

Your response to the National Equality Panel.

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Name of Organisation (if applicable – see also organisation tick box at end of this proforma)	British Naturism
Position (if applicable)	Research & Liaison Officer

If you do not wish for your response, or the fact that you have made a response, to be made public please indicate this by ticking the relevant box below.

I do not wish for my response to be made public

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I do not wish for the fact that I have made a response to be made public

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Evidence on

- 1. the extent of inequality in education outcomes, employment, earnings, income and wealth and how these inequalities relate to people's characteristics and circumstances, including their ethnicity, gender, disability, religion and belief, age, sexual orientation social class, housing tenure, and where they live;**

Naturists encounter prejudice in employment. For example a headmistress was recently suspended from duty when the chairman of governors found out. The suspension was lifted very quickly but it illustrates the problem.

Many naturists feel obliged to keep their naturism secret. Many people who would like to be naturists feel unable to participate. This is a particular problem for people in the caring professions and education. It contributed to my decision to leave teaching.

Often the discrimination is because the person doing the discrimination assumes that most people are prejudiced and that they must follow the herd.

- 2. how these relationships have changed over time;**

Naturism is generally acceptable to most of the public and that seems to be increasing. CRB checks and trends in child protection are causing increasing problems, not because of evidence but because people in positions of responsibility are terrified of making a mistake. Affirmative statements from the appropriate organisations would make a big contribution to reducing discrimination.

3. ways in which particular *combinations* of people's characteristics and circumstances affect their lives;

Any occupation requiring a CRB check may cause problems. Any occupation requiring an enhanced CRB check is potentially a serious problem. This is not because of anything explicit. It is because there are some deeply prejudiced individuals, there is no effective protection for naturists and few people are prepared to face the stress that provoking a confrontation or pursuing a case would cause.

There is also a serious problem caused by the lack of clarity as to when and where it is legal to practice public place naturism. The opinions of various police officers that we have had dealings with varies from nearly everywhere to nearly nowhere. Combined with a complete absence of provision in most parts of the country this means that people have to choose between practising naturism and serious risk to their career and reputation.

4. how these factors contribute to differences in the ways people's educational and economic outcomes develop as their lives progress;

Naturists sometimes have to choose between career and continuing to be a naturist. For most naturists it is a matter of comfort and being able to dress sensibly for activities such as swimming but for some naturists practising naturism is a matter of belief. The nearest parallel is probably humanism.

Naturists commonly have to pay a premium to access local authority facilities such as swimming pools. Double is not uncommon.

5. surveys, data and other kinds of research that could help inform the Panel's work.

I attach some briefing notes.

6. Other information you think it is relevant to the Panel's task.

Many people in local government, swimming pool administration and similar positions start from the assumption that naturism must be illegal and that naturists have no rights. I attach some briefing notes.

Please note, your response should reach the National Equality Panel by Friday 630 January. Send your responses to: NEP-evidence@geo.gsi.gov.uk or to Zoe Palmer, Government Equalities Office, Eland House, Bressenden Place, SW1E 5DU London.

Please tick the box which best describes your organisation

Voluntary sector/charity ☒ 4

Public sector ☐

Private sector ☐

Academic ☐

Other (please specify) Representative organisation

Which area does your organisation cover?

Age ☐

Disability ☐

Gender ☐

Race or ethnicity ☐

Religion or belief ☒ 4

Sexual Orientation ☐

Transgender ☐

Other (please specify) Nudity and naturism