

Chapter 8 – *Welfare, Identity and the Life Course*

Recent developments:

As foretold in Chapter 8 (see Box 8.1 on p. 210) the UK's Commission for Equal Opportunities (EOC), the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) have now been merged to form the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR). This happened in October 2007. It is now the CEHR that exercises powers to promote sex equality, 'race' equality and equality for disabled people and to investigate complaints of sexual and racial discrimination and discrimination against disabled people. The new body additionally has powers in relation to the enforcement of equality legislation relating to age, religion or belief, sexual orientation and transgender status and is charged with encouraging compliance with the UK's Human Rights Act 1998. A range of information, downloadable reports, and publications relating to the CEHR and the 'legacy' commissions that had preceded it can be accessed at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com>.

It is part of the CEHR's mission to develop an evidence-based understanding of the causes and effects of inequality for people across Britain. To prepare the CEHR for this responsibility the UK government had in 2005 established an independent Equalities Review, whose important final report, entitled *Fairness and Freedom*, was published in 2007.

Some suggested additional readings:

For a collection of classic writings on gender, women and social science:

Oakley, A. (2005) *The Ann Oakley Reader*, Bristol: The Policy Press.

On the ever-increasingly controversial issue of 'race' and immigration:

Sales, R. (2007) *Understanding Immigration and Refugee Policy: Contradictions and continuities*, Bristol: The Policy Press.

For the latest debate in relation to disability issues:

Shakespeare, T. (2006) *Disability Rights and Wrongs*, London: Routledge.

For a more sociological/theoretical overview of ageing:

Hockley, T. and James, A. (2003) *Social Identities across the Life Course*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hartley Dean,
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