



# Equality Act 2010

## 2010 CHAPTER 15

### PART 2

#### EQUALITY: KEY CONCEPTS

### CHAPTER 2

#### PROHIBITED CONDUCT

#### *Discrimination*

#### **18 Pregnancy and maternity discrimination: work cases**

- (1) This section has effect for the purposes of the application of Part 5 (work) to the protected characteristic of pregnancy and maternity.
- (2) A person (A) discriminates against a woman if, in the protected period in relation to a pregnancy of hers, A treats her unfavourably —
  - (a) because of the pregnancy, or
  - (b) because of illness suffered by her as a result of it.
- (3) A person (A) discriminates against a woman if A treats her unfavourably because she is on compulsory maternity leave.
- (4) A person (A) discriminates against a woman if A treats her unfavourably because she is exercising or seeking to exercise, or has exercised or sought to exercise, the right to ordinary or additional maternity leave.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (2), if the treatment of a woman is in implementation of a decision taken in the protected period, the treatment is to be regarded as occurring in that period (even if the implementation is not until after the end of that period).
- (6) The protected period, in relation to a woman's pregnancy, begins when the pregnancy begins, and ends—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) if she has the right to ordinary and additional maternity leave, at the end of the additional maternity leave period or (if earlier) when she returns to work after the pregnancy;
  - (b) if she does not have that right, at the end of the period of 2 weeks beginning with the end of the pregnancy.
- (7) Section 13, so far as relating to sex discrimination, does not apply to treatment of a woman in so far as—
- (a) it is in the protected period in relation to her and is for a reason mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (2), or
  - (b) it is for a reason mentioned in subsection (3) or (4).