

# EQUALITY ACT 2010

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### **Part 16: General and Miscellaneous**

#### *Schedule 3: Services and public functions: exceptions*

#### **Part 7: Separate and single services**

#### **Separate services for the sexes: paragraph 26**

#### **Services relating to religion: paragraph 29**

#### Effect

741. This paragraph contains an exception to the general prohibition of sex discrimination to allow ministers of religion to provide separate and single-sex services.
742. The minister can provide such services so long as this is done for religious purposes, at a place occupied or used for those purposes and it is either necessary to comply with the tenets of the religion or for the purpose of avoiding conflict with the strongly held religious views of a significant number of the religion's followers. This does not apply to acts of worship (which are not themselves "services" within the meaning of the Act so no exception is required).