

Subject: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - review of the UK immigration reservation
Date: Mon, 13 Jun 2011 14:57:43 +0100
From: Barbara Cohen
To: UKBAUNCRPDReservationReview@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

DISCRIMINATION LAW ASSOCIATION RESPONSE TO THE UK BORDER AGENCY CONSULTATION ON THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: REVIEW OF THE UK IMMIGRATION RESERVATION

I am writing on behalf of the Discrimination Law Association.

The Discrimination Law Association (DLA) is a registered charity established to promote good community relations by the advancement of education in the field of anti-discrimination law and practice. It achieves this by, among other things, the promotion and dissemination of advice and information, the development and co-ordination of contacts with discrimination law practitioners and similar people and organisations in the UK and internationally. The DLA is concerned with achieving an understanding of the needs of victims of discrimination amongst lawyers, law-makers and others and of the necessity for a complainant-centred approach to anti-discrimination law and practice. With this in mind the DLA seeks to secure improvements in discrimination law and practice in the United Kingdom, Europe and at an international level. The DLA's membership includes lawyers, legal and advice workers and other persons, firms or organisations engaged or interested in discrimination law.

The DLA has considered the questions raised by the UKBA with regard to whether the United Kingdom's immigration function reservation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should be retained.

The DLA has had the benefit of reading the response to this consultation from the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA). The DLA wishes to endorse and fully support both the content and the recommendations contained in the ILPA response. As ILPA has outlined, this reservation is not necessary for the effective management and control of immigration. The DLA strongly urges the Government to demonstrate its commitment to the rights and the dignity of disabled people and its respect for equality and human rights by withdrawing this wholly unnecessary reservation to the Convention.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email.

Yours faithfully

Barbara Cohen
Vice-Chair
Discrimination Law Association