectancy
- Personal wellbeing scores by sex

to advance equality for LGBT people.

Milestones

We will deliver the LGBT Action Plan, working across government and society to deliver its 75 commitments, including:

Theme	Milestone
Data and monitoring	Develop central government monitoring standards for sexual orientation and gender identity
Data and monitoring	Produce guidance explaining how to protect trans people's data
Data and monitoring	Conduct research on the experiences of older LGBT people
Data and monitoring	Conduct research on the experiences of BAME people
Data and monitoring	Conduct research on the experiences of LGBT people in care
Data and monitoring	Conduct research on the experiences of LGBT people with disabilities and long-term conditions
Education	Reach a further 500 schools through the third phase of the anti-bullying programme
Education	Update the statutory guidance on Relationships Education in primary schools, and Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools and ensure that the guidance supports teaching that is age appropriate and relevant to all pupils, whatever their developing sexual orientation or gender identity. Partner Departments: DfE

Education	Publish comprehensive guidance for schools on how to
	support trans pupils. Partner Departments: DfE, EHRC
Health	Delivery of an LGBT health grant programme
Health	Develop a plan to reduce LGBT-related suicide Partner Departments: DHSC
Health	Produce guidance for clinicians on the Gender Recognition Act
Health	Research into the experiences of trans adolescents
Health	Develop best practice guidance for monitoring
Health	Research LGBT body dissatisfaction issues
International	Deliver an international conference on LGBT issues around the world
Representation	Develop a project to improve the representation of LGBT people in public life
Representation	Develop a project to use behavioural insights to improve people's attitude toward LGBT people more quickly
Representation	The Government Equalities Office will continue to have a presence at Pride events across the country, allowing us to hear directly from LGBT people.
Representation	Work with the media and schools to challenge gender stereotypes
Representation	Develop evidence on the cause and impacts of gender norms
Representation	Work to increase LGBT inclusion in sport and physical activity
Rights and the law	Consult on reforms to the Gender Recognition Act
Rights and the law	Investigate a "Tell Us Once" service for trans people
Rights and the law	Undertake a call for evidence on non-binary identities
Rights and the law	Analyse the results of the call for evidence on people with variations in sex characteristics
Safety	Develop legislative and non-legislative proposals to end the practice of conversion therapy, and bring forward a consultation on these proposals.

Safety	Undertake qualitative research into the experiences of LGBT homeless people Partner Departments: MHCLG
Safety	Conduct an audit of existing service provision for LGBT homeless people Partner Departments: MHCLG
Safety	Produce non-statutory guidance for local authorities on supporting LGBT homeless people Partner Departments: MHCLG
Safety	Refresh the Hate Crime Action Plan Partner Departments: HO
Safety	Consider evidence from the LGBT survey in the Hate Crime Action Plan Partner Departments: HO
Safety	Fund a bespoke training package available to all police call handlers to improve police response to LGBT hate crime. Partner Departments: HO
Safety	Review and assess the coverage and awareness of local hate crime services. Partner Departments: HO
Safety	Publish findings from hate crime inspection Partner Departments: HO
Safety	Undertake a review of Hate Crime Legislation Partner Departments: MoJ, HO
Safety	Work with LGBT stakeholders and press to raise awareness of LGBT hate crimes. Partner Departments: Criminal Prosecution Service, HO
Safety	Work with partners to improve the recording and monitoring of equalities data for LGBT victims. Partner Departments: Criminal Prosecution Service, HO
Sector sustainability	Appoint an LGBT Advisory Panel
Sector sustainability	Distribute £400,000 of grant funding to voluntary groups by March 2020
Sector sustainability	Deliver sector development interventions to all grant recipients
Workplace	Develop a training package to help employers tackle LGBT discrimination at work
Workplace	Establish an employer working group

Contextual Indicators

- \cdot British Social Attitudes Survey results relating to sexual orientation and transgender people.
- Statistics on hate crimes and homophobic, biphobic and transphobic incidents in England and Wales recorded by the police and from the Crime Survey for England and Wales.
- 4. to ensure our laws protects equality and provide equal rights to all.

Milestones

- Protections covered in the Equality Act 2006, the Equality Act 2010 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland continue to apply once the UK has left the EU.
- Delivery of civil partnerships for opposite sex-couples by the end of 2019.
- · Implementation by the EHRC of all Tailored Review recommendations.

Indicators

Equality Advisory Support Service

- Percentage of calls answered within 30 seconds: 85%
- · Customer satisfaction with the service: 80% or higher
- · Total percentage of complaints upheld: Less than 2%

Contextual Indicators

EHRC Performance Indicators

Key performance indicator (KPI)	KPI Description	18/19 Outturn
Interventions on equality and human rights issues are effective	Percentage of domain success measures achieved by due dates	74%
Deliver work on time and to good quality	Percentage of domain output measures delivered	90%
Policy recommendations are widely supported	Percentage of Treaty Monitoring recommendations adopted by UN	85%
Work protects and strengthens legal rights to equality and human rights	Percentage of EHRC legislative recommendations and priorities cited or supported by parliamentarians and key stakeholders	63%
Legal interventions clarify and strengthen the law	Number of cases EHRC fund, intervene in or bring in their own name	39
Protecting equality and human rights and	Percentage of section 28 (where EHRC	83%

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	increase access to redress	provide legal assistance to an individual) casework concluding during the financial year • effects a positive clarification or change in the legal framework; and/or • reverses a discriminatory policy, decision or rights infringement;	
		and/or • brings a positive benefit to the public. National print and	
External communications increase the reach impact of EHRC's work EHRC are an inclusive employer with a diverse and high performing workforce who have the skills and tools to deliver our objectives EHRC are an inclusive employer with a diverse and high performing workforce who have the skills and tools to deliver our objectives	communications increase the reach	broadcast mentions Website page views	1,202 6.5m
	EHRC are an inclusive employer with a diverse and high performing workforce who have the skills and tools to deliver	Workforce diversity by sex, disability and ethnicity	63%
		 EHRC workforce vs UK working population 60% female employees vs 46.5% 14% of employees describe themselves as disabled vs 19% 12% declared they are from ethnic minority groups vs 15% 	
	Employee engagement index score	68%	
	EHRC are an inclusive	Tracking EHRC's progress This is a 5% improvement on EHRC's 2017 score, and is 6% higher than the civil service 2018 average.	
	and high performing workforce who have the skills and tools to deliver	Gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps	Gender pay gap (2017/18) -1.1% mean -3.0% median Disability pay gap (2017/18) 6.4% mean 8.0% median Ethnicity pay gap (2017/18)

	mean nedian
	48%
effectively against hudget With ar	nded the year n underspend of 1.76%

Annex C: Departmental Acronyms

Department	Acronym
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	BEIS
Department for Transport	DfT
Department for Health and Social Care	DHSC
Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs	HMRC
Her Majesty's Treasury	НМТ
Equality & Human Rights Commission	EHRC
Home Office	НО
Cabinet Office	СО
Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government	MHCLG
Ministry of Justice	МоЈ
Department for Education	DfE
Office for National Statistics	ONS
Department for Work and Pensions	DWP
Department for International Development	DFID
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	FCO