

## **SAMPLE QUESTIONS:**

### **POLITICAL BACKGROUND, RELIGION AND ETHNICITY**

The core elements of good relations section 75(2) are peoples' religious, political and racial or ethnic background.

Generally, a person's political background or belief is not asked and is less relevant to the work they may do as a volunteer.

The Executive Office (TEO) will also ask these questions in their monitoring and evaluation processes when they fund good relations projects. They aim to ensure projects have a meaningful impact on people of all religions and ethnicities.

The core information about religious background, given our still predominantly Christian population, may mainly ask whether a person is from a Protestant or Catholic background, and describe those from a non- Christian background as "other".

However, this has two particular drawbacks:

- Many people do not now identify themselves in such terms although almost everyone who was brought up in Northern Ireland is from one or other of those two religious backgrounds;
- It is not good to "other" anyone, especially if you have a target of increasing representation within your volunteer pool from BAME communities.

## Faith

Considering the detail above, you may consider phrasing such a question in the following ways:

### In what faith were you brought up?

☐

Catholic

☐

Protestant

☐

Other Christian

☐

Muslim

☐

Jewish

☐

Hindu

☐

Sikh

☐

Buddhist

☐

Other (please outline): \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnic background:**

Regarding ethnic background, most volunteers given the nature of the local population, will be from a White (British, Irish or Northern Irish) ethnicity. It is however more reasonable to ask:

**In what ethnicity were you brought up?**

☐

White (British, Irish or Northern Irish)

☐

White (Irish Traveller)

☐

White (Eastern European)

☐

White (Other)

☐

Asian (Indian)

☐

Asian (Chinese)

☐

Asian (Other)

☐

Black (African)

☐

Black (Caribbean)

☐

Latin American

☐

Mixed Race

☐

Other

## **SUCH AS AGE AND GENDER**

While not part of the section 75(2) definition of good relations, these are important elements of diversity within your volunteer make-up that you may want to address ensuring balance and equity of access to opportunities.

### **Age:**

If you find asking age-related questions relevant:

#### **What is your age range?**

☐

17 and Under

☐

18 – 25

☐

26 – 35

☐

36 – 45

☐

46 -55

☐

56 – 65

☐

Over 65

Or whatever age ranges that are most useful to your organisation.

**Gender:**

It is important to recognise gender other than male or female when asking a gender-related demographic question. It may include:

**What is your gender?**

☐

Male

☐

Female

☐

Non-binary

Other section 75 categories include sexual orientation (Straight/Heterosexual, Gay/Lesbian/Homosexual, Bi-sexual), dependents, and marital status.

It is important your organisation is open and welcoming of people from all backgrounds even where the categories are not core to section 75(2). While they may not be part of monitoring information it is recommended that your organisation regularly reviews how inclusive it is of people from all age, gender, disability or sexual orientation backgrounds.

You may then be able to learn from the answers given by people from those different backgrounds about how you might make your activities even more inclusive.