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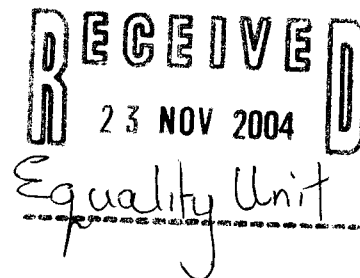
Al-Nisa Association N.I



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Inland Revenue Charity No: XR38259

18th November 2004

Single Equality Bill Team
Office of the First and Deputy First Minister
Room E3. 18
FREEPOST NAT 176979
Belfast
BT4 3BR



Dear Sir or Madam

RE: Consultation on the Single Equality Bill

On behalf of the Al-Nisa Association NI, a support organisation for Muslim women in Northern Ireland which is run on a completely voluntary basis, I would like to endorse the response of the Volunteer Development Agency in relation to the Single Equality Bill Consultation.

Al-Nisa Association NI supports the need for strong legislative protection against discrimination for volunteers within all organisations, however we agree particularly with the Volunteer Development Agency's response, in that:

- The bill may impose greater bureaucracy and resource implications on small voluntary and community organisations already under pressure to secure resources to deliver services and support.
- Volunteers have very distinctive roles and responsibilities from employees and do not wish to be considered as employees. Therefore there should be strong but distinctive systems for addressing discrimination and promoting good practice in relation to the legislation.

We hope you will consider this letter of support and look forward to receiving further information.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A.S. Khan MBE
Chairperson
Al-Nisa Association NI