



NEWS REPORT

Update of flash report nr: UK-24-UK Equality Bill 2009

Date: 18 January 2010

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Title: Equality Bill 2009

Country: United Kingdom

Context

Issue at stake: Consolidation of discrimination legislation

Ground of discrimination: all grounds

Source: legislation

Field: all fields

Legislative provisions: Equality Bill 2009

Content

Law/political development: The Equality Bill 2009, which aims to consolidate and (to some extent) modernise and clarify existing discrimination legislation across all the protected grounds, and to extend protection against discrimination to discrimination on any two combined grounds of discrimination, completed its passage through the House of Commons in December 2009 and will now begin to make its way through the House of Lords. A number of concerns have been raised by commentators, in particular relating to the complexity of the legislation, the fact that multiple discrimination provisions will extend only to two combined grounds and (very importantly) that the crucial positive obligations on public authorities to further equality and combat discrimination are being diluted. Religious leaders in the House of Lords are opposed to the act that it, like existing legislation, restricts the freedom to discriminate on grounds of sexual orientation as a result of the discriminator's religious beliefs.

Internet link source and additional information: (no newspaper links)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/en/2010020en.pdf>