

Radio series to discuss discrimination issue

A NORTHSIDE community radio station has launched a nine-part series, which looks at discrimination and the issues of representation in the movies.

'Equal Billing', a series of nine half-hour round table discussion programmes, will be broadcast on Nearfm (90.3fm), every Wednesday at 4pm.

Each of the nine programmes features one of the nine grounds for discrimination as defined by the Equal Status Act.

Each programme has been produced in collaboration with a community group active in combating discrimination with each of the presenters and their guests having a particular knowledge in the area. The series uses well-known movies as its starting point to draw in listeners and help them to engage with the discussion.

The movies are just a platform for discussion and this is not a movie review programme. Each of the panels discusses discrimination in the movies, but more importantly, how

discrimination touches them every day.

The aim of the series is to promote media literacy of discrimination and knowledge of the Equal Status Act in a way that is upbeat and in terms easy to grasp by the broadest possible audience.

The nine grounds as per the Equality Authority of Ireland are: age, disability, family status, gender, marital status, membership of the Traveller community, race, religion and sexual orientation.

The production received great support from the Northside Citizens' Information Centre and the Northside Community Law Centre.

Other groups who were represented in the programmes included: Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), Spina Bifida Ireland, Older Women's Network, LGBT Community, St Margaret's Traveller Training Centre,

North Dublin, Finglas South Partnership, Female Genital Mutilation Ireland, the Polish Community, Islamic Muslim Centre, Doras Bui, Nearfm and Near TV Productions.

Dublin North Central TD Áodhán Ó Riordáin (Lab) said it was an "absolute pleasure" to be able to launch the Equal Billing series.

"Using innovative ways to engage with the audience, this new series will attract listeners to confront major topics such as homophobia, disability and ageism by using popular films as the basis for discussion," said Deputy O'Riordáin.

"I know the terrible effects discrimination can have in a society and I believe challenging it through debates such as Equal Billing should be greatly welcomed."

The programmes can also be heard online at www.near.ie and will be made available as a podcast on www.nearpodcast.org

They are supported by the Sound and Vision Scheme, a Broadcasting Authority of Ireland initiative.

