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Para 1 Second last bullet point, add disability and sexual orientation.

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Para 2 We feel strongly that there should be a separate court whose responsibility it will be to adjudicate on matters relating to a Bill of Rights and ECHR. The need for this is strongly reflected in the calls for judicial reform and specific Human Rights training for the judiciary. This is also highlighted by the absence of women in the judiciary.

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Para 3 Public Bodies should not be required to draw up these statutory schemes by themselves, rather this should be the responsibility of a designated govt. dept. (see page 12, Para 5E) as opposed to an Equality Commission. If the new Equality Commission has to negotiate these statutory schemes, it will take some considerable length of time to do so. There should also be impact assessment statements in relation to the monitoring role of these bodies and which involves consultation and participation with the various interest groups.

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Para 4 The first sentence should read, 'the new Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission will be invited to draft, after public consultation, a Bill of Rights, which includes those rights which supplement the provisions of the ECHR and are of particular relevance to Northern Ireland. This will be enshrined in Westminster legislation. The Commission will consult widely and report within (state a fixed time frame). It will have an international component in its first stages. It will not be constrained in the range of rights which it can consider. (We are very concerned that the issue of human rights is being closed down to reflect equality of opportunity in religious terms only). The second bullet point is not reflected in the preamble.

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Para 5 Add, 'there should be a statutory obligation on Westminster and the Assembly to consult the Commission in relation to proposals and legislation. It should receive resources appropriate to its functions.

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Para 6 As noted earlier, there is much resistance to the proposal to merge the Equality Agencies. The first sentence should delete 'has proposed' and replace it with, 'the British Govt is currently consulting on its proposal for',

Para 7 This needs clarification.

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Para 8 The Irish govt commits itself to incorporating the ECHR into its domestic legislation. The current wording is weak.

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Para 2i Add bullet point, 'targeting resources at areas of greatest need'

Para 2iii The fourth bullet point, delete 'defined objectively'