

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S FORUM

You are invited to a meeting to be held in the Holding Room at the Guildhall on Monday, 15 May 2006 at 6:30 pm.

**M McLean
Chief Executive**

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES
4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA
5. TOWN CENTRE UPDATE
6. ANNUAL EVENT - CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE
7. CONSULTATION ON DISCRIMINATION AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICES
8. HIV AND PRE EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL SCREENING
9. INFORMATION EXCHANGE
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
11. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS
12. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING - 12 JULY 6.30PM THE GUILDHALL

Agenda Item 7

ENDING DISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF SEXUALITY - CONSULTATION

The Government is taking steps to tackle discrimination in goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation.

The Equality Bill 2006 includes an order making power that allows Regulations to be made to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services, in education and in the execution of public functions, pubs, hotels and restaurants.

The Government recognises the discrimination facing lesbian, gay and bisexual people in this area in their day-to-day lives and is keen to ensure that the Regulations have effect where they are most needed.

Dept of Trade & Industry Consultation on the proposals continues to 5 June 2006.

Views are sought on specific points about the range of activities that should be covered by the regulations, and on whether any exceptions should be provided from them to ensure that the protection from sexual orientation discrimination that is introduced is effective and appropriately targeted.

You can access the consultation on-line at:

<http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/lgbt/orientation.htm>

Trade and Industry Secretary Alan Johnson said:

"It's easy to forget how far we have come in the past eight years. We have repealed clause 28, equalised the age of consent for gay men and introduced civil partnerships. Now we are going even further. Too often, gay and lesbian people can face discrimination in their everyday lives. I want to make sure that no one gets refused a room at a hotel or a table in a restaurant because of their sexuality. We intend to end this sort of discrimination and make sure that gay men, lesbians and bisexual people can enjoy the same rights and freedoms as heterosexual people. We are committed to bringing in this legislation in October and this consultation seeks views on detailed questions about how it will apply."

Views are being sought on the following areas:

- * how religious organisations and faith schools should be covered by the regulations;
- * whether or not exceptions should be provided in a few specific areas such as to allow sexual health clinics for gay men or lesbians to continue to target their services to these groups; and
- * how charities should be covered by the regulations.