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## HSS (UK) Equal Opportunities Policy

## Background to the Policy

HSS (UK) recognises that many individuals and groups experience oppression, disadvantage, discrimination and harassment in one or more aspects of their lives. This denies them basic human rights and an equal chance to access information, services and opportunities.

This policy is designed to raise awareness of the issues that affect people's lives and to encourage our organisation to work in ways that challenge the effects of oppression, disadvantage, discrimination and harassment.

## Statement of Intent

HSS (UK) acknowledges that there are many issues which affect opportunities for people in the United Kingdom, especially in relation to ethnicity, age, gender, health, disability, sexuality, family circumstances and other discriminating factors. We also recognise the barriers that exist which prevent their participation in the services and opportunities we seek to provide.

We are committed to:

- Offering services and opportunities that are free from prejudice and discrimination and strive for equality of opportunity for all people.
- Opposing unjust discrimination and to take positive action to promote and extend opportunities for those individuals and groups who are affected by oppression, disadvantage, discrimination and harassment.
- Acknowledging and using our best endeavours to address the specific needs of all people who wish to or are likely to have a call on our services and facilities.
- Recognising the need to ensure equality of opportunity in what we offer to individuals and groups, in the management of our organisation and in employment practices.
- Examining and monitoring our services and working practices to ensure that policies are working in practice.