



**ADOPT
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23 JUL 2007

DOLE

RT Hon. Hazel Blears. M.P.
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place,
LONDON
SW1E 5DU

20th July 2007

Dear Secretary of State

Re: Consultation on Single Equality Bill

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| Minister | |
| Subject | |
| Official | |

As the President of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland, I am writing to convey my deep concern and that of my members about the proposed Single Equality Bill that is currently under consultation.

Round Table was established 80 years ago and is the largest organisation in the country for men aged between 18-45 years. Annually we raise in excess of £6 million pounds across the UK for a variety of local and national charities.

Your proposed legislation we feel offers a threat to our future existence and we are seeking urgent guarantees from you that this proposed Bill will not affect the future of Round Table and that your Government will never bring legislation forward that could threaten the lawful existence of Round Table.

We fully support gender equality but also strongly feel that single sex associations have a place in a modern society. Freedom of choice has also to be respected.

We are a dynamic, fun group that believes in helping others. Round Table is not anti women, indeed far from it, we work closely with our sister organisation Ladies' Circle; Round Table is very much part of a family based organisation.

We feel that there is a justifiable place in society for all male and all female clubs. Men and women behave very differently when mixing with their own gender and this is healthy and should be encouraged.

Round Table has been a major part of our local communities for generations. Our members have contributed to society while having fun and our local communities have benefited as a result.

On behalf of thousands of my members across the United Kingdom I am asking to you to please confirm in writing that our future will not be jeopardy by the proposed Single Equality Bill.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Drummond
President
The National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland