



Why Have an Equality Bill?

Amanda Ariss

Equality and Diversity Forum

Centre for Parliamentary Studies

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What I will cover:

- Who is Equality and Diversity Forum
- What EDF does
- Why have an Equality Bill
- What could Equality Bill achieve
- What else needs to happen



The Equality and Diversity Forum is a network of national organisations committed to progress on age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and broader equality and human rights issues.



What EDF does

- Independent voice for sector
- Promote dialogue and trust across sector
- Newsletter, website, information bank
- Enable collaboration and joint action
- Research and publications
- Regular meetings and events
- Support all party parliamentary group



Why an Equality Bill

- Who is Equality and Diversity Forum
- What EDF does
- Why have an Equality Bill
- What could Equality Bill achieve
- What else needs to happen



Why an Equality Bill

- Current law is:
 - Unequal
 - Confusing
 - Relatively weak
- Profound inequalities persist
- Pace of change slow
- Now is the moment



What Equality Bill could achieve

- State clear purpose
- Protect against age discrimination
 - Older people
 - Young people
- Strengthen & widen equality duty on public bodies



What Equality Bill could achieve

- Create clear onus to act for private sector
 - Transparency
 - Obligation to tackle equality gaps
- Harness power of procurement
- Address multiple & intersectional discrimination
- Make positive action easier
- Accelerate progress towards pay equality
- More effective enforcement



What else needs to happen

- Strong, clear, cross-government strategies
- Mainstream policies tackle inequality
- Link inequalities and poverty
- Private sector leadership
- Making the case for change
- Assessing progress



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