
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 869

The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

PART II

[^{F1}DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT IN THE EMPLOYMENT FIELD]

Discrimination by other bodies

Partnerships

12.—(1) It is unlawful for a firm consisting of 6 or more partners, in relation to a position as partner in the firm, to discriminate against a person—

- (a) in the arrangements they make for the purpose of determining who should be offered that position; or
- (b) in the terms on which they offer him that position; or
- (c) by refusing or deliberately omitting to offer him that position; or
- (d) in a case where the person already holds that position—
 - (i) in the way they afford him access to any benefits, facilities or services, or by refusing or deliberately omitting to afford him access to them; or
 - (ii) by expelling him from that position, or subjecting him to any other detriment.

[^{F1}(1A) The limitation of paragraph (1) to six or more partners does not apply in relation to discrimination on grounds of race or ethnic or national origins.

(1B) It is unlawful for a firm, in relation to a position as a partner in the firm, to subject to harassment a person who holds or has applied for that position.]

(2) [^{F1}paragraphs (1), (1A) and (1B)] shall apply in relation to persons proposing to form themselves into a partnership as it applies in relation to a firm.

(3) Paragraph (1)(a) and (c) do not apply to a position as partner where, if it were employment, [^{F1}Article 7A or 8 would apply to such employment].

(4) In this Article—

- (a) “firm” has the meaning given by section 4 of the Partnership Act 1890; and
- (b) references to a partner shall, in the case of a limited partnership, be construed as references to a general partner as defined in section 3 of the Limited Partnerships Act 1907.

[^{F1}(5) The reference in paragraph (1)(d)(ii) to the expulsion of a person from a position as partner includes, where the discrimination is on grounds of race or ethnic or national origins, references—

- (a) to the termination of that person's partnership by the expiration of any period (including a period expiring by reference to an event or circumstance), not being a termination immediately after which the partnership is renewed on the same terms; and

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- (b) to the termination of that person's partnership by any act of his (including the giving of notice) in circumstances such that he is entitled to terminate it without notice by reason of the conduct of the other partners.]

F1 SR 2003/341

Trade unions etc.

13.—(1) This Article applies to an organisation of workers, an organisation of employers, or any other organisation whose members carry on a particular profession or trade for the purposes of which the organisation exists.

(2) It is unlawful for an organisation to which this Article applies, in the case of a person who is not a member of the organisation, to discriminate against him—

- (a) in the terms on which it is prepared to admit him to membership; or
- (b) by refusing, or deliberately omitting to accept, his application for membership.

(3) It is unlawful for an organisation to which this Article applies, in the case of a person who is a member of the organisation, to discriminate against him—

- (a) in the way it affords him access to any benefits, facilities or services, or by refusing or deliberately omitting to afford him access to them; or
- (b) by depriving him of membership, or varying the terms on which he is a member; or
- (c) by subjecting him to any other detriment.

[^{F2}(4) It is unlawful for an organisation to which this Article applies, in relation to a person's membership or application for membership of that organisation, to subject him to harassment.]

F2 SR 2003/341

Qualifying bodies

14.—(1) It is unlawful for an authority or body which can confer an authorisation or qualification which is needed for, or facilitates, engagement in a particular profession or trade to discriminate against a person—

- (a) in the terms on which it is prepared to confer on him that authorisation or qualification; or
- (b) by refusing, or deliberately omitting to grant, his application for it; or
- (c) by withdrawing it from him or varying the terms on which he holds it.

[^{F3}(1A) It is unlawful for an authority or body to which paragraph (1) applies, in relation to an authorisation or qualification conferred by it, to subject to harassment a person who holds or applies for such an authorisation or qualification.]

(2) In this Article—

- (a) “authorisation or qualification” includes recognition, registration, enrolment, approval and certification;
- (b) “confer” includes renew or extend.

[^{F3}(3) Paragraphs (1) and (1A) do not apply to discrimination or, as the case may be, harassment which is rendered unlawful by Article 18 or 19.]

F3 SR 2003/341

Persons concerned with provision of vocational training

15.—(1) It is unlawful, in the case of an individual seeking or undergoing training which would help fit him for any employment, for any person who provides, or makes arrangements for the provision of, facilities for such training to discriminate against him —

- (a) in the terms on which that person affords him access to any training course or other facilities concerned with such training; or
 - (b) by refusing or deliberately omitting to afford him such access; or
 - (c) by terminating his training; or
 - (d) by subjecting him to any detriment during the course of his training.
- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to—
- (a) discrimination which is rendered unlawful by Article 6(1) or (2) or Article 18 or 19; or
 - (b) discrimination which would be rendered unlawful by any of those provisions but for the operation of any other provision of this Order.

[^{F4}(3) It is unlawful for any person who provides, or makes arrangements for the provision of, facilities for training to which paragraph (1) applies, in relation to such facilities or training, to subject to harassment a person to whom he provides such training or who is seeking to undergo such training.

(4) Paragraph (3) does not apply to harassment which is rendered unlawful by Article 6(2A) or by Article 18 or 19.]

F4 SR 2003/341

Employment agencies

16.—(1) It is unlawful for an employment agency to discriminate against a person—

- (a) in the terms on which the agency offers to provide any of its services; or
- (b) by refusing or deliberately omitting to provide any of its services; or
- (c) in the way it provides any of its services.

[^{F5}(1A) It is unlawful for an employment agency, in relation to the provision of its services, to subject to harassment a person to whom it provides such services or who requests the provision of such services.]

(2) References in [^{F5} paragraphs (1) and (1A)] to the services of an employment agency include guidance on careers and any other services related to employment.

(3) This Article does not apply if the discrimination only concerns employment which the employer could lawfully refuse to offer the person in question.

- (4) An employment agency shall not be subject to any liability under this Article if it proves—
- (a) that it acted in reliance on a statement made to it by the employer to the effect that, by reason of the operation of paragraph (3), its action would not be unlawful; and
 - (b) that it was reasonable for it to rely on the statement.

(5) A person who knowingly or recklessly makes a statement such as is referred to in paragraph (4) (a) which in a material respect is false or misleading shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

F5 SR 2003/341

Changes to legislation:

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[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 17 s.50 Sch.4 para.41](#)
- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 32 s.74\(1\)Sch.4 para.24](#)