**Sample Letter: School, Harassment, Bullying**

This letter is written with optional text to cover situations where a child is being bullied on account of being vegan themselves, or on account of others in their family being vegan. The text in grey should be edited accordingly.

Dear [Head teacher]

I am writing to advise you that my child [has been / is being] bullied on account of [their / my] protected beliefs and to ask that you take appropriate steps to address this and ensure it does not happen again.

Veganism is a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation and killing of animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. [They/I/we] live [their/my/our life/lives] according to this moral philosophy.

Our right to live according to our fundamental conviction that it is wrong to use and kill non-human animals is protected under human rights law and equality law. This means that education providers have a responsibility to avoid and prevent any discrimination or harassment on account of veganism. For more information about the legal rights of vegans please see: <https://goveganworld.com/vegan-rights/> All schools should include the vegan protected philosophical conviction in their equality, inclusivity and bullying policies, procedures and training. Please could you can confirm that veganism is covered by these policies in the school.

[describe what happened / how they were bullied]

[refer to the school’s anti-bullying policy and request that action be taken]

Moreover, as a public entity [name of entity] is bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires them to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equal opportunity and foster good relations, including by taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups.

I believe it would assist if [give suggestions for steps that ought to be taken if you can, for example it may be helpful if the staff and pupils are educated in what veganism is, in particular that it is not a diet or lifestyle but a moral conviction that it is wrong to use and kill other animals, as well as in the protections vegans have. You may want to suggest ways in which the staff and pupils could be educated in veganism. Perhaps the school could invite someone in to give a talk on veganism, to explain what it means and why people go vegan. You may also want to suggest that the school incorporate this into the curriculum to ensure it is taught to pupils year on year from now on].

As you can imagine, I am very troubled by what [name of child] has been through and I would like to ensure that this is remedied as a matter of urgency.

I would be very happy to discuss this and provide any more information that you may require.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[your name]