

Update

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The Equality Act & the Human Rights and Equality Commission Act

Government has issued two Bills: The Equality Act 2015 and the Human Rights and Equality Commission Act with the purpose of prohibiting various forms of discrimination and to promote equality. The bills also provide for the setting up of a Commission, which is responsible to Parliament, with powers to receive and act on complaints received by the public, and to initiate investigations itself to take decisions requiring the cessation or prevention of any infringement of human rights or the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination.

The Malta Employers' Association agrees with the promotion of human rights and the elimination of discriminatory practices in principle, but is very much concerned about many aspects of the legislation which go beyond the provisions of EU directives and which potentially could affect employers in a negative way.

The MEA has asked for consultation sessions at MCESD and, during a meeting which was held purposely on the 18th July delivered a presentation with all the issues that it wanted to raise about this proposed legislation. The meeting was attended, besides the social partners, by the Hon. Helena Dalli and representatives from her ministry involved in the drafting of the legislation.

The following are links to:

[The MEA presentation](#)

The Proposed legislation:
The [Equality Act 2015](#) and the [Human Rights and Equality Commission Act](#)

An [article on the subject by Mr. Arthur Muscat](#) which appeared recently in The Times.

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