

POLICY DOCUMENT

• Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Policy

Name of Policy	Date Effective	Review Date	Signature
Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Policy	01 June 2021	01 June 2022	

1. Policy Statement

FW Solutions Ltd (“the Company”) is committed to achieving a working environment which provides equality of opportunity and freedom from unlawful discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, pregnancy and maternity, marital or civil partnership status, gender reassignment, disability, religion or beliefs, age or sexual orientation. This Policy aims to remove unfair and discriminatory practices within the Company and to encourage full contribution from its diverse community. The Company is committed to actively opposing all forms of discrimination.

The Company also aims to provide a service that does not discriminate against its clients and customers in the means by which they can access the services supplied by the Company. The Company believes that all employees and clients are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity.

Any and all personal data used in connection with this Policy shall be collected, held, and processed in accordance with the Company’s Data Protection Policy.

FW Solutions Ltd is dedicated to encouraging a supportive and inclusive culture amongst the whole workforce. It is within our best interest to promote diversity and eliminate discrimination in the workplace.

This policy reinforces our commitment to providing equality and fairness to all in our employment and not provide less favourable facilities or treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, religion or belief, or sex and sexual orientation.

2. Objectives of this Policy

- i. To prevent, reduce and stop all forms of unlawful discrimination in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- ii. To ensure that recruitment, promotion, training, development, assessment, benefits, pay, terms and conditions of employment, redundancy and dismissals are determined on the basis of capability, qualifications, experience, skills and productivity.

3. Designated Officer: Elizabeth Bevan, Business Administration - Human Resources, Tel:01423 536672

4. Definition of Discrimination

Discrimination is unequal or differential treatment which leads to one person being treated more or less favourably than others are, or would be, treated in the same or similar circumstances on the grounds of race, sex, pregnancy and maternity, marital or civil

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partnership status, gender reassignment, disability, religion or beliefs, age or sexual orientation. Discrimination may be direct or indirect and includes discrimination by perception and association.

5. Types of Discrimination

a. Direct Discrimination

This occurs when a person or a policy intentionally treats a person less favourably than another on the grounds of race, sex, pregnancy and maternity, marital or civil partnership status, gender reassignment, disability, religion or beliefs, age or sexual orientation.

b. Indirect Discrimination

This is the application of a policy, criterion or practice which the employer applies to all employees but which is such that:

- It is detrimental to a considerably larger proportion of people from the group that the person the employer is applying it to represents;
- The employer cannot justify the need for the application of the policy on a neutral basis; and
- The person to whom the employer is applying it suffers detriment from the application of the policy.

Example: A requirement that all employees must be 6ft tall if that requirement is not justified by the position would indirectly discriminate against employees with an oriental ethnic origin, as they are less likely to be able to fulfil this requirement.

c. Harassment

This occurs when a person is subjected to unwanted conduct that has the purpose or effect of violating their dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

d. Victimisation

This occurs when a person is treated less favourably because they have brought or intend to bring proceedings or they have given or intend to give evidence.

6. Unlawful Reasons for Discrimination

a. Sex

It is not permissible to treat a person less favourably on the grounds of sex, marital status, civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, gender reassignment or transgender status. This applies to men, women and those undergoing or intending to undergo gender reassignment. Sexual harassment of men and women can be found to constitute sex discrimination.

Example: Asking a woman during an interview if she is planning to have any (more) children constitutes discrimination on the ground of gender.

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b. Age

It is not permissible to treat a person less favourably because of their age. This applies to people of all ages. This does not currently apply to the calculation of redundancy payments.

c. Disability

It is not permissible to treat a disabled person less favourably than a non-disabled person. Reasonable adjustments must be made to give the disabled person as much access to any services and ability to be employed, trained, or promoted as a non-disabled person.

d. Race

It is not permissible to treat a person less favourably because of their race, the colour of their skin, their nationality or their ethnic origin.

e. Sexual Orientation

It is not permissible to treat a person less favourably because of their sexual orientation. For example, an employer cannot refuse to employ a person because s/he is homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual.

f. Religion or Belief

It is not permissible to treat a person less favourably because of their religious beliefs or their religion or their lack of any religion or belief.

7. Positive Action in Recruitment

Under the Equality Act 2010, positive action in recruitment and promotion applies as of 6 April 2011. 'Positive action' means the steps that the Company can take to encourage people from groups with different needs or with a past record of disadvantage or low participation, to apply for positions within the Company.

If the Company chooses to utilise positive action in recruitment, this will not be used to treat people with a protected characteristic more favourably, it will be used only in tie-break situations, when there are two candidates of equal merit applying for the same position.

8. Reasonable Adjustments

The Company has a duty to make reasonable adjustments to facilitate the employment of a disabled person. These may include:

- Making adjustments to premises;
- Re-allocating some or all of a disabled employee's duties;
- Transferring a disabled employee to a role better suited to their disability;
- Relocating a disabled employee to a more suitable office;
- Giving a disabled employee time off work for medical treatment or rehabilitation;
- Providing training or mentoring for a disabled employee;
- Supplying or modifying equipment, instruction and training manuals for disabled employees; or
- Any other adjustments that the Company considers reasonable and necessary provided such adjustments are within the financial means of the Company.

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If an employee has a disability and feels that any such adjustments could be made by the Company, they should contact the Designated Officer.

9. FW Solutions Ltd. Commitments:

All employees, no matter whether they are part-time, full time, or temporary will be treated fairly and with respect. When FW Solutions Ltd selects candidates for employment, promotion, training, or any other benefit, it will be on the basis of their aptitude and ability.

All employees of the Company will be given help and encouragement to develop their full potential and utilise their unique talents. Therefore, the skills and resources of our organisation will be fully utilised, and we will maximise the efficiency of our whole workforce.

- To create an environment in which individual differences and the contributions of all team members are recognised and valued.
- To create a working environment that promotes dignity and respect for every employee.
- To not tolerate any form of intimidation, bullying or harassment, and to discipline those that breach this policy.
- To make training, development, and progression opportunities available to all staff.
- To promote equality in the workplace, which FW Solutions Ltd believes is good management practice and makes good business sense.
- To encourage anyone who feels they have been subject to discrimination to raise their concerns so we can apply corrective measures.
- To encourage employees to treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- To regularly review all our employment practices and procedures so that fairness is maintained at all times.

FW Solutions will inform all employees that an equality and diversity policy is in operation and that they are obligated to comply with its requirements and promote fairness in the workplace. The policy will also be drawn to the attention of funding agencies, stakeholders, customers, learners, and job applicants.

10. Responsibility for the Implementation of this Policy

All employees and primary stakeholders of the Company are required to act in a way that does not subject any other employees or clients to direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or victimisation on the grounds of their race, sex, pregnancy or maternity, marital or civil partnership status, gender reassignment, disability, religion or beliefs, age or sexual orientation.

The co-operation of all employees is essential for the success of this Policy. Senior employees are expected to follow this Policy and to try to ensure that all employees, and primary stakeholders do the same.

Employees may be held independently and individually liable for their discriminatory acts by the Company and in some circumstances an Employment Tribunal may order them to pay compensation to the person who has suffered as a result of discriminatory acts. The Company takes responsibility for achieving the objectives of this Policy, and endeavours to ensure compliance with relevant Legislation and Codes of Practice.

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11. Acting on Discriminatory Behaviour

In the event that an employee is the subject or perpetrator of, or witness to, discriminatory behaviour, please refer to the FW Solutions Staff handbook and FW Solutions Grievance Policy.

12. Advice and Support on Discrimination

Employees may contact their employee or trade union representative if access to such an individual is possible.

Other contacts include: Equality and Human Rights Commission
Arndale House
The Arndale Centre
Manchester
M4 3AQ

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Citizens Advice Bureau
Westminster Buildings
31 New York Street,
LEEDS, West Yorkshire,
LS2 7DT

Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Equality Advisory Service
FREEPOST - EASS HELPLINE
FPN6521

<https://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/app/home>

13. The Extent of the Policy

- i. The Company seeks to apply this Policy in the recruitment, selection, training, appraisal, development and promotion of all employees. The Company offers training services in a fashion that complies with the spirit of this Policy.
- ii. This Policy does not form a part of any employment contract with any employee and its contents are not to be regarded by any person as implied, collateral or express terms to any contract made with the Company.
- iii. The Company reserves the right to amend and update this Policy at any time.

14. Policy Review

Overall responsibility for this Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Policy within FW Solutions Ltd and the implementation thereof lies with Sandra J Hardy, Managing Director.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Sandra Hardy, Managing Director, Rebecca Warden, Business Development Director, Elizabeth Bevan, HR and Janet Williams, Office Manager.

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This Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Policy is Version 4 and was adopted on 01/06/2021 following annual review.

This Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Policy is due to be reviewed on 01/06/2022.

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