

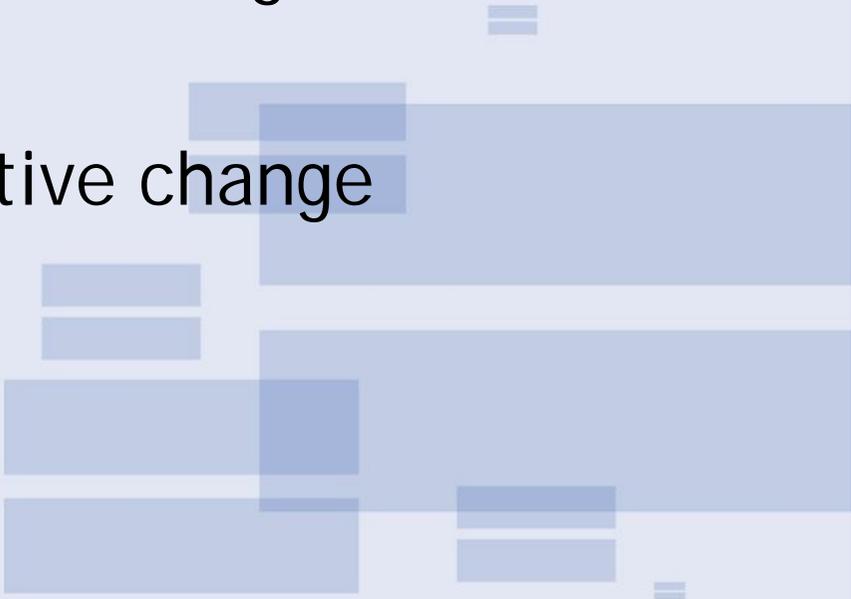
Karen Grayson

**Domestic violence, gender equality  
and human rights:  
The EHRC's role**

# The role of the Commission

- Set up by the 2006 Equality Act
- EHRC has a duty to encourage and support the elimination of prejudice and discrimination, respect for human rights, dignity and worth, equal opportunities, and good relations between groups
- This includes promoting understanding and awareness, encouraging good practice, enforcing the equality enactments, and encouraging compliance with Human Rights.
- The Commission has 'A' status accreditation as a National Human Rights Institute

# Our levers of influence

- Communication - building relationships, holding events, providing information and shaping public debate
  - Producing guidance and information about good and bad practice
  - Working in partnership with other regulators
  - Grant funding
  - Briefing on policy and legislative change
  - Presenting an evidence base
- 

# Our legal powers

- Evidence gathering
- Investigations
- Agreements
- Unlawful Act Notices
- Inquiries
- Assessments
- Compliance notices
- Injunctions
- Restraining unlawful advertising
- Intervening in cases
- Supporting individual cases
- Judicial Review

# The public sector equality duty

- Public authorities have duties in relation to gender, race and disability
- Equality Schemes and impact assessment
- Replaced by the single Public Sector Equality Duty in April - general duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations
- Guidance to support the specific duties - setting objectives and publishing data

# Triennial Review - What is it?

Report to Parliament on progress towards equality every 3 years

- Evidence from a range of sources, including Census data, surveys and research.
- How fair is Britain today?
- 3 parts: Context, Evidence and Conclusions and Appendices
- 750 pages and nearly 200,000 words across 17 chapters
- 40 indicators were used which generated 117 Significant findings and 15 equality challenges; distilled to 5 major objectives

# Triennial Review - the objectives:

- **First**, society should aim to eliminate the effect of socio-economic background on health and life expectancy.
- **Second**, society should aim to ensure that every individual has the chance to learn and realise their talents to the full.
- **Third**, society should give every person the opportunity to play a part in strengthening Britain's economy.
- **Fourth**, society should aim to put an end to identity-based violence and harassment. It is a significant challenge to:
  - Raise the rate of rape convictions further.
  - Reduce the rate of repeat domestic violence offences.
- **Fifth**, society should aim to give more people greater personal autonomy and civic power.

# VAWG strategy - The change we want to see

- Prioritisation and integration of VAWG within public authorities' policies and service provision.
- More opportunities for women and girls to disclose violence and receive effective support, and fewer barriers to disclosure
- Access to justice for victims of VAWG, challenging the culture of impunity for perpetrators
- Sufficient specialist services to support women and girls
- Government and public authorities adopt a gendered analysis of VAWG, articulating and addressing their equality, human rights and good relations obligations
- Greater public understanding and lower tolerance of VAWG
- Stronger European and International protection and cooperation

# How we will contribute

- Guidance/briefing on the PSED and VAWG - across sectors and across issues
- Compliance with PSED - on financial decisions, single sex service provision, policy development
- Evidence on key drivers: routine enquiry in health sector, disclosure in schools and gender-based bullying policies, police responses to DV, failures in rape investigations, no-crime/No Further Action on VAWG
- Communicating with practitioners; promoting debate among the public
- Campaign pack with NUS
- Workplace VAWG guidance
- Informing the EU strategy

[karen.grayson@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:karen.grayson@equalityhumanrights.com)

020 3117 0204