



The Remit of the Equal Opportunities Committee

The Equal Opportunities Committee has the following definition of its remit:

The remit of the Committee is to develop detailed equal opportunities policies and monitor their implementation, reporting to each General Assembly. They also have oversight of training programmes in equal opportunities.

In view of the United Reformed Church's agreement to the Equal Opportunities Policy in 2008 and the publication of a series of helpful documents to support the Policy, it seemed appropriate for the committee to review its task.

The Committee would now like to propose the following remit:

The remit of the Equal Opportunities Committee is to remind the United Reformed Church that equality is enshrined in its theology, life and work and to challenge practice where appropriate.

This includes:

1. Taking action to assist in the development of equal opportunities throughout the United Reformed Church, within the context of a diverse society
2. Monitoring of the equal opportunities policy and proposing updates when appropriate
3. Promoting training programmes in equality and diversity.
4. Promoting, supporting and encouraging the United Reformed Church's contribution to equality in the wider life of our society
5. Reporting to General Assembly

This remit reflects the recent work of the committee, which has included working with the Assembly Committees to remind them of the importance of equality e.g. Education and Learning and dyslexia (1), checking the equal opportunities policy against the 2010 Equality Act (2), preparing a training programme for the use of Interim Moderators (3) and working with the Joint Public Issues Team on several issues including Sharia Law (4).

The Equal Opportunities Committee does not expect to do all this on their own but will collaborate with others doing inclusion monitoring and working on equality and diversity.

Resolution:

Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, resolves that the remit of the Equal Opportunities Committee shall be to remind the United Reformed Church that equality is enshrined in its theology, life and work and to challenge practice where appropriate.

This shall include:

1. Taking action to assist in the development of equal opportunities throughout the United Reformed Church within the context of a diverse society;
2. The monitoring of the Assembly's equal opportunities policy and proposing updates when appropriate;
3. The promoting of training programmes in equality and diversity;
4. Promoting, supporting and encouraging the United Reformed Church's contribution to equality in the wider life of our society;
5. Reporting to General Assembly.

Elizabeth Nash

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