# A4 DAERA Logo process.png

**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

# **Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for public authorities April 2010 *(Appendix 1)).***

**Introduction**

**Part 1. Policy scoping** – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

**Part 2. Screening questions** – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues. This section also includes two questions related to the Disability Duties.

**Part 3. Screening decision** –guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or tointroducemeasures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**Part 4. Monitoring** –provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights** – please note this is not a Human Rights Screening form but rather a prompt that impacts on Human Rights should be considered.

**Part 6. Approval and authorisation** – verifies the public authority’s approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

A screening flowchart is provided overleaf.

Policy Scoping

* + Policy
  + Available data

Screening Questions

* Apply screening questions
* Consider multiple identities

Screening Decision: None/Minor/Major

Mitigate

Publish Template

Re-consider screening

Publish Template

for information

Publish Template

EQIA

Monitor

**‘None’**

Screened out

**‘Major’**

Screened in for EQIA

**‘Minor’**

Screened out with mitigation

Concerns raised with evidence

Concerns raised with evidence re: screening decision

**Part 1. Policy scoping**

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

**Information about the policy**

**Name of the policy**

Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme (pilot phase 2)

**Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?**

New scheme (2nd phase of a pilot). This scheme is slightly different and testing different aspects to the original Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme which was launched in November 2020. In the last scheme, 41 applications were received to the value of £1.512m. Of these 12 applications were successful with Letters of Offer issued to a value totalling £500k. Subsequently 11 projects were progressed with a total grant value of £450k.

**What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)**

The main aim of the Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme is to help established social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst support those who live in rural areas. The intended objectives of the Scheme are:

* To improve rural social enterprise sustainability;
* To strengthen rural communities;
* To improve the economic circumstances of rural communities; and
* To work in partnership with others.

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

**If so, explain how.**

The scheme will be open to all eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises to access grant funding to improve their business regardless of any section 75 category. However, it is notable that half of the successful projects in the last Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme specifically benefitted disabled service users. Therefore there is potential for any future scheme call to benefit this particular section 75 category.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

Rural Affairs Division

**Who owns and who implements the policy?**

Rural Affairs Division

**Implementation factors**

**Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?** No

**Main stakeholders affected**

**Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? (please delete as appropriate)**

**other, please specify** rural community, specifically rural social enterprises.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

* **What are they?**

Draft Programme for Government

Rural Policy Framework

Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG) – a cross departmental forum

including agencies and the local councils.

* **Who owns them?**

Executive

DAERA

DfE

**Available evidence**

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/S75DataSignpostingGuide.pdf).

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

*Please ensure all data used is the most current and up to date available. You should verify this by contacting the Departmental Statisticians.*

**Religious belief** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme (January 2021)

Statistics from the 2011 Census show the make-up of the rural community (based on head of household) to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents 40% indicated they were members of the Protestant Community and 60% were members of the Catholic Community.

This scheme is targeted at established social enterprises in rural areas, regardless of their religious beliefs.

**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland
* Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)

Statistics from the 2011 Census show the make-up of the rural community (based on head of household) to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion.

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013 found that 25% of the Northern Ireland population describe themselves as nationalist, 29% as unionist and 43% held neither political opinion.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents, 40% described themselves as Nationalist; 40% indicated no political preference and 20% identified as Unionist.

That said, the scheme is open to anyone whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of their political opinion.

**Racial Group** evidence/information:

**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland
* Cabinet Office (May 2013), A report by BMG Research– Social Enterprise: Market Trends, Based upon the BIS Small Business Survey 2012
* Social Enterprise UK (2018) ‘Hidden Revolution Size and Scale of Social Enterprise’
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 99.4% of the population is classified as white and 0.6% other ethnic groupings.

The 2013 Cabinet Office report noted in table 4.8 (see report) that 7% of Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) employers in the UK were minority ethnic group led, defined as having a person from an ethnic minority in sole control of the business, or having a management team with at least half of members from an ethnic minority. Under the very good fit definition, minority ethnic group (MEG) led businesses were no more likely than average to be social enterprises. Under the good fit definition there was a higher than average proportion of MEG-led social enterprises in 2012. Approximately half of these were in the retail and food service sectors.

According to the 2018 Hidden Revolution Report, 34% of social enterprises in the UK have Black Asian Minority Ethnic representation and the proportion of social enterprises led by a member of a Black and Minority Ethnic community is 12%, much higher than SMEs more widely (5%).

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents 100% indicated that they considered that they belonged to a White racial group.

As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their racial group.

**Age** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Cabinet Office (May 2013), A report by BMG Research– Social Enterprise: Market Trends, Based upon the BIS Small Business Survey 2012.
* ‘Rebalancing the NI Economy – 2019 report on social enterprise’ by Social Enterprise NI
* DAERA analysis of the Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland (January 2020)
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)
* Consideration of the breakdown of data available in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 22% aged under 15, 24% aged 16 – 34, 39% aged 35 – 64 and 14% aged 65+.

In the 2013 Cabinet Office report in table 4.13 (see report) under both the very good fit and good fit definitions it would appear that in the UK respondents in social enterprises were older than those in SME employers generally. Under the very good fit definition in 2012, 23% were aged under 45 and 41% over 55. This compares with 33% aged under 45 for all SMEs, and 36% aged over 55. Under both the very good and good fit definition, social enterprises in 2010 were more likely than average to have respondents aged 65 or more.

The 2019 report by Social Enterprise NI noted that the age profile of social entrepreneurship shows that just 2% are aged under 24 years of age while 9% are over 65. Almost three quarters of leaders are aged between 45 and 64 while just over a quarter are aged between 25 and 44. These figures are broadly the same as the UK as a whole. The 2017 Social Enterprise UK survey found that the vast majority of social enterprise leaders are aged either between 25 and 44 (25%) or 45 and 64 (58%).

Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland - An analysis in January 2020 found that there are lower levels of youth, social enterprise and farm diversification engagement. The review showed that the highest percentage of beneficiaries were over 40 years old with 309 compared to less than 10 for those under the age of 25 years old.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents: 6% were under 35 years old; 27% were 35-44 years old; 27% aged 45-54 years old; 27% 55-64 years old; and 13% were aged 65 years or more.

Statistics from the 2021 census show the make-up of the NI population (NB: statistics are not currently available for rural communities) to be 19% aged under 15, 64% aged 15 – 64, and 17% aged 65+.

As with other categories above, this scheme is targeted at established rural social enterprises and is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria. The age of an applicant is irrelevant so long as they are aged 18 years or more.

**Marital Status** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents 87% indicated that they were married or in a civil partnership; and 13% indicated that they were single.

As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their marital status.

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents 100% indicated that their sexual orientation was heterosexual/straight.

As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their sexual orientation.

**Men & Women generally** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Cabinet Office (May 2013), A report by BMG Research– Social Enterprise: Market Trends, Based upon the BIS Small Business Survey 2012.
* Social Enterprise UK (2018) ‘Hidden Revolution Size and Scale of Social Enterprise’
* ‘Rebalancing the NI Economy – 2019 report on social enterprise’ by Social Enterprise NI
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)
* Consideration of the breakdown of data available in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50% men and 50% women.

The 2013 Cabinet Office report demonstrated in table 4.7 (see report) that social enterprises under the very good fit definition in the UK were more likely than average to be women-led, to have women directors in a minority, and less likely than average to be entirely male-led. Under the good fit definition, social enterprises were no more likely to be women-led than average in 2012, although in 2010 they were more likely to be women led. In both surveys they were more likely than average to have women directors in a minority, and were less likely than average to be entirely male-led.

According to the 2018 Hidden Revolution Report, 89% of social enterprise leadership teams in the UK have a female director and 41% of leaders are women, significantly ahead of both mainstream SMEs (20%) and big business (7% of FTSE 100).

The 2019 report by Social Enterprise NI noted that 43% of organisations are led by women and 57% men. Female entrepreneurship is consistent with the UK as a whole, with the 2017 Social Enterprise UK survey finding that 41% of social enterprises were led by women and 59% by men.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents: 73% were male and 27% female.

Statistics from the 2021 census show the make-up of the NI population (NB: statistics are not currently available for rural communities) to be 51% female and 49% male.

As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria and is open to both men and women.

**Disability** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Cabinet Office (May 2013), A report by BMG Research– Social Enterprise: Market Trends, Based upon the BIS Small Business Survey 2012.
* Social Enterprise UK (2018) ‘Hidden Revolution Size and Scale of Social Enterprise’
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)
* Qualitative information from the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme.

Statistics from the 2011 census show that 40% of rural households contain at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.

The 2013 Cabinet Office report noted that in table 4.9 (see report) 9% of SME employers in the UK were disabled-led, defined as having a person with any longstanding illness, disability or infirmity in sole control of the business, or having a management team with at least half of members with longstanding illnesses, disabilities or infirmities. In the Small Business Survey (SBS) 2012, 13% of both the very good fit social enterprises, and 12% of the good fit social enterprises were disabled-led, higher than the proportion for all SME employers. In SBS 2010 social enterprises were no more likely than average to be disabled-led.

According to the 2018 Hidden Revolution Report, 36% of social enterprises in the UK have a director with a disability. More than two-thirds are supporting individuals from disadvantaged groups, and more than four in ten employ them.

As with other categories, the rural social economy scheme is open to all that meet the scheme criteria regardless of any disability.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents: 100% indicated that they did not consider themselves to have a disability. However, it should be noted that of the 12 successful projects under this scheme, half of the projects specifically benefitted those with disabilities in rural areas. A number of projects were ran by social farms and other projects that provided services to those with learning disabilities and experiencing mental health problems.

As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of whether or not they have a disability.

**Dependants** evidence/information:  
**NB: This is based on data available at time of the drafting of the screening assessment on 09/09/2022.**

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Consideration of the Section 75 Monitoring Survey completed for Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme – (January 2021)

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural households to be 37% with dependants and 63% without.

When applications were acknowledged by DAERA for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme, an online Section 75 Equality Monitoring survey was issued to all 41 applicants to be completed on a voluntary basis. 15 applicants (including 3 successful applicants) completed this survey. Of the 15 respondents: 33% indicated that they did not have dependants. Of the other respondents 47% indicated that they had responsibility for the care of children; 20% for a dependent elderly person(s); 7% for a person with a disability; and 7% for other dependants [NB: respondents were able to select more than one option, should they have responsibility for multiple dependants].

Therefore it would appear from the limited data available on applicants to the previous scheme that there was quite a high proportion of applicants with responsibility for dependants when compared to the wider rural NI population.

As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of whether they have dependants or not.

**Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

**Specify details of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below:**

***Religious belief***  
Data shows that there are fewer Catholics residing in rural areas than Protestants. However, the limited information available from the last Rural Social Economy Investment scheme would suggest that there were more applications from members of the Catholic Community than members of the Protestant Community. The rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their religious belief.

***Political Opinion***

The majority of the Northern Ireland rural population stated that they hold neither a nationalist or unionist political opinion. In addition, the equality monitoring survey carried out for the last Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme suggested that most respondents indicated no political preference or described themselves as nationalist. The rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their political opinion.

***Racial Group***

99.4% of the Northern Ireland population is white. Again the equality monitoring survey for the last scheme concurred with this finding. The rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their racial group.

***Age***

The evidence would suggest that the age profile of social entrepreneurship tends to be mainly between those aged between 25 and 64 years old. Whilst the applicant must be aged 18 or over, the rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their age.

***Marital status***

Almost half the rural households in Northern Ireland are made up of married couples. For the respondents to the equality monitoring survey for the last scheme 87% indicated that they were married or in a civil partnership. The rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their marital status.

***Sexual orientation***

Almost half the rural households in Northern Ireland are made up of married couples however this does not indicate the sexual orientation of the rural population. 100% of respondents to the equality monitoring survey for the last scheme indicated that they were heterosexual/straight. The rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their sexual orientation.

***Men and Women Generally***

There is an even split of men and women within the rural population of Northern Ireland. Evidence would tend to indicate that social enterprises are more likely to be led by men than women. In particular, for the equality monitoring survey for the last scheme there was a very high proportion (73%) of responses from men. The rural social enterprise investment scheme will be open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of whether they are men or women.

***Disability***

With 40% of rural households containing at least one person with a disability it is highly likely that disabled people will benefit from this scheme. Whilst the respondents to the equality monitoring survey for the last scheme indicated that they did not have a disability, it is notable that half of the projects delivered specifically benefitted those with disabilities in rural areas. As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to all that meet the scheme criteria regardless of any disability.

***Dependants***

According to the 2011 census, the majority of rural households do not have dependents. However, of those who responded to the equality monitoring survey for the last scheme, two thirds indicated that they did have responsibility for dependants with some having responsibility for multiple dependants. As with other categories, the rural social enterprise investment scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of whether they have dependants or not.

**Part 2. Screening questions**

**Introduction**

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is ‘screened out’ as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

* measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
* the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of a ‘major’ impact**

1. The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
3. Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
4. Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
5. The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
6. The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

**In favour of ‘minor’ impact**

1. The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
2. The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
3. Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
4. By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of none**

1. The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
2. The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.**Screening questions**

1. **What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Religious belief*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of religious belief. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular religious belief.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion:*** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of political opinion. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular political opinion.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of racial group. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular racial group.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Age*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who are aged 18+ and who meet the scheme requirements regardless of age. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular age group.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Marital Status*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of marital status. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular marital status.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Sexual Orientation*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of sexual orientation. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular sexual orientation.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Men and Women*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of gender. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular gender.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:** The scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements. However, given the experience from the previous Rural Social Economy Investment scheme and the high proportion of disabled service users who benefitted from the projects, there is potential for any future scheme to also benefit this group. It is likely that those with disabilities will experience a more positive impact than other groups.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor Positive

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:** No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of whether or not an applicant has dependants. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular applicant based on whether or not they have dependants.

**What is the level of impact?** None

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?** Yes

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

***Religious Belief* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Political Opinion* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Racial Group* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Age* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

From the evidence outlined earlier the age profile for leaders of social enterprises in NI demonstrate that just 2% are aged under 24 years of age. Almost 75% of leaders are aged between 45 and 64 and just over 25% aged between 25 and 44. As this scheme is open to anyone who is eligible, there is no reason why younger people cannot apply for grant funding. This is something that could also be considered during the animation process to ensure the scheme is accessible to everyone.

***Marital Status* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Sexual Orientation* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Men and Women generally* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Disability* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

***Dependants* - If Yes, provide details:**

The Rural Social Enterprise Investment Scheme will help eligible applicants in established rural social enterprises access grant funding to improve their business. The purpose of the investment scheme will be to enable social enterprises to increase their capacity, potential profitability and sustainability whilst supporting those who live in rural areas. DAERA will also provide animation for the scheme (i.e. online pre-application workshops). Therefore there is potential to lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

1. **To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Religious belief*:** The rural social enterprise investment scheme is expected to be neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, there is likely to be no impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion*:** The rural social enterprise investment scheme is expected to be neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different political opinions, there is likely to be no impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:** The rural social enterprise investment scheme is expected to be neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different racial groups, there is likely to be no impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

***Religious Belief* -**

**If No, provide reasons:** Given that the Rural Social Enterprise Investment pilot is neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different religious beliefs, there is likely to be no impact.

***Political Opinion* -**

**If No, provide reasons:** Given that the Rural Social Enterprise Investment pilot is neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different political opinions, there is likely to be no impact.

Racial Group **-**

**If No, provide reasons:** Given that the Rural Social Enterprise Investment pilot is neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different racial groups, there is likely to be no impact

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?  If so, please detail below.

The scheme is open to all who meet the scheme requirements regardless of multiple identities. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit rural communities.

**Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

There is very limited data available from the last equality monitoring survey for the Rural Social Economy Investment Scheme but it would not be sufficient information from which to draw broader conclusions. It is intended that section 75 data will be collected and monitored for this scheme.

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order. Questions 5 – 6 relate to these.

Consideration of Disability Duties

1. **Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better *promote positive attitudes* towards disabled people?**

This scheme is open to all eligible applicants regardless of whether or not they have a disability.

6. **Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively *increase the participation* by disabled people in public life?**

This scheme is open to all eligible applicants and it is entirely possible that a disabled person may decide to apply if he/she thinks that their business or business idea would meet the aims and objectives of the scheme. If successful in developing an emerging or established social enterprise further through DAERA’s grant funding, this would undoubtedly increase their participation in public life.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

“Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted

**If the decision is *not to conduct an equality impact assessment*, please provide details of the reasons.**

As the scheme is open to all established rural social enterprises, there is no impact on grounds of equality or human rights on any of the Section 75 groupings as all eligible applicants will be free to apply for grant funding regardless of their gender, disability, religious belief etc. All applicants that meet the eligibility criteria (i.e. over 18 years; and a established social enterprise trading for at least two years in a rural area) will be in competition for limited funds and their success or otherwise in obtaining grant funding will be decided on an assessment of how well they meet the priorities for funding set by the Department for this pilot scheme.

All public authorities’ equality schemes must state the authority’s arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/PracticalGuidanceonEQIA2005.pdf?ext=.pdf)

**Mitigation**

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

**Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? No**

**If so, *give the reasons* to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.**

As the scheme is open to all rural social enterprises who meet the scheme criteria, there is no impact on grounds of equality or human rights on any of the Section 75 groupings as all eligible applicants will be free to apply for grant funding regardless of their gender, disability, religious belief etc.

**Timetabling and prioritising**

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been **‘screened in’** for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

**On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.**

| **Priority criterion** | **Rating (1-3)** |
| --- | --- |
| Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations |  |
| Social need |  |
| Effect on people’s daily lives |  |
| Relevance to a public authority’s functions |  |
| **Total score** |  |

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

**Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?**

**If yes, please provide details.**

**Part 4. Monitoring**

Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity. Please note the following excerpt from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to monitoring:

*A system must be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its effect on relevant groups. The results of ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. The public authority is required to publish the results of this monitoring. And they must be included in the public authorities´ annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. The Equality Scheme must specify how and where such monitoring information will be published. It is therefore essential that monitoring is carried out in a systematic manner and that the results are widely and openly published.*

*If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that the policy results in greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the public authority must ensure that the policy is revised to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.*

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: [ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75MonitoringGuidance2007.pdf?ext=.pdf)

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy or decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

**Equality:** At the expression of interest stage the Division running the scheme will meet the undertaking to collect data on all Section 75 categories in accordance with DAERA’s Equality Scheme.

**Good Relations:** Section 75 monitoring will be carried out at expression of interest stage.

**Disability Duties:** Section 75 monitoring will be carried out at expression of interest stage.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

1. **The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.**

See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Right to Life | **Article 2** | No |
| Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment | **Article 3** | No |
| Prohibition of slavery and forced labour | **Article 4** | No |
| Right to liberty and security | **Article 5** | No |
| Right to a fair and public trial | **Article 6** | No |
| Right to no punishment without law | **Article 7** | No |
| Right to respect for private and family life, home  and correspondence | **Article 8** | No |
| Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion | **Article 9** | No |
| Right to freedom of expression | **Article 10** | No |
| Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association | **Article 11** | No |
| Right to marry and to found a family | **Article 12** | No |
| The prohibition of discrimination | **Article 14** | No |
| Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions | **Protocol 1 Article 1** | No |
| Right to education | **Protocol 1 Article 2** | No |
| Right to free and secret elections | **Protocol 1 Article 3** | No |

8. **Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified**

No adverse impact identified.

9. **Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights**

The decision does not create any opportunity to promote human rights.

**Part 6 - Approval and authorisation**

# **Screening Checklist**

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed –

* I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
* I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
* I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
* I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen Out’
* A copy of this screening template and the final decision has been sent to the Equality Unit for their consideration before it has been forwarded for sign-off

**Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -**

**Name:** Katrina Killen **Grade:** Deputy Principal

**Branch:** Rural Policy and Delivery Branch **Date:** 20/09/2022

**Signature:** 

**Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3/Deputy Secretary or above) -**

**Name:** David Reid **Grade:** G3

**Branch:** RAFSET/BOR **Date: 04/10/2022**

**Signature:** A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generated

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority’s website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equality@daera-ni.gov.uk). The screening template must be saved to the container in **HTML format** (not PDF) in order to comply with accessibility requirements. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department’s Section 75 consultees.



For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY  
BT49 9HP

Email: [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equality@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 7744 2027



**Annex A**

**Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols**

***Article 2***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to life***

1. Everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) In defense of any person from unlawful violence;

(b) In order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;

(c) In action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

***Article 3***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of torture***

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

***Article 4***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of slavery and forced labour***

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. For the purpose of this Article the term “forced or compulsory labour” shall not include:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) Any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;

(b) Any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;

(c) Any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;

(d) Any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

***Article 5***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to liberty and security***

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) The lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court;

(b) The lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law;

(c) the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so;

(d ) the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority;

(e) The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;

(f) The lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.

1. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.**E+W+S+N.I.**
4. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this Article shall have an enforceable right to compensation.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 6***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to a fair trial***

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) To be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

(b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense;

(c) To defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

(d) To examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

(e) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

***Article 7***

**E+W+S+N.I.*No punishment without law***

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 8***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to respect for private and family life***

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 9***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of thought, conscience and religion***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 10***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of expression***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 11***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of assembly and association***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 12***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to marry***

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

***Article 14***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of discrimination***

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Protection of property***

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to education***

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

***3* E+W+S+N.I.*Right to free elections***

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature