

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACAS (Arbitration and Conciliation Service)

For confidential advice on equality issues for businesses, contact **Equality Direct** (for small businesses) or **Advisory Service** (for larger businesses).

Equality Direct can be contacted 9am to 4.30pm weekdays.
08456 00 34 44

Advisory Service can be contacted 8am to 6pm weekdays.
08457 47 47 47

Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)

The CRE has three main duties: to work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity, to encourage good relations between people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds and to monitor the way the Race Relations Act is working and recommend ways in which it can be improved. The CRE can provide legal advice and assistance to people who think they have been discriminated against. The CRE does not rule on whether discrimination has occurred – this is for an employment tribunal or a court to decide.

Head Office, CRE, St. Dunstan's House, 201-211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1GZ
020 7939 0000 Fax: 020 7939 004
Email: info@cre.gov.uk
Website: www.cre.gov.uk

Disability Rights Commission (DRC)

(now called Equality and Human Rights Commission Disability Helpline England)

10 million people in Britain have rights under the Disability Discrimination Act covering access to services, education, employment, housing and transport. Disability covers people of all ages with heart disease, diabetes, severe disfigurement, depression, schizophrenia, dyslexia, epilepsy, Downs Syndrome and many other types of impairment. The DRC works with disabled people, employers and service providers to find practical solutions for everyone. It gives advice and information, supports disabled people in getting their rights; helps solve problems (often without going to a court or employment tribunal) and supports legal cases to test the limits of the law.

Videophone calls can be arranged if you are a British Sign Language user or have a learning difficulty and would prefer to speak to the DRC face-to-face. Use the videophone booking form on the website. Booklets are available in languages other than English. The Helplines are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9am – 5 pm and Wednesday 9am to 8 pm.

EHRC Disability Helpline (England) MID02164, Stratford upon Avon CV37 9BR

Helpline: 08457 622 633
Tell the Helpline if you would like to speak to them in another language.

Textphone: 08457 622 644

Fax: 08457 77 88 78

Email: use the special enquiry forms on the website

Website: www.equalityhumanrights.com

**Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)
(now called the Equality and Human Rights Commission)**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has replaced the former Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission. They give advice on race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion and belief and human rights. If you have access to the website, they recommend checking their range of publications and the “your rights” section before you contact the helpline.

You can contact the EHRC’s free, confidential Helpline for practical and impartial advice. They provide information on your legal rights, what your options are and what next steps you can take. Often it’s possible to resolve problems amicably. But, if it isn’t, they can advise you on how to take your case to an employment tribunal or a court. If you need advice in a language other than English, tell the adviser what language you speak and an interpreter will be arranged.

EHRC, Freepost RRL- GHUX- CTRX, Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Manchester M4 3EQ

0845 604 6610 EHRC Helpline Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

0845 604 6620 Textphone through Typetalk service

0845 604 6630 Fax

Email: info@equalityhumanrights.com

Website: www.equalityhumanrights.com

Fawcett Society

The society campaigns for equality between women and men. It wants to see women and men equal partners at home, work and in public life. It identifies barriers to equality and offers solutions. It examines laws and policy proposals for their impact on women and publicises the results. It produces exciting campaign packs for its members and the public so so they can raise issues affecting women themselves.

Fawcett Society, 1-3 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AA

(020) 7253 2598

Fax: (020) 7253 2599

Email: from a link on the website

Website: www.fawcettsociety.org.uk

Parity

Parity campaigns for equal rights for UK men and women. Parity has instigated court cases which have resulted in equal qualifying ages for men and women for exemption from NHS prescription charges (1995), for winter fuel payments (2000) and for local bus travel concessions (2003). Parity also instigated court cases which resulted in equal treatment for widowers and widows in survivors’ social security benefits and bereavement tax allowances (2000). It remains engaged with the inequality between men’s and women’s state pension ages and other inequalities of treatment based on statutory sex discrimination.

Secretary: David Yarwood, “Constables”, Windsor Road, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7LF

01344 621167 – phone and fax

Email: yarwodav@aol.com

Website: www.parity-uk.org

Racial Equality Council (Essex)

This organisation provides advice and assistance, including casework and advocacy, on all racial matters. The administration office is in Southend. Casework and advocacy is at Pitsea.

Rose Beck, c/o Pitsea Area Housing Office, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, Basildon SS13
3DU

(01268) 465068 Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 3.30pm

Email: erecbasildon@supanet.com

Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea SS2 6EP

(01702) 333351 (Phone and fax) 9am to 3.30pm, weekdays

Email: erecsouthend@btconnect.com