
STATES OF JERSEY



COMMUNITY RELATIONS TRUST: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

**Presented to the States on 1st October 2015
by the Minister for Home Affairs**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

The Constitution of the Jersey Community Relations Trust, sets out the aim of the Trust as follows –

“To seek to eliminate discrimination on any ground including, but not limited to, grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins, gender or sexual orientation, disability or age, by promoting good relations between all members of society, and seeking to achieve equality of treatment and opportunity within our community”.

The Objectives are further specified in paragraph 3 of the Trust Constitution, as follows –

- (a) To encourage mutual respect among all people in the Island.
- (b) To promote equality of treatment and opportunity.
- (c) To encourage and facilitate partnerships which enhance social harmony.
- (d) To identify areas where discrimination arises, while promoting and encouraging existing and future initiatives to tackle it.
- (e) To promote education in the community about the aim of the Trust.
- (f) To promote recognition and acceptance of cultural diversity.
- (g) To promote training in furtherance of the aim of the Trust and the development thereof.
- (h) To provide information and advice and facilitate initiatives concerning discrimination.
- (i) To sponsor and support research in furtherance of the aim of the Trust.
- (j) To take measures to counter discriminatory behaviour, attitudes, and policies.
- (k) To monitor these objectives.

Appointment of Chairman

Paragraph 5.1 of the Trust Constitution requires the Minister for Home Affairs to give at least 15 days' notice to the States of her intention to appoint a Chairman, who is not a member of the States, to the Community Relations Trust. This is in line with the States' decision to change the procedure for most States-made appointments (P.205/2009).

The tenure of Dr. Elena Moran, who has been the Chairman of the Trust since 22nd October 2008, ended on 18th August 2015. I would like to record my thanks to Dr. Moran for all that she has contributed to the Trust over the years.

None of the eligible members of the Trust wanted to put themselves forward for consideration for appointment as the Chairman, so the Trust approached a local recruitment company and asked them to identify suitable candidates.

Eight potential candidates were identified, but only 2 had the time to commit to being the Chairman of the Trust. Advocate Helen Ruelle was the only person to complete and submit an application. Because of the quality of her Curriculum Vitae and her commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, she was interviewed by the Executive Director of the Trust and offered the position. The appointment is supported by the members of the Trust.

The Minister is happy that Advocate Ruelle is committed to the objectives of the Trust, and wishes to appoint her for a 4 year period in line with the Trust's Constitution.

Advocate Ruelle is a locally qualified Advocate.

Employment

2012 – present

Partner at Mourant Ozannes, heading up the Jersey employment, competition and data protection team. She advises on a wide range of Jersey law issues, focussing particularly on advice to local businesses on Control of Housing and Work Law issues, general commercial work and corporate affairs, mergers and acquisitions, and general commercial litigation.

2007 – 2008

Senior Associate at Mourant Ozannes

2001 – 2007

Associate of Mourant Ozannes

Professional appointments

In 2009, Advocate Ruelle was appointed as a member of the Employment Forum, which is a statutory body set up to consult and make recommendations to the Minister for Social Security on all aspects of employment law. She was appointed as Chairman of the Forum by the Minister in 2011, having acted as Deputy Chairman since 2010.

Advocate Ruelle is a member of the Employment Lawyers' Association and the Institute of Directors.

Interests

Advocate Ruelle currently coaches the under-7s at the Jersey Rugby Club Academy.