

## Comments on Mainstreaming

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** - It is too soon to argue that men and women should have equal treatment. Achieving the goal of equality must mean a dual strategy of positive measures for women as well as more effective gender equality mainstreaming.. In its attempt to be 'all things to all men', it has transformed mainstreaming into an administrative exercise rather than a genuinely transformative experience.

**Social Economy Network** - The proposed strategy does not have the capacity to challenge and eradicate the structural causes of women's unequal status.. The point of the proposed strategy must be to 'gender mainstream'.

**UNISON** - real concern that the current formulation of 'gender mainstreaming' within the Gender Strategy fails to adhere to certain key principles. Mainstreaming must be accompanied by positive action measures.. . Gender Strategy must ensure that decisions on public expenditure and other policy issues reflect the needs of women.

**Women Educating for Transformation WEFT** - I think the main plan of the strategy is a gender mainstreaming approach. Gender mainstreaming alone will not transform society. It must be accompanied by positive action.

**Older Women's Network NI (OWN)** - While gender mainstreaming is a goal to be pursued, it is important to also focus on the unique situation of older women. The danger of mainstreaming is that disadvantaged groups, like older women, . become invisible.