

Comments on Vision

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 vision as stated is all embracing and should provide a sound backcloth to future initiatives.

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.

Disability Action - believes that equality, including gender equality is relevant to all major policy areas of Government, not "virtually" all. The vision is flawed as it does not recognise the range of inequalities already protected by Section 75 of the NI Act 1998.

EHSSB - The longer-term vision for such an over-arching strategy seems acceptable. It is very important however that a review mechanism is put in place to measure actual action and effectiveness.

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland - vision has not been set from a gendered analysis of inequality. have suggested a simpler vision - A gender Equality vision for Northern Ireland is of a Society in which men and women are respected and valued as individuals, regardless of our gender; where we can enjoy and share equality of opportunity rights and responsibilities in all aspects of our lives.

NIC ICTU - this vision needs also to embrace recognition of the range of multiple identities that may contribute to our experiences of inequalities

Presbyterian Church in Ireland - We commend this vision and particularly the balance maintained in the statement - 'opportunities, rights and responsibilities.' As mentioned earlier we do not see the need to single out of the 'transgendered' as a distinct group alongside gender, marital status, parent, carer etc.

Soroptimist International of Northern Ireland - The vision is clouded given its starting point. It should be accepted . that we are an unequal society. Therefore the vision should be to reflect that reality and give a clear vision of altering it.

Save the Children - The draft vision and principles must be amended to include boys and girls and to reflect their needs and experiences.

South and East Belfast Trust - The Trust supports the vision. However, it would benefit from simplification of language so that it is readily understood by everyone. The vision is quite limited and should be expanded to include where people live, their economic status, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and whether or not they have a disability.

University of Ulster - issues in relation to the language used. The use of women and men should be replaced with female and male. and recommend 'people' are used in the vision statement instead of referring to women and men specifically. Other terms such

as gender parity and gender compatibility could be used. to convey a better understanding of the strategies and actions.

Wise Men of the East Network - Male-bashing may still be called funny but female-bashing is called sexist while the best interests of children come from the interest of everyone in its life being a balance and unless this change happens the advantages of men will continue to be diminished!!... What is missing for men is a whole range of thinking to go into policy to address sex discrimination against men.

Women's Criminal Justice Network - The Women's Criminal Justice Network saw the vision as being very inspirational, perhaps it is trying to be too all encompassing and in doing so clarity and simplicity have perhaps been compromised. However, if the vision is simply greater equality between men and women, straights and gays, transgender and gender-specific, carer's and non carer's we welcome this but question if this can be achieved in the lifetime of this strategy.

Women Educating for Transformation WEFT . a vision which is nothing about the empowerment of women, but is a bland statement about respect and equal opportunities.