



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 30 July 2009  
**Expert:** Colm O’Cinneide  
**Title:** The Re-appointment of the Chair of the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission Triggers the Resignation of Other Commissioners and Media Criticism.  
**Country:** United Kingdom

### Context

**Issue at stake:** The functioning, policies and effectiveness of the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission.  
**Ground of discrimination:** All grounds  
**Source:** Newspaper Reports  
**Field:** Other (enforcement, Equality Bodies)  
**Legislative provisions:** Equality Act 2006

### Content:

**Political development:** The re-appointment by the UK government of the current Chairman and Chief Commissioner of the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Trevor Phillips, has resulted in the resignation of several prominent commissioners, including the former heads of the Disability Rights Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality, the predecessor bodies of the EHRC. The resigning commissioners, who are very prominent campaigners in the area of equality and human rights, have expressed strong criticism of the leadership style adopted by Trevor Phillips. The resignations have also triggered a wave of media criticism, with many commentators being critical of the way in which the EHRC is using its powers and spending its comparatively large budget.

**Internet link source and additional information:** See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8168477.stm>