

EMAIL

Peter Weir
Minister for Education
Room 207
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23 June 2020

Dear Minister,

I hope you are well. When we met on the 7th of May I agreed to write to you concerning the full implementation of the Executive Formation (NI) Act, 2019 that was passed by the UK government last summer. As you are aware I am specifically concerned with article 9 (1) which states:

The Secretary of State must ensure that the recommendations in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the CEDAW report are implemented in respect of Northern Ireland.¹

The then Secretary of State commenced the process of implementation of paragraph 85 of the CEDAW report and this work has been continued by the Department of Health. However, I am writing regarding the lack of progress concerning paragraph 86 of the CEDAW² Report, specifically paragraph 86 (d) which states:

(d) Make age-appropriate, comprehensive and scientifically accurate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights a compulsory component of curriculum for adolescents, covering prevention of early pregnancy and access to abortion, and monitor its implementation;

As discussed at the meeting the current content of the Relationship and Sexuality Education curriculum in Northern Ireland is advisory (and therefore optional). I accept that this is considered a contentious issue for many people, however, there is now legislation which places a duty on government to implement a compulsory curriculum. I therefore look

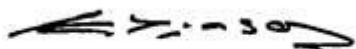
¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2019/22/section/9/enacted>

² <https://undocs.org/en/CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1>

forward to hearing from you how the Department of Education intends to discharge the responsibilities that have been placed on it by this legislation.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Koulla Yiasouma
Commissioner