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### **1. Introduction**

We believe that every individual is uniquely created by God and made in his image and likeness. As a result, we believe that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect and in accordance with the law and best practice regarding equal opportunities in employment. We will promote a good and harmonious working environment in which our employees will be treated with dignity and respect, and we will not discriminate unlawfully against or harass any person on the grounds of:

- Age
- Gender reassignment
- Being married or in a civil partnership
- Being pregnant or on maternity leave
- Disability
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin)
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

### **2. Occupational Requirements**

As an organisation with a Christian ethos and purpose, we reserve the right, where appropriate, to specify that certain posts within the organisation must be undertaken by a person practising the Christian faith and those individuals must subscribe to our statement of faith and code of conduct. Each job within the organisation will be assessed from time to time to identify whether there is an occupational requirement that the duties of the post must be undertaken by a Christian. Where a post is identified as having such a requirement, this will be specified in recruitment literature, job description and contractual documentation.

### **3. Disability**

We will endeavour to ensure that our workplace and our employment policies and practices do not unreasonably exclude or disadvantage those of our job applicants and employees who have disabilities. To this end we will comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments that is imposed on us in relation to such persons. We note that a failure to comply with that duty would be an act of unlawful discrimination.

### **4. Employees' Rights**

Our employees have a right to work in a good and harmonious environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and to complain about such behaviour should it occur.

Employees who believe they have suffered any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation are encouraged to raise the matter through the grievance procedure. All complaints of discrimination will be dealt with seriously, promptly and confidentially and, if

substantiated, will render the alleged harasser liable to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Employees who make complaints of discrimination and harassment, and others who give evidence or information in connection with such complaints, will not be victimised (i.e. they will not be discriminated against or harassed in retaliation for their actions). Victimisation is also discrimination contrary to the equality laws and this policy.

### **5. Employees' Responsibilities**

All our employees must comply with this policy. You must treat others with dignity and respect. You must not commit any acts of unlawful discrimination or harassment against any other person, such as your co-workers, our job applicants or anyone else they may come into contact with during the course of their work. Such behaviour will not be permitted or condoned. We will treat it as misconduct which may warrant dismissal from employment.

All our employees should discourage discrimination and harassment by making it clear that they find such behaviour unacceptable and by supporting co-workers who suffer such treatment. Any employee who is aware of any incident of discrimination and harassment should alert management to enable us to deal with it.

### **6. Employer's Responsibilities**

We are committed to continually make good faith efforts to implement this policy. This responsibility will be carried out by the Executive Director.

We will:

- fulfil our legal obligations and comply with our own Equal Opportunities Policy.
- communicate the policy directly to all employees, applicants and relevant others.
- provide training and guidance as appropriate.
- ensure that all complaints of discrimination and harassment are dealt with promptly, seriously and confidentially and in accordance with our internal grievance procedure.
- set a good example by treating employees with fairness, dignity and respect.
- be alert to unacceptable behaviour and take appropriate action, including disciplinary action where needed, to stop it.
- Monitor all incidents of discrimination and harassment and review the effectiveness of this policy periodically and where issues arise.
- Obtain commitments from other persons or organisations such as subcontractors that they too will comply with the policy in their dealings with our business.

#### Revision History

Version	Date	Written by/Updated by	Approved by	Comments
1.0	02/23	DB	Council	
1.1	02/24	MC	F&G	Minor edits, formatting and reapproval
1.2	02/25	MC	SMT	
1.3	06/26	CD	SMT	