

Susan Magarey: 'To Demand Equality Is To Lack Ambition'. Sex discrimination legislation: contexts and contradictions.

From an acknowledgement of all that was achieved in the passage of the Sex Discrimination Act of 1984, this paper moves on to consider the inherent contradiction in expecting government, which has legitimised discrimination against women, to redress such wrongs, and to consider a range of critiques advanced from the wider socio-political contexts of the early 1980s. Its second half, headed 'plus ça change ...', focuses on the twenty-fifth anniversary of this legislation in its context of global recession and socio-political anxiety.