

Race Relations (Election Candidates) Bill

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B I L L

TO

Exclude from the operation of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 certain matters relating to the selection of candidates by political parties.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Exclusion of candidate selection from 1976 Act

At the beginning of Part 6 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74) insert—

“34A Selection of candidates

- (1) Nothing in Parts 2 to 4 shall—
 - (a) be construed as affecting arrangements to which this section applies, or 5
 - (b) render unlawful anything done in accordance with such arrangements.
- (2) This section applies to arrangements made by a registered political party which—
 - (a) regulate the selection of the party's candidates in a relevant election, and 10
 - (b) are adopted for the purpose of reducing inequality in the numbers of people from different ethnic groups elected, as candidates of the party, to be members of the body concerned. 15
- (3) The following elections are relevant elections for the purposes of this section—
 - (a) parliamentary elections;
 - (b) elections to the European Parliament;
 - (c) elections to the Scottish Parliament; 20
 - (d) elections to the National Assembly for Wales;

- (e) local government elections within the meaning of section 191, 203 or 204 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2) (excluding any election of the Mayor of London).
- (4) In this section “registered political party” means a party registered in the Great Britain register under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Election and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41).” 5
- 2 Exclusion of candidate selection from 1976 Order**
- At the beginning of Part 6 of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997/869 (N.I. 6)) insert—
- “34A Selection of candidates** 10
- (1) Nothing in Parts 2 to 4 shall—
- (a) be construed as affecting arrangements to which this section applies, or
- (b) render unlawful anything done in accordance with such arrangements. 15
- (2) This section applies to arrangements made by a registered political party which—
- (a) regulate the selection of the party’s candidates in a relevant election, and
- (b) are adopted for the purpose of reducing inequality in the numbers of people from different ethnic groups elected, as candidates of the party, to be members of the body concerned. 20
- (3) The following elections are relevant elections for the purposes of this Article—
- (a) parliamentary elections; 25
- (b) elections to the European Parliament;
- (c) elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly;
- (d) elections to a district council.
- (4) In this Article “registered political party” means a party registered in the Great Britain register under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Election and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41).” 30
- 3 Expiry**
- (1) This Act shall cease to have effect at the end of 2023 unless an order is made under this section.
- (2) At any time before this Act ceases to have effect the Secretary of State may by order provide that subsection (1) shall have effect with the substitution of a later time for the time specified there (whether originally or by virtue of a previous order). 35
- 4 Short title and extent**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the Race Relations (Election Candidates) Act 2008. 40
- (2) Section 1 does not extend to Northern Ireland, and section 2 extends only to Northern Ireland.

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To exclude from the operation of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 certain matters relating to the selection of candidates by political parties.

*Ordered to be brought in by Keith Vaz,
Ms Diane Abbott, Mr Marsha Singh,
Ms Dawn Butler, Jeremy Corbyn,
Harry Cohen and Mr Virendra Sharma.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 6th February 2008.*

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