

## **Fermanagh Voluntary Association of the Disabled**

### **Submission to the Bill of Rights Consultation Document**

FVAD feel that **Making a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland** is a very positive document addressing overall rights for everyone. Whilst we understand that all the issues raised by disabled people cannot be defined in a Bill of Rights, the group feel that the proposals do not go far enough to ensure equal opportunity in all social and economic activity. The group do not believe that a separate chapter is required, as disabled people fall into all categories of citizens.

FVAD fully support the submission made by the working group **Alliance for Human Rights for People with Disabilities**. We particularly stress the need for right of access to goods and services whether physical or by communication. We would however, like to make the following submission to the Commission's proposals from our own deliberations on the Bill of Rights.

### **Discrimination**

Ref. Clause 4.8 Positive Action

The group agree that at this time positive action is required for currently disadvantaged groups such as women and the disabled, but would prefer the first sentence of this clause to read as follows:

'Laws, policies programmes or activities aimed at achieving and sustaining full and effective equality, in particular *those which reduce* inequalities affecting groups disadvantaged on the grounds .. and which may include specific measures for individuals from such groups, shall be *permitted only to achieve this aim.*'

### **Social, economic and environmental rights**

We would like to include an additional section to be placed after the Right to work section:

#### **'People with disabilities** (over 16 years)

1. Every person living with a disability has the right to continuing care and assistance from the appropriate agencies according to need, whether this is continued from childhood, a newly sustained disability or the ageing process, in order to ensure dignity and and promote self reliance.
2. All disabled people should have the opportunity to continue to take part in occupational and educational activities of their choice, to maximise each individual's potential for employment, independent living and social inclusion.
3. The state shall provide moral and material support to all carers of disabled and sick people in their homes, whether family, voluntary or agency members.'

End