

Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) www.cre.gov.uk

The CRE was established in 1976 to:

- Eliminate racial discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote good race relations
- Review the legislation and recommend changes

The Race Relations Act

The Race Relations Act 1976 and the RRAA Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 are complemented in the UK by the EU Race Regulations.

Under the Race Relations Act, it is unlawful to discriminate against anyone on grounds of race, colour, nationality (including citizenship), or ethnic or national origin. All racial groups are protected from discrimination.

The Race Relations Act generally applies to the fields of employment, planning, housing, the exercise of public functions (both by public authorities and also private bodies exercising public functions, for example, privately-run prisons), the provision of goods, facilities and services, education, and education.

Race Relations Act Amendment Act

In 2001, the Race Relations Act was amended to give public authorities a new statutory duty to promote race equality. The aim is to help public authorities to provide fair and accessible services, and to improve equal opportunities in employment.

The duty to promote race equality is commonly referred to as the ‘race equality duty’. It applies to public authorities and is made up of the general duty and the specific duty:

The general duty

The general duty applies to all public authorities listed in Schedule 1A of the Act. It requires them:

- To eliminate unlawful racial discrimination;
- To promote equality of opportunity between persons of different racial groups, and;
- To promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.

Specific duties

There are a number of specific duties that are intended to help meet the general duty so are steps or means to an end. Examples that public authorities must carry out include:

- Race Equality Scheme
- Publishing information (e.g. ethnic breakdown of employment figures)
- Assessing functions and policies
- Monitoring
- Race Equality Impact Assessment