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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1997 No. 869**

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

**PART II**

**[<sup>F1</sup>DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT IN THE EMPLOYMENT FIELD]**

*[<sup>F1</sup>Discrimination and harassment by employers]*

**Exceptions for genuine occupational qualifications**

- 8.—**(1) In relation to racial discrimination[<sup>F1</sup> in cases where Article 7A does not apply]
- (a) Article 6(1)(a) or (c) does not apply to any employment where being of a particular racial group is a genuine occupational qualification for the job; and
  - (b) Article 6(2)(b) does not apply to opportunities for promotion or transfer to, or training for, such employment.
- (2) Being of a particular racial group is a genuine occupational qualification for a job only where—
- (a) the job involves participation in a dramatic performance or other entertainment in a capacity for which a person of that racial group is required for reasons of authenticity; or
  - (b) the job involves participation as an artist's or photographic model in the production of a work of art, visual image or sequence of visual images for which a person of that racial group is required for reasons of authenticity; or
  - (c) the job involves working in a place where food or drink is (for payment or not) provided to and consumed by members of the public or a section of the public in a particular setting for which, in that job, a person of that racial group is required for reasons of authenticity; or
  - (d) the holder of the job provides persons of that racial group with personal services promoting their welfare, and those services can most effectively be provided by a person of that racial group.
- (3) Paragraph (2) applies where some only of the duties of the job fall within sub-paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) as well as where all of them do.
- (4) Sub-paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of paragraph (2) does not apply in relation to the filling of a vacancy at a time when the employer already has employees of the racial group in question—
- (a) who are capable of carrying out the duties falling within that sub-paragraph; and
  - (b) whom it would be reasonable to employ on those duties; and
  - (c) whose numbers are sufficient to meet the employer's likely requirements in respect of those duties without undue inconvenience.

**Changes to legislation:**

The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, Section 8 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 March 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.

[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](#)