



NEWS REPORT

Date: 4 November 2009

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Title:

Country: Ireland

Context

Issue at stake: Supreme Court upholds right of golf club to exclude women

Ground of discrimination: Other (important gender case)

Source: National court decision

Field: Access to goods and services

Legislative provisions: Section 28 and 9 of the Equal Status Acts 2000 - 2008

Content

Case/law/political development: The legal right of Portmarnock Golf Club to restrict its membership to men was confirmed by a majority of the Supreme Court by a three to two decision.

Decision of the Court: The Court said that the club was not a "discriminating club" under the Equal Status Act. The Act permits discrimination in favour of a particular group, including a gender, if the "principal purpose" of the discrimination is "to cater only for the needs" of that group or gender.

Internet link source and additional information:

<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=135&docID=840> (Equality Authority statement)

<http://www.equality.ie/index.asp?locID=135&docID=839> (background)

<http://www.bailii.org/ie/cases/IESC/2009/S73.html> (Judgment)