

Comments on Timescale

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.

British Psychological Society - The timescale appears to be reasonable, although perhaps a little elongated. Is there a valid reason why a shorter timescale (587 years) could not be put in place?

Down Lisburn Trust - feels that the current suggestion for a 10 year strategy with a mid-term review to be insufficient. The need for short, medium and long term reviews to ensure progress in the key area of gender equality. The inclusion of short-term achievable goals in recommended.

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland - content with the 10 year time frame with a mid term review.

The Men's Project - One mid-term review does not seem to be enough to assess progress and to iron-out difficulties which may arise. If the review schedule was increased to every two (or two and a half) years, problems could be rectified as a matter of ongoing business rather than as a crisis management exercise.

NASUWT - NASUWT recognises the potential value of having a strategy with a ten year focus with mid-term review .. Would want to know now NASUWT and other trade unions will be involved in the review of the strategy.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive - there may be greater urgency and focus illustrated if a five year strategy was initiated with a review period after three years.. It may ultimately hasten progress in addressing current inequalities.

Presbyterian Church in Ireland - Yes. This provides an adequate time to assess and re-assess in the light of societal changes.

QUB - A 10 year period with a mid term review seems entirely appropriate

Soroptimist International of Northern Ireland - Ten years is too long . dismayed that a time frame is in place with no targets, timetable or resources. If ten years is set in place then a meaningful review with resources to carry it out and teeth to implement would be essential.

South and East Belfast Trust - It is important to plan for the long term and a ten-year period will allow the different policy areas to plan and develop joint projects to best effect. However, a mid-term review is problematic in terms of identifying issues/difficulties/miscalculations before they become entrenched and therefore, more difficult to change. In addition the period between general elections is five years and a change of government or government policies might impact on this initiative. We would, for these reasons, suggest a review at the end of the three years.

UNISON - no proposal for an interim evaluation of the strategy in 2010, no detail on who is going to take overall responsibility, or what training is envisaged for the civil service on gender awareness as it affects all Section 75 groups.

University of Ulster - It is recommended to closely monitor the strategy on an ongoing basis and to carry out a review every three years.

Women's Criminal Justice Network - We believe the time frame is too long and does not reflect the natural ebb and flow of politics, so we recommend 7 years as a more appropriate time frame.

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.