



2.21 Anti-Discrimination Policy

Our Commitment on Discrimination

REDSW are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality and diversity in our own policies, practices and procedures and in influencing others to do the same in our dealings with Independent Contractors, clients, employees, and third parties.

We aim to treat everyone equally and with the same attention, courtesy and respect regardless of their age, disability, gender, marital status, race, racial group, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

We are committed to complying with all anti-discrimination legislation and associated codes of practice in force either now or in the future.

UK Discrimination link (your rights)

<https://www.gov.uk/discrimination-your-rights>

Equality act 2010 your guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010>

Unlawful Grounds for Discrimination

Discrimination on any of the following grounds is unlawful:

- age (in respect of employment matters only)
- race, racial group, colour, ethnic or national origins, disability, sexual orientation
- sex, gender, pregnancy, or marital status, political preference, religion, or belief

Forms of Discrimination

The following are the kinds of discrimination, which are against the REDSW policy:

(a) Direct discrimination, where one or more persons are treated less favourably to others.

(b) Indirect discrimination, where a provision, criterion or practice which seems to be lawful would create a significant disadvantage for a substantial number of one group of persons compared with other persons on the basis of an unlawful ground unless that provision, criterion, or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary;

(c) Victimisation, where someone is treated less favourably than others because he or she has taken action in respect of discrimination on unlawful grounds.

(d) Harassment, when unwanted conduct related to any unlawful ground takes place with the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for any person. This is not limited to physical acts and may include verbal and non-verbal communications and gestures.

Employment and Training

At REDSW, we will treat all Independent Contractors, staff and job applicants equally and fairly and not discriminate unlawfully against them. We will ensure, that arrangements for recruitment and selection, terms and conditions of , access to training opportunities, access to and transfers, grievance and disciplinary processes, demotions, selection for redundancies, dress code, references, bonus schemes, work allocation and any other SLA related activities do not constitute unlawful discrimination against any person or group of persons.

Recruitment

We recognize the value of a diverse workforce and will take steps to ensure that:

we recruit from the widest pool of qualified candidates possible.

All opportunities are open and accessible to all on the basis of their individual qualities and personal merit.

Conditions of service

We will treat all independent contractors and staff equally and endeavour to create and maintain a working environment which is free from discrimination and harassment and which respects, wherever possible, the differing backgrounds and beliefs of Independent contractors and staff. Terms and conditions of service for independent contractors and staff will comply with antidiscrimination legislation. The provision of any independent contractors and staff benefit such as working hours, leave/time off, and maternity leave arrangements, performance appraisal schemes, bonus schemes, dress codes, or any other conditions will not discriminate against any independent contractor or staff on any unlawful grounds. Where it is possible and reasonable to do so, the Firm will endeavour to provide appropriate facilities and conditions of service which take into account the specific needs of independent contractors and staff which arise from their ethnic or cultural background; gender; responsibilities as career's; disability; religion or belief; or sexual orientation.

Independent Contractors, Suppliers, Agents, and Third Parties

Any decisions regarding the suitability of suppliers and contractors, agents or other third parties to provide goods or services to us or to our clients will be made in accordance with this policy and not on any of the unlawful grounds. All suppliers, Independent contractors, agents, or other third parties instructed by REDSW, whether for itself or on behalf of clients, will be made aware of this policy and the need to adhere to it. Failure of any supplier, contractor, agent or other third party or of any of its staff to adhere to the principles set out in this policy or to carry out any discrimination on unlawful grounds will be investigated and appropriate action taken which may include immediate termination for employed staff and removal from contract/SLA for contractors/self-employed person.

Clients

We are free to decide whether to accept instructions from any client, but any refusal to act or decision to terminate/remove from contract for services will not be based upon any unlawful grounds. We will not accept instructions from clients who contravene this policy. Where we are required by anti-discrimination legislation to do so and where it is reasonable, we will make adjustments to our own working practices to accommodate the needs of any person falling under the appropriate anti-discrimination legislation. We will advise all clients of this policy on taking instructions from them.

Promoting Equality and Diversity

Just as we are committed to anti-discriminatory practices within our organisation we are also committed to promoting equality and anti-discrimination in areas in which we have influence. All Independent Contractors and staff will be informed of this policy and will be provided with training appropriate to their needs and responsibilities. All those who act on our behalf will be informed of this policy and will be expected to act in accordance with it when conducting business on our behalf.

Implementing the Policy

Responsibility

Ultimate responsibility for implementing the policy rests with **the directors**. All our independent contractors, and employed staff are expected to be aware and take notice of the provisions of our anti-discrimination policy and are responsible for ensuring compliance with it when fulfilling their duties or representing REDSW.

Acts of discrimination or harassment on any of the unlawful grounds by those acting on behalf of the REDSW will lead to appropriate action including termination of employment (employed) or removal of services (self-employed) where appropriate.

Complaints of discrimination

We will treat seriously, and, where appropriate, will take action regarding all complaints of discrimination or harassment on any of the unlawful grounds made by staff, clients, independent contractors or other third parties. All complaints will be investigated in accordance with our grievance or complaints procedure and the complainant will be informed of the outcome.

- This can be found in the Drivers handbook page 8 **Complaints and grievances**

Protection and support for those involved

Drivers who make complaints or who participate in good faith in any investigation conducted under this policy must not suffer any form of retaliation or victimisation as a result.

If you believe you have suffered any such treatment you should inform your manager. If the matter is not remedied, you should raise it formally. Any employee found to have retaliated against or victimised someone for making a complaint or assisting in good faith with an investigation under this procedure will be subject to disciplinary action under our Disciplinary Procedure. Any independent contractor found to have retaliated against or victimised someone for making a complaint or assisting in good faith with an investigation under this procedure may be subject to removal of contract/SLA.