

Please return this form to:  
**Anne Gaspard, Executive Director  
 EQUINET Secretariat**

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**Deadline for nominations: 8 September 2015**

<b>Member Organisation / Equality Body:</b>	<b>Equality Commission for Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Country:</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>Name of Candidate: (Firstname SURNAME)</b>	<b>Evelyn COLLINS</b>
<b>Position in the Member organisation:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>Contact Email: Telephone:</b>	<b>+44 28 90 500622</b>
<b>Year of joining Member Organisation in your country:</b>	<b>1999 (since 1982 with predecessor body)</b>

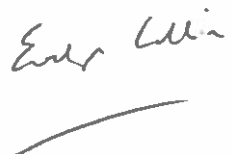
Please note that a candidacy form will only be valid with page 2 (overleaf) fully completed and accompanied by a CV/profile in English. Please hand-sign and date the form below.

The Secretariat will also need to receive a picture of the candidate (see page 4 of Elections guide).

Your CV/profile may contain only information that you deem relevant to the position of Board Member (e.g. professional experience) and is NOT required to include personal data (e.g. date of birth, personal address)

Date: 8 September 2015

Signature:



**Please note that your candidacy information will be made available to Members prior to AGM and access to this information will be restricted to Equinet Members only.**

**My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board: (please explain why you would like to sit on the Equinet Executive Board)**

I would love the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Equinet as it has such an important role to play - both in supporting the work of equality bodies to fulfil their potential and in highlighting at European level the contribution equality bodies can make to ensuring Europe is a more equal place. I am personally very committed to the work of the network. As Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, I have supported and contributed to the work of Equinet and encouraged and ensured participation by our staff in the network's working groups, training events and conferences.

It has been a great honour to have been a member of the Board since 2011 and, in particular, to have served as its Chair since December 2013. I have appreciated the opportunity to assist and enable a great Board in shaping the implementation of Equinet's work and to support a powerful staff team in securing great progress over the last two years. Leading the development and production of our Strategic Plan 2015-2018 with the Board members was very exciting – it provided opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the work of equality bodies, to work across the network's membership and to reflect the priorities, the opportunities and the challenges we face collectively, both at national and at European level in our plans for the current period. The approval of the Strategic Plan at last year's AGM was a positive endorsement of the valuable engagement which took place across the membership. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to represent Equinet at many levels – it is such a pleasure to present the expertise and experience of equality bodies in promoting equality and combating discrimination and to see the influence it has on the European equality agenda.

It would be a great privilege to continue to contribute to the work of the network as a Board member for the next two years. Equality needs to come ever more centre stage at European level and Equinet must continue to make its contribution in this regard. There is still work to be done to raise awareness of the valuable role and potential of equality bodies and on the need for European standards for the effectiveness and independence of equality bodies. Working to build the sustainability of the network and on enhancing Equinet's role and reputation, both at European and international level, will continue to be crucial and I believe I can make a positive contribution to this important agenda.

**Additional note or other relevant information relating to your application (if any):**

I have worked on equality issues since the 1980s, at national level, European level and internationally and I have been engaged with Equinet's work since its inception. I have developed a deep knowledge and understanding of the role, work and potential of equality bodies. My experience ranges over research, promotion, advisor, policy and legal work. It has included working for Northern Ireland's gender equality body from 1982 to 1999 and for the European Commission as National Expert as well as the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. I have been its Chief Executive since it was established in 1999. I am a member of the European Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, serving as its president in 2005. I have also been Project Leader on an EU Twinning Project (2010 to 2010) working to strengthen the capacity of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Israel. In July 2014, I was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LLD) by the University of Ulster for my contribution to the promotion of equality and good relations.

*The text boxes are expandable*