



NEWS REPORT

Update of flash report nr: 689-IE-3,747-IE-6

nr:

Date: 30 September 2009

Expert: Orlagh O'Farrell

Title:

Country: Ireland

Context

Issue at stake: Complaint to European Commission regarding inadequate funding of national equality body

Ground of discrimination: All grounds

Source: Miscellaneous

Field: All

Legislative provisions: Racial Equality Directive 2000/43 Article 13, Gender Equal Treatment Directive 2002/73 Article 1(7), Gender Services Directive 2004/113 Art 12 and Gender Recast Directive 2006/54 Art 20

Content

The Equality & Rights Alliance (ERA), a coalition of 80 organisations formed to protect and strengthen equality and human rights, has lodged a formal complaint in September 2009 with the European Commission that Ireland is in breach of European equality law. The budget of the Equality Authority, a specialised Equality body under the EU directives, was cut by 43% in October 2008, at a time when cuts to other departmental agencies were in the order of 2 – 5%. Its budget for 2009 fell from €5.87m to €3.3m. As a result, the number of posts falls from 38 to 15. The number of case files handled by the Authority is set to fall from 488 in 2008 to 200 in 2009, and two formal legal enquiries (into employment conditions of disabled persons in sheltered workshops and agency workers) have been shelved.

Internet link source and additional information:

<http://www.eracampaign.org/>