



Empowering BME Communities in the South East

**Farewell
to Uni Network staff**

Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) welcomes landmark equality legislation

On 8 April 2010 the EHRC welcomed the passing of the Equality Bill. It contains a series of measures for tackling inequalities which the Commission considers will help Britain to become a fairer society.

Some of the specific measures in the bill, which the Commission has supported, include:

- Making the law easier to understand and implement by simplifying 116 pieces of equality legislation into a single Act for individuals, public authorities and private organisations.
- Giving people the right not to be treated less favourably by public authorities because of their age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or transgender status; as well as their disability, gender, or race which were already covered.*

- Extending anti-age discrimination rules to include goods, facilities and services, thereby stopping people being unfairly refused insurance or medical treatments based on what age they are, for example.

* The protected characteristics in the Public Sector Equality Duty are listed in the Equality Bill as: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Uni Network membership and conference

Would you like to join Uni Network?

Membership to the network is open to all voluntary and community organisations (VCO's) of any size that operate within South East England, that can demonstrate to the Uni Network Board (through its Membership Committee) that they support the aims and objectives of Uni Network, are properly constituted, run activities and meet the criteria.

Membership is free up until the end of March 2012, when the membership policy will be reviewed. By joining Uni Network, members benefit by supporting a movement which aims to be a voice for the sector, a platform for sharing ideas, developing/ influencing policies and decision making for the

greater good. The Uni Network aims also, within the limits of resources available, to act as a support to as many of our members possible. Membership would entitle organisations to vote at general meetings and to stand for, or nominate people for election to the Board of Trustees or committee members.

If you are interested in becoming a member please visit our website to see criteria details and download an application form, or contact Monica on 0118 951 0279.

Our conference and inaugural meeting, 'Making a reality of

'Making a reality of BME engagement in decision making'

Conference and Uni inaugural meeting

17 May 2010
10.00 am—4.00 pm
Reading Town Hall

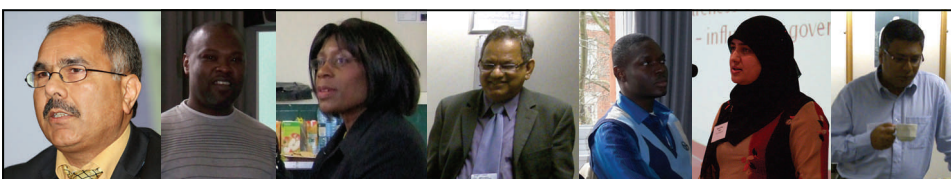
BME community engagement in decision making', on 17 May 2010 at Reading Town Hall, where we will be welcoming new members .

Finally, we say farewell to the remaining staff members, that have worked on the StepUp Project, who will be leaving us in April 2010.

Dev Sharma, Chairperson of Uni Network would like to extend his thanks to the team for their continued hard work on behalf of the 19 Uni members!

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Uni Network staff (from left to right) - Project Director—Rajinder Sohpal
Network Co-ordinators—Ali Abdoul, Annie Noble, Shafi Khan,
Tayo Owodunni, Mehrunissa Khan, George Mathew

Uni Network Conference & Inaugural Meeting, 17 May, 10.00—4.00 pm, Reading Town Hall. For further information contact Monica on 0118 951 0279 or email Monica@rcrc.co.uk
Turkish Group for parents/ carers and their children



Meets fortnightly Fridays 3.30 – 4.30pm (term time only) North End Library, Portsmouth, Further information: contact Linda Collins, Cultural Diversity Librarian. Tel: 023 9268 8259 Email: Libraries@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Cancer Information Day, Thursday 13 May 10.30am - 3.30pm in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support for BME Communities - Further information: contact Linda Collins, Cultural Diversity Librarian, Tel: 023 9268 8259 Email: Libraries@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Ethnicity and Use of the Mental Health Act conference, Monday 24 May, 9.00am – 4.30pm at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ
 This conference is relevant to anyone in the field of mental health and social care. Limited free places are available to service users and carers. Further information contact Ahmed Qureshi on 07540 356 526 or on bookings.bme@googlemail.com or

visit www.bme-mentalhealth.org.uk
The Surrey Voluntary & Community 2010 Conference & Funding Fair
 Wednesday 30 June from 9.00am – 3.30pm at Royal Holloway College, Egham. This conference is for anyone involved with fundraising or operational/financial management strategies from voluntary sector organisations. For further information, contact 01483 459292 ext 216 or e-mail:

anneb@surreyca.org.uk or visit www.surreyca.org.uk
SCP conference, Wednesday 26 May, 10.00am – 4.30pm, at Valley Social Centre. The annual conference is a chance for CVSF members to network, share their views and take part in discussions and workshops on themes of importance to the community and voluntary sector. For more information contact Farenden, on 01273 810237 or email clair@

cvsectorforum.org.uk
Annual KentCAN / Kent Partnership Conference
 KentCAN, supported by the Kent Partnership will host the annual Voluntary and Community Sector Conference on **19 May**, at Oakwood House Maidstone. If you deliver a service in Kent then there's something for you. Places are limited so please complete the online registration form, by emailing communications@kentcan.org.
Kent & Medway Funding Fairs

Free event, 2 June at the Marlowe Academy, Ramsgate. The fair will provide an opportunity to meet funders and seek advice on funding and partnership working. Register your attendance with communications@kentcan.org
Caribbean Island Association May Fayre, 3 May, St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, Caribbean Food Stall. Further details: Tel: 07534 431088

Portsmouth Funding/East Hampshire Project

A number of community grants are currently available until **30 April 2010**. We are especially interested to hear about projects that support vulnerable individuals, address grievances and increase the capacity of communities to resist violent extremism.
 For more information or to receive an application form and funding guidance, please contact Charlie Pericleous at Portsmouth City Council on 02392 688357 or email charlie.pericleous@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

East Hampshire Community Partnership has been successful in securing £10,000 from Hampshire County Council's Community Partnership Capacity Building Fund to fund a project to investigate the needs of the growing BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) community in East Hampshire. If you would like further information, or to join the Steering Group - contact Tony McCarthy, tel: 01730 234187 or E-mail: tony.mccarthy@easthants.gov.uk

BAME Voices heard by Surrey County Council



A workshop was held on 22 February at Parkview Community Centre in Sheerwater, Woking for Surrey Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) community groups to consult with Surrey County Council on their Single Equality Scheme.

Rekha Savania, and Suzanne Akram of Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum, presented key definitions of Prejudice and Discrimination, and government legislation on Race Equality. Contact Suzanne Akram, on 01483 459292 ext 236 or email:

suzannea@surreyca.org

Stronger Voice for diverse communities

The SpeakUp Countywide Forum and South East Regional Empower-



ment Partnership invited Black and Minority Ethnic groups and service providers to a Community Safety Workshop in Hastings on 24 February, coordinated by Diversity Resources International (DRI) a social enterprise



working in East Sussex to assist under privileged members of society. For further details please contact: Tony Kalume (DRI)

tony.kalume@btinternet.com

Miriam Miklaszewska, SpeakUp Forum, email speakup@3va.org.uk, tel. 01273 483 832.

WEA Listening to Women

A South east regional event for women was held on 26 March in Southampton, with key address by Rt. Hon. John Denham MP. The event was

a part of the WEA Tackling Race Inequalities Fund (TRIF) funded by the DCLG. Panel included Dr. Parvin Damani MBE, and Uni member Rajinder Sohpal, Director of Reading Council for Racial Equality.



John Denham MP on 26 March 2010

Women's Health and Well-being Day

Southampton Women's Forum held an event on 27 February at St. Mary's gym, attended by over 170 women and children.



Aiming High for Disabled Children

Aiming High for Disabled Children is a new plan from the Government to help disabled children and their families get the support and chances they need to live ordinary lives and to give them more of a say in local services. The aim of the event held on 17 March at Shenai in Reading, was to give black and minority ethnic communities in Reading a better understanding of the Aiming High initiatives being devel-

oped in Reading. The event was hosted by Alafia, which supports black and minority ethnic families caring for disabled children in Reading. The successful event attracted 65 parent carers. Further details contact Nina Sethi: nina@rcrc.co.uk



Police Recruitment

PC Andy Lai, the Positive Action officer of Hampshire Constabulary is working with the Constabulary to recruit police officers and police community support officers. PC Lai's job is to encourage, coach, and advise applicants from the black and ethnic minority groups to join the police services. People from these groups can contact PC Lai at email: andy.lai@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Promoting Women into Prominent Roles

There is an under-representation of women, especially ethnic minorities, in prominent roles in the community. In Reading, the RCRE are interested in bringing together interested women with key agencies to improve representation. To start, a series of PVE Women's Network Meetings were held in 2009. From these events, it was found that women are unaware of the bodies that they can get involved with and what PVE work actually involves. Also, due to language barriers the women do not feel confident that representatives of these bodies will understand them, and take into consideration their opinions. Placements have now been arranged for 2010, the first is being held at ITV in April. Examples of future placements and types of roles that you might want to think about are:

- *Political*, for example becoming a councillor
- *Helping shape policy*, for example, for safer communities, health, leisure

- etc.
- *Careers* in the local authority, Crown Prosecution Service, Health service and others
 - *Advisory and consultation groups*, for example, with Thames Valley Police
 - *Becoming a school governor*, Board member with the Probation Service, NHS services, Police Authority, Fire & Rescue service etc.
 - *Joining community organisations*, such as Reading voluntary Action, RCRE, Sakoma, CAB and many more
 - *Working with the private sector*, Chamber of Commerce etc
 - *Working with the media*, local newspapers, radio or Television

For further information and to find out when the next women's networking meeting is please contact Sairah on email: sairah@rcrc.co.uk or tel: 0118 951 0279.



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Uni is looking forward to broadening its membership base over the next few months. If you are interested in becoming a member please visit our website www.theuninetwork.org.uk to read criteria details and download an application form, or contact Monica on 0118 951 0279.

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PRENO Training receives Rave Reviews



The new PRENO Cultural Awareness Training programme is now recognised as an essential tool for those dealing with the public. This training is tailored to meet lo-

cal demands for training on issues of Culture and Faith. A recent participant commented that "The willingness for people to tell their personal histories, even when quite difficult. It made the day come alive. Thank you for an inspirational day."

