

## EQUALITY BILL

There are currently nine pieces of legislation, hundreds of regulations and thousands of pages of guidance and codes that make up our equality laws. This is all too complex to understand and is creating many practical problems. I therefore welcome any attempt to consolidate the existing law in order to make it more coherent and workable. It was high time this Government found time to simplify the law.

However, as a practising Christian I share many of your concerns about the Bill. It seems to me that Labour and Liberal Democrat MP's are seeking to impose a certain concept of "equality" which will require the major faiths – especially Christians – to have their freedoms eroded in order to accommodate the so-called freedoms of other groups. There is much in the legislation that requires urgent clarification.

I personally find the following possible effects of the Equality Bill unacceptable:

- that a Church administrator could not refuse those of opposing beliefs (for example, a Satan-worshipping group) from using church premises on grounds of their beliefs;
- that a teacher employed by a Church to impart Christian sexual morality could not be denied the job on grounds of their own sexual practices;
- that Christian symbols may not be able to be displayed in schools of a Christian ethos for fear of "offending" those who subscribe to, as the Bill puts it, "another religion or belief".

This surely is not the definition of equality that Britain wants or needs. I have received many other letters like yours and am very encouraged that Christians are responding to the unbalanced agenda that has (with Liberal Democrat support) characterised this Government's approach.

I am happy to reassure you that I will be voting against any attempt to further undermine Christian liberty.



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Please visit my website: [www.nigelwaterson.com](http://www.nigelwaterson.com)

