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**An Bille um Chomhionannas (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 2021**  
**Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2021**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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**AN BILLE UM CHOMHIONANNAS (FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA), 2021  
EQUALITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2021**

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CONTENTS

Section

1. Definitions
2. Amendment of section 2 (Interpretation) of Act of 1998
3. Amendment of section 6 (Discrimination for the purposes of this Act) of Act of 1998
4. Amendment of section 28 (The comparators) of Act of 1998
5. Amendment of section 34 (Savings and exceptions related to the family, age or disability) of Act of 1998
6. Amendment of section 37 (Exclusion of discrimination on particular grounds in certain employments) of Act of 1998
7. Amendment of section 2 (Interpretation) of Act of 2000
8. Amendment of section 3 (Discrimination: general) of Act of 2000
9. Amendment of section 6 (Disposal of premises and provision of accommodation) of Act of 2000
10. Amendment of section 9 (Non-discriminating clubs) of Act of 2000
11. Short title, collective citations and commencement

ACTS REFERRED TO

Employment Equality Act 1998 (No. 21)

Equal Status Act 2000 (No. 8)

Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2015

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 (No. 18)



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AN BILLE UM CHOMHIONANNAS (FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA), 2021  
EQUALITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2021

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# Bill

*entitled*

An Act to provide for prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person's social and economic disadvantaged background; for those purposes to amend the Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000; and to provide for related matters. 5

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

## Definitions

1. In this Act— 10
- “Act of 1998” means the Employment Equality Act 1998;
- “Act of 2000” means the Equal Status Act 2000.

## Amendment of section 2 (Interpretation) of Act of 1998

2. Section 2 of the Act of 1998 is amended in subsection (1) by the insertion the following definition after the definition of “sexual orientation”: 15
- “ ‘socio-economic disadvantage’ means having disadvantaged social status or disadvantaged economic status, or both, that may be indicated by a person's inclusion, other than on a temporary basis, in a socially or geographically identifiable group that suffers from such disadvantage resulting from one or more of the following 20 circumstances:
- (a) poverty,
  - (b) source of income,
  - (c) illiteracy,
  - (d) level of education, 25
  - (e) address, type of housing or homelessness,
  - (f) employment status,
  - (g) social or regional accent,
- or from any other similar circumstance;”.

**Amendment of section 6 (Discrimination for the purposes of this Act) of Act of 1998**

3. Section 6 of the Act of 1998 is amended in subsection (2) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (i):

“(j) that one has a socio-economic disadvantage and the other either does not have a socio-economic disadvantage or is a person with a different socio-economic disadvantage (in this Act referred to as the ‘socio-economic ground’).”.

**Amendment of section 28 (The comparators) of Act of 1998**

4. Section 28 of the Act of 1998 is amended in subsection (1)(h) by the substitution of “or *vice versa*,” for “or *vice versa*.” and by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (h):

“(i) “in relation to the socio-economic ground, C is a person with a socio-economic disadvantage and D is not, or vice versa, or C and D have different socio-economic disadvantages.”.

**Amendment of section 34 (Savings and exceptions related to the family, age or disability) of Act of 1998**

5. Section 34 of the Act of 1998 is amended in subsection (1) by the substitution of “paragraphs (a) to (i)” for “paragraphs (a) to (h)”.

**Amendment of section 37 (Exclusion of discrimination on particular grounds in certain employments) of Act of 1998**

6. Section 37 of the Act of 1998 is amended in subsection (1C) by the substitution of “, membership of the Traveller community or socio-economic disadvantage,” for “or membership of the Traveller community,”.

**Amendment of section 2 (Interpretation) of Act of 2000**

7. Section 2 of the Act of 2000 is amended in subsection (1) by the insertion of the following definition after the definition of “sexual orientation”:

“ ‘socio-economic disadvantage’ means having disadvantaged social status or disadvantaged economic status, or both, that may be indicated by a person’s inclusion, other than on a temporary basis, in a socially or geographically identifiable group that suffers from such disadvantage resulting from one or more of the following circumstances:

- (a) poverty,
- (b) source of income,
- (c) illiteracy,
- (d) level of education,
- (e) address, type of housing or homelessness,

- (f) employment status,
  - (g) social or regional accent,
- or from any other similar circumstance;”.

**Amendment of section 3 (Discrimination: general) of Act of 2000**

8. Section 3 of the Act of 2000 is amended in subsection (2) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (i): 5

“(ia) that one has a socio-economic disadvantage and the other either does not have a socio-economic disadvantage or is a person with a different socio-economic disadvantage (in this Act referred to as the “socio-economic ground”),”.

**Amendment of section 6 (Disposal of premises and provision of accommodation) of Act of 2000**

9. Section 6 of the Act of 2000 is amended—

(a) in subsection (6) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (b)— 15

“(b) a body approved under section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992,

from providing, in relation to housing accommodation, different treatment to persons based on family size, family status, civil status, disability, age, membership of the Traveller community, or socio-economic disadvantage status.”.

and

(b) in subsection (7) by the substitution of “, membership of the Traveller community or socio-economic disadvantage,” for “or membership of the Traveller community,”. 25

**Amendment of section 9 (Non-discriminating clubs) of Act of 2000**

10. Section 9 of the Act of 2000 is amended in subsection (1)(a) by the deletion of “or” in subparagraph (ii), the substitution of “religious belief, or” for “religious belief,” in subparagraph (iii) and the insertion of the following subparagraph after subparagraph (iii): 30

“(iv) persons who have a particular socio-economic disadvantage,”.

**Short title, collective citations and commencement**

11. (1) This Act may be cited as the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021.

(2) The Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2015, this subsection and *sections 2 to 6* may be cited together as the Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2021. 35

(3) The Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2015, this subsection and *sections 7 to 10* may be cited

together as the Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2021.

- (4) This Act comes into operation six months after the date of its passing or on such earlier date than the said six months as the Minister for Justice may by order appoint.





An Bille um Chomhionannas (Forálacha  
Ilghnéitheacha), 2021

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# BILLE

*(mar a tionscnaíodh)*

*dá ngairtear*

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le toirmeasc a chur le hidirdhealú ar bhonn cúlra sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch faoi mhíbhuntáiste a bheith ag duine; chun na gcríoch sin do leasú an Achta um Chomhionannas Fostaíochta, 1998 agus an Achta um Stádas Comhionann, 2000; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

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*Na Teachtaí Críostóir Mac Aindriú agus Vialait-  
Áine Uí Mhaolghaoithe a thug isteach,*

*27 Eanáir, 2021*

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Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill  
2021

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# BILL

*(as initiated)*

*entitled*

An Act to provide for prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person's social and economic disadvantaged background; for those purposes to amend the Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000; and to provide for related matters.

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*Introduced by Deputies Chris Andrews and Violet-  
Anne Wynne,*

*27th January, 2021*

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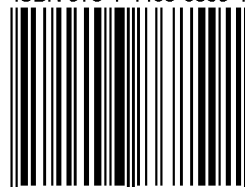
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