

Comments on EQIA (Impact)

Comments by organisations, groups and individuals listed alphabetically under each of the headings identified as the main issues raised in the responses to the consultation.

NICVA - Gender Impact Assessment Handbook . 'Such inequalities clearly exist in our society and are experienced in the main by women'. This reinforces our point that the evidence does not support the strategy's stated aim to tackle inequalities faced by both men and boys, women and girls. This lack of acknowledgement of the structural basis of inequality is surprising in light of the commitment to instruments including CEDAW...

Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) - .. Strongly believe that there are already adverse equality impacts for girls and boys given that they are absent from the vision and principles. If adverse impacts of the high level elements of the strategy are not identified and dealt with appropriately there can be little confidence that the lower level operational elements of the strategy will promote equality of opportunity.

YouthAction Northern Ireland - . To evaluate the impact of a ten-year strategy, a mid-way evaluation would provide a necessary insight. .. It would be deemed important to include an evaluation system into the strategy as a integral action to access progress. .. there needs to be a clear vision for the work which is formulated and standardised within all practice and across sectors within a 10-15 year strategic action plan. This should be accompanied by the development of literature to complement practice and to strategically influence policy.

Windsor Women's Centre - recommend that the strategy needs to fully recognise that women's human rights cannot be ensured without fully recognising and then addressing the barriers and inbuilt structural inequalities which operate to keep women marginalised and excluded. The strategy does nothing to ensure that women can be or will be included on equal terms within decision making processes in a post conflict society. There is no discernment within the strategy of how events, laws and policies impact upon men and women differently and little thought is given to including women as active agents of social change.

UNISON - is concerned that there is no Equality Impact Assessment to accompany the Gender Strategy.