Roundtable Discussion

“The State, Religious Diversity and Healthcare”

(London, 17 September 2008)

Roundtable Programme

09:30 – 09:45 Registration and Coffee

09:45 – 10:00 Welcome by The Equal Rights Trust

Speakers: Ivan Fišer, Jarlath Clifford

General rapporteur: Katherine Perks

10:00 – 11:30 Opening Session: Religious Diversity and General Healthcare

Chair: Jarlath Clifford

Speakers: Joyce Dubensky, Imam Yunus Dudhwala

This session will explore the various issues and challenges that exist in respect to the access and provision of healthcare for religious and belief groups. It will consider whether the State imposes barriers to certain religious groups in accessing healthcare and likewise whether religion and belief imposes barriers to access to general healthcare.

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee

12:00 – 13:30 Session Two: Religious Diversity and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Chair: Ivan Fišer

Speakers: Professor Birgitta Essén, Nina Mühe

This session will explore the role of religion and belief in sexual and reproductive healthcare. The session will focus on issues such as prenatal care, delivery and post-natal
care, contraception, abortion, infertility treatment, access to information, female circumcision, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease.

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Session Three: Religious Diversity and Mental Health

Chair: Ivan Fišer

Speaker: David Zahumensky

This session will explore the issues and challenges that exist in respect of mental health and mental healthcare. It will address a number of questions including: Do persons of certain religious beliefs have a higher propensity to receive mental health treatment? How do issues of spirituality and religious observance affect mental health? Are persons of certain religions or belief more likely to face psychiatric hospitalisation?

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee

16:15 – 17:15 Session Four: The State, Religious Diversity, Healthcare and Discrimination

Chair: Jarlath Clifford

Speaker: Professor Aart Hendriks

This session will examine the role of the state in influencing healthcare provision. It will examine the major healthcare issues which have become politicised such as euthanasia and abortion and will explore the role of religion and belief in these issues. This session will also examine the role of instruments of the state (such as the legal system and public policy) in promoting or prohibiting discrimination in healthcare provision on grounds of religion or belief.

17:15 – 17:30 Close