

# The New Human Rights and Equality Commission

## Testing Times

**EQUALITY & RIGHTS ALLIANCE**

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence promises that the newly merged Human Rights and Equality Commission will “more effectively, efficiently and cohesively champion equality and human rights”.

**EQUALITY & RIGHTS ALLIANCE IS APPLYING 4 TESTS TO DETERMINE IF THE MERGER IS A RENEWAL OF OUR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS INFRASTRUCTURE OR FURTHER REGRESSION:**

**We call on the Minister to ensure that the new Commission passes the tests**

Age Action  
Age and Opportunity  
Akidwa  
Amnesty Ireland  
ASTI  
Aontas  
Banúlacht  
Barnardos  
Blue Drum  
Cairde  
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups  
Children's Rights Alliance  
Choice Ireland  
Comhlámh  
Community Action Network  
Community Platform  
Community Workers Co-operative  
Cultur  
Doras Buí  
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
EDENN  
European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland  
Feminist Open Forum  
Fingal Centre  
FLAC  
Galway Refugee Support Group  
Greater Dublin Independent Living  
Humanist Association of Ireland  
Immigrant Council of Ireland  
Inclusion Ireland  
Irish Association of Social Workers  
Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
Irish Council for Civil Liberties  
Irish Family Planning Association  
INOÜ  
Irish Network Against Racism  
Irish Penal Reform Trust

Irish Rural Link  
Irish Traveller Movement,  
Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice  
LGBT Diversity  
LGBT Noise  
LIR Anti-Racism Training Programme  
Marriage Equality  
Mercy Law Resource Centre  
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland  
Nasc Irish Immigrant Support Centre  
National Lesbian and Gay Federation  
National Traveller MABS  
National Traveller Women's Forum  
National Women's Council of Ireland  
National Youth Council of Ireland  
North side Community Law Centre  
Older Women's Network  
One Family  
One in Four  
OPEN  
Outhouse  
Pavee Point Traveller Centre  
People Before Profit  
Ruhama  
Sonas Housing Association  
Sport Against Racism Ireland  
TASC  
Teach Na Daoine  
The Integration Centre  
The Wheel  
Transgender Equality Network Ireland  
Treoir  
School of Social Justice UCD  
Waterford Women's Centre  
Wexford Age Equality Network  
Women's Aid

1. The HREC must retain the powers and functions of the former Equality Authority and Irish Human Rights Commission. There must be a levelling-up of their powers
2. The HREC must have sufficient staffing and financial resources
3. The legislation to establish the HREC must introduce a Positive Duty on public sector bodies to realise the commitment in the Programme for Government that the public sector will “take due note of equality and human rights in carrying out their functions”
4. The HREC must be fully independent involving: open and transparent Board appointments; freedom to appoint its own staff at all levels; accountability to the Oireachtas

**For a stronger equality and human rights infrastructure.**

[www.eracampaign.org](http://www.eracampaign.org)

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