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## Response to Equalities Bill: 26 June 2008

Chwarae Teg, the pan-Wales professional organisation created to maximize women's contribution to the Welsh economy, welcomes the principles of the Equalities Bill, the details of which are due to be unveiled by Harriet Harman today. The proposals, which are to be adopted across England, Wales and Scotland, will include policies to tackle the gender pay gap and more widespread forms of age-related prejudice. Under plans to make workplaces more diverse, Ms Harman also wants to allow employers to appoint people specifically because of their race or gender. The proposals would only apply when choosing between candidates equally qualified for the job.

Chief Executive Katy Chamberlain said:

"Chwarae Teg supports the move to empower businesses that wish to make their workforces more flexible and diverse. Of course it should always come down to the individual business case however these measures are to be welcomed. The proposals will enable firms to make positive choices and in the long term this will open up new opportunities to a wider skilled labor market. It will allow businesses to assess and act where there is an identified need for a more diverse workforce to meet the needs of the business, and be more representative of the customers or the communities it serves."

**ENDS**

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