

Funding and legal assistance from EHRC for cases concerning discrimination in education

Dear colleague,

We are pleased to let you know that the Commission will shortly be offering funding and other assistance for claims concerning discrimination in education. This follows the success of our *disability discrimination access to justice pilot* earlier this year which enabled us to offer over £250K of funding to help more than 100 individuals with their discrimination complaints.

Our objective under the new scheme is to increase access to justice for victims of discrimination involving schools, further or higher education institutions, or general qualifications bodies. We will consider assisting claims relating to any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010.

As an organisation dealing with issues in this field, we believe this scheme could help you help others. In particular, if you are dealing with a complaint of discrimination in education, we would really like to hear from you if your client may not be able to access justice without further funding or assistance.

We may be able to help by:

- offering funding for front line advice and representation – by you and / or others
- taking appropriate cases “in-house” to be progressed by our dedicated team of discrimination lawyers
- offering funding for the cost of disbursements (e.g. representation or medical report)

Unfortunately, if you do not charge a fee to clients for your services, we cannot normally provide you with funding to do work under this scheme. Nor can we offer assistance for work that you would have carried out anyway without our help. However, we may be able to offer funding for the costs of disbursement.

If you have offered some assistance to an individual who has experienced discrimination in education but you can no longer continue to assist them due to lack of resources then we may be able to offer funding or take the case in-house.

If have been approached by or know of an individual who may have experienced discrimination in education and they cannot access the legal assistance they need, we would really like to hear from you with brief details.

We will start accepting referrals from 11th September 2017. From that date, you can get in touch with us by completing the “request for assistance” form accompanying this letter and sending it to educationcases@equalityhumanrights.com You can also call us on 0161 829 8140 if you have any questions about this project or if you have any doubts about whether we can offer assistance.

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions attached.

Regards

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