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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1997 No. 869**

**The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**

PART III

DISCRIMINATION IN OTHER FIELDS

*Education*

[<sup>F1</sup>Public authorities

**20A.**—(1) It is unlawful for a public authority—

- (a) to discriminate against a person on the grounds of race or ethnic or national origins, or
- (b) to subject a person to harassment

in the course of carrying out any functions of the authority which consist of the provision of:

- (i) any form of social security;
- (ii) healthcare;
- (iii) any other form of social protection, or
- (iv) any form of social advantage,

which does not fall within Article 21.

(2) In this Article “public authority”:

- (a) includes any person certain of whose functions are functions of a public nature; but
- (b) does not include any person mentioned in paragraph (3).

(3) The persons mentioned in this paragraph are—

- (a) either House of Parliament;
- (b) a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in Parliament;
- (c) the Assembly;
- (d) a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in the Assembly;
- (e) the Security Service;
- (f) the Secret Intelligence Service;
- (g) the Government Communications Headquarters; and
- (h) any unit or part of a unit of any of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown which is for the time being required by the Secretary of State to assist the Government Communications Headquarters in carrying out its functions.

(4) In relation to a particular act, a person is not a public authority by virtue only of paragraph (2)

(a) if the nature of the act is private.

(5) This Article is subject to Articles 20B to 20D.

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**Changes to legislation:** *The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, Section 20A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)*

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(6) Nothing in this Article makes unlawful any act of discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnic or national origins, or harassment, which—

- (a) is made unlawful by virtue of any other provision of this Order; or
- (b) would be so made but for any provision made by or under this Order.]

<b>F1</b> SR 2003/341
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[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 17 s.50 Sch.4 para.41](#)
- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 32 s.74\(1\)Sch.4 para.24](#)