

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY DEPUTY L.M.C. DOUBLET OF ST. SAVIOUR  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st MAY 2019**

**Question**

Will the Minister advise whether it is proposed that 'religion or belief' will be added as a protected characteristic under the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013; if so, will she set out a timeline for the work to implement this measure and give details of any consideration of this area or work carried out so far; and if not, will she explain why not?

**Answer**

The original States decision in 2011 to introduce a discrimination law (P.118/2011 as amended) required the law to give protection in relation to four characteristics - race, sex, age and disability.

The last stage in this programme of work was recently completed. Protection against disability discrimination was implemented in September 2018, the second stage of which (adjustments to physical features of premises) will come into force in September 2020.

We do not currently have a programme to implement 'religion or belief' as a protected characteristic. That extension of the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013 has not been made a priority under the States Common Strategic Policy 2018-2022. If the legislation were to be prioritised by the Council of Ministers, the Minister would provide a timeline for that piece of work.