



## MONTHLY EQUALITIES BULLETIN



EQUALITIES UPDATE: April 09, Issue 4/2009

A monthly email bulletin of recent equalities news and publications, produced in partnership by the Highland Council and the Highlands & Islands Equality Forum.

The following information has been sent to you automatically as a member of the Highlands & Islands Equality Forum, or because you have previously received the bulletin from the Highland Council. The Forum is an ESF funded project focusing on equality issues and training. Follow the links below to access equality related articles and publications. If you do not have internet access and would like information, if you have problems with the links, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact [Morag Redwood](mailto:Morag.Redwood@highland.gov.uk) Tel 01463 251738.

The bulletin is prepared by the Highland Council's Equal Opportunities Officer, tel 01463 702094, email [rosemary.mackinnon@highland.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.mackinnon@highland.gov.uk). While we try to ensure that the information transmitted from this bulletin is accurate and appropriate, we accept no responsibility for the content or information provided in the hypertext links.

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### [AGE](#)

07 April 09 '[LinkAge Plus: Capacity building – enabling and empowering older people as independent and active citizens](#)' DWP report on LinkAge Plus (LAP) provides a comprehensive approach for accessible joined-up services for older

people; one which puts older people at the centre of policy making and service delivery.

07 April 09 [One Voice Report](#)

Age Concern and Help the Aged, the UK's two leading charities for older people, have come together to speak with one voice. This report sets out our agenda for action.

08 April 09 [Chief heads age inequality inquiry](#)

Bristol City Council chief executive Jan Ormondroyd is to spearhead an inquiry into combating age discrimination in council services and the NHS.

09 April 09 [Young to give 'technology tips'](#)

Young people are to give demonstrations on how to download music from the internet and use iPods at the Highland Senior Citizen's Network Conference

14 April 09 [What can I do at my age?](#)

What young people can legally do at their age from 0 – 21.

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## **[DISABILITY](#)**

10 Mar 09 [ODI launches communications toolkit with Local Government](#)

[Association](#) The Office for Disability Issues has published a communications toolkit to help local authorities communicate more effectively with disabled people. The toolkit has been developed in partnership with four local authorities, who have tested out new ways of involving disabled people in their work.

01 April 09 [Help for disabled homeowners](#)

A nationwide scheme which helps disabled people carry out essential home adaptations has been enhanced. Changes arising from the implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 will trigger a simpler and fairer system of financial help. There is also a guide for disabled people in private housing in Scotland - [Help with adaptations to your home](#)

02 April 09 [Drive to improve services on world autism day](#)

The Care Services Minister calls upon the NHS to help drive improvements in services for people with autism, starting with using the best practice guidance. ['Services for adults with autistic spectrum conditions \(ASC\): good practice advice for primary care trust and local authority commissioners'](#) was published to coincide with World Autism Day.

03 April 09 [Evaluation of Pilot Advice Service on Disability Issues RSLs](#)

Research and [findings](#) to evaluate how effective the Ownership Options' pilot specialist advice service on disability issues for Registered Social Landlords taking part in shared equity provision had been at meeting its aim and objectives.

06 April 09 [More with learning disabilities forced to wed](#)

An increasing number of young people in the UK with learning disabilities are being forced into marriage by their own families.

16 April 09 [Support for children with autism](#)

The [Autism Toolbox](#) will draw upon a range of practice experience, literature and research to offer guidance for authorities and schools providing for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

27 April 09 [Framework for Inclusion](#)

Teacher training initiative to help pupils with additional support needs.

20 April 09 [More help for under-18s mental health](#)

The Scottish Government has announced £2 million to improve services for young people with severe mental health problems.

[Deaf Awareness Week 2009](#)

Awareness Week is from 4 to 10 May this year. The week involves over 100 deaf charities and organisations and is an opportunity to promote deaf awareness across all sections of society.

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## **[GENDER](#)**

Feb 09 [Closing the gender skills gap: a National Skills Forum report on women, skills and productivity](#) Proposes ways to close the gender skills gap in the UK. Puts forward 27 recommendations aimed at tackling the barriers facing many women who want to train, get back to work and improve their skills.

30 Mar 09 [Commission calls for radical approach to parental leave](#)

The EHRC launches proposals for a fundamental change in parental leave, to give mothers and fathers greater support in bringing up children.

30 Mar 09 [Transgender Experiences: Information and support](#)

This leaflet has been produced to help trans people and their families understand about the experiences of trans people, their rights and their choices. It also helps healthcare staff to understand their role when caring for trans people.

31 Mar 09 [Downing Street round table on women and the recession](#)

A group of more than 50 women from business, the third sector, trade unions, the public sector and women's organisations met in March for a round table discussion about women and the recession.

31 Mar 09 [Negotiating Gender, Race and Class - the Way Forward](#)

A TUC report that captures issues for black women trade union activists discussed at a seminar in 2008, and the recommendations made, by participants.

31 Mar 09 [Gender Equality Scheme Annual Report 2009](#)

Annual report on the Scottish Government's Gender Equality Scheme 2008-2011.

03 April 09 [Commission welcomes landmark equal pay ruling](#)

The EHRC welcomed a landmark ruling by the Court of Appeal in the equal pay case of Joyce Slack and others v. Cumbria County Council but warns action is needed to stem flood of claims in the public sector.

08 April 09 [Cumbria makes offer on equal pay](#)

Cumbria County Council has offered a sum approaching £40m to settle equal pay claims with trade unions.

09 April 09 [Commission's report into the financial sector reveals women at the top have among the highest pay gaps](#) A new [EHRC report](#) reveals significant gender pay gaps in the finance sector of up to 60 percent.

27 April 09 [Commission to undertake consultation into gender pay gap](#)

The EHRC is to begin a programme of consultation with the private sector to develop a set of measures for reporting on the gender pay gap, following a request from the Government.

27 April 09 [Bill set to expose gender pay gap](#)

Many employers will be made to reveal how much male staff are paid compared with their female colleagues, under a bill being published later.

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## **[RACE AND INTEGRATION](#)**

Dec 08 [Thematic Report on Racial and Ethnic Origin](#)

This forms part of the final evaluation Report of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All and focuses on how the year addressed racial and ethnic origin as a ground of discrimination.

Mar 09 [Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count - No. 14: July 2008](#) This year's Gypsy/Traveller population is estimated at 744 households, representing an estimated population of 2,455 people.

March 09 [Time Travellers website.](#)

[This is a site created by young Gypsy/Travellers across Scotland supported by Save the Children.](#)

12 Mar 09 [Indirect race discrimination risk in limiting applicants to inside EEA](#)

An Employment Appeal Tribunal has ruled that indirect race discrimination occurred in the case of a job applicant who had his application rejected because he was from outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).

26 Mar 09 [Migration has a key role to play in meeting Scottish Government targets in its Economic Strategy](#). The review uses evidence from a range of published and unpublished sources, including datasets, surveys and qualitative studies, across the two main areas of economic and employment impacts and social impacts.

31 Mar 09 [Government support for black voluntary and community organisations](#)  
A host of regional events aimed specifically at helping Black-led voluntary and community sector organisations kicked off in London.

31 Mar 09 [Justice Secretary comments on racism statistics](#)  
Scotland's Chief Statistician published new figures for [Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2007-08](#) and show that there was a one per cent decrease last year in the number of racist incidents reported to the police in Scotland.

April 09 [Citizenship Survey April – December 2008, England](#)  
This release provides headline findings from the Citizenship Survey is divided into three sections covering empowered and active communities; community cohesion; and prejudice and discrimination.

03 Apr 09 [Listening to views on race equality](#)  
Communities Secretary Hazel Blears kicked off the first in a series of regional events which will hear views from the public about Government's plans for a new race equality strategy.

05 April 09 [Trevor Phillips gave evidence to MPA Race and Faith Inquiry](#)  
Chair of the EHRC is gave evidence to the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) Race and Faith Inquiry.

08 April 09 [Government keeps work restrictions for eastern Europeans](#)  
Strict working restrictions for Eastern Europeans will not be scrapped, the Government announced today.

15 April 09 [Community Cohesion and Migration in an Economic Downturn](#)  
This is a transcript of the speech by Community Cohesion Minister Sadiq Khan at the Building Cohesion, Achieving Equality Conference. He talks about the Government's vision for cohesion and outlines some of the work that is already happening to build integrated and cohesive communities.

22 April 09 [EU MIDIS: FRA survey sheds new light on extent of racism in the EU](#)  
The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released results of the first ever EU-wide survey on immigrant and ethnic minority groups' experiences of discrimination and racist crime.

23 April 09 [BNP leader defends policy on race](#)

British National Party (BNP) chairman Nick Griffin has defended a party leaflet which says that black Britons and Asian Britons "do not exist".

23 April 09 [Teachers report 'racist bullying'](#)

Nearly half of teachers say racist bullying is a problem in their schools, a survey has found.

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## **[RELIGION OR BELIEF](#)**

Mar 09 [SIFC newsletter](#)

The latest edition of the Scottish Inter Faith Council newsletter

24 Mar 09 [England to have first-ever 'Inter Faith Week'](#)

A football match involving people from different faiths is just one of the activities that could take place in England's first-ever 'Inter Faith Week', Communities and Local Government Secretary Hazel Blears announced.

April 2009 [Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities](#)

This summary report synthesises the findings of separate research and reports on thirteen Muslim ethnic communities in England undertaken for Communities and Local Government in 2008.

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## **[SEXUAL ORIENTATION](#)**

20 April 09 [The Experiences of Children with Lesbian and Gay Parents - An Initial Scoping Review of Evidence](#) This paper was written in response to the Hearts and Minds Agenda Group recommendation that research is conducted into the experiences of children of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) parents.

21 April 09 [Kirk magazine backs gay couples](#)

The in-house magazine of the Church of Scotland has risked controversy by calling on believers to come to terms with gay relationships.

22 April 09 [Same-sex couples to be allowed to adopt in Scotland](#)

Changes in the regulations on adoption and children in care will this year see restrictions removed on same-sex couples adopting, as well as improved long-term planning for vulnerable young people, the Scottish Government has said.

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## **[EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL](#)**

24 Feb 09 [Pupils in Scotland census 2008](#)

Information on pupils in publicly funded schools in Scotland, mainly derived from the latest annual pupil census which took place in September 2008.

24 Mar 09 [Equal Opportunities Committee Report: Review of equal opportunities in the work of committees](#) The Scottish Parliament's Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends a rule change to require committees to report, within their annual reports, on how equal opportunities have been taken into account in their work.

25 Mar 09 [Police diversity guide](#)

Every police force in Scotland has been issued with copies of a Diversity guide prepared by ACPOS (the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland). The guide was launched at Northern Constabulary Headquarters in Inverness.

31 Mar 09 [MEPs split over widening anti-discrimination laws](#)

MEPs to vote on extending anti-discrimination laws.

01 April 09 [EHRC Equality Scheme 2009 - 2012](#)

The EHRC Equality scheme ties in with its strategic and business planning

14 April 09 [The Panel on Fair Access to the Professions](#)

This panel will look at the processes and structures that govern recruitment into key professions. It will identify actions that the professions, supported by government where relevant, could undertake to improve access into professions.

16 April 09 [Profession 'still dogged by lack of social mobility'](#)

Public sector manager profiles will remain 'stale, male and pale', unless social mobility improves, according to the [Fair Access Panel Research Paper](#).

21 April 09 [Equal Opportunities Committee](#)

6th Meeting, 2009, of the Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

April 09 [Equality and Human Rights Commission's enforcement team takes on more than 300 cases in first 18 months](#)

The EHRC has now used its enforcement powers on 337 occasions. Around one third of these cases have been resolved and the rest are ongoing, according to a review of the Commission's enforcement work.

April 09 [Updated guidance on the Public Sector Duties](#)

The EHRC has updated its online guidance on the Public Sector Duties

27 April 09 [Commission supports global call to end discrimination at UN anti-racism conference](#)

The EHRC welcomed the Outcome Document which was adopted at the United Nations anti-racism conference this week.

27 April 09 [Commission Chair welcomes new Equality Bill](#)

Trevor Phillips, Chair of the HRC, said the Equality Bill will 'remove the roadblocks to finding the talent to drive our economic recovery.'

27 April 09 [Equality Bill will build a fairer and stronger Britain](#)

Harriet Harman published the [Equality Bill](#). It sets out groundbreaking new laws which will help narrow the gap between rich and poor; require business to report on gender pay; outlaw age discrimination; and will significantly strengthen Britain's anti-discrimination legislation.

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## **EVENTS**

**14 May 09** [Epilepsy: Psychological and Social Wellbeing](#), Apex International Hotel, Edinburgh

**18 May 08** [GMC Scotland End of Life Care Consultation Events](#), Highland Hospice, Inverness. The General Medical Council is consulting on new draft guidance for doctors: *End of life treatment and care: good practice in decision making*. For information contact: [jbelle@gmc-uk.org](mailto:jbelle@gmc-uk.org)

**21 May 09** [Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women](#), Scottish Refugee Council course, Glasgow

**29 May 09** ['Poverty and Inequalities in Scotland: 10 Years of Devolution'](#), Scottish Poverty Information Unit conference, Edinburgh

**08 June 09** [Community Cohesion and Contingency Planning](#), conference, The Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh

**15 June 09** [Disability Equality: Improving Understanding, Awareness and Examining the Westminster Agenda in Scotland](#), Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh.

**17 June 09** [Conceptualising and achieving equality and human rights](#), Conference, University of Edinburgh, email [helen.christie@ed.ac.uk](mailto:helen.christie@ed.ac.uk)

**23 June 09** [Choosing Scotland's Future: A National Conversation - Future of Scotland and Ethnic Minority Communities, CEMVO](#), Eden Court, Inverness, email: [fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk](mailto:fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk)

**Various dates 2009** [SAIF Training Programme 2009](#), Scottish Accessible Information Forum, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

**Ongoing**, [Women@Work Project](#), Network meetings throughout Highlands & Islands for details contact: [womenatwork@weascotland.org.uk](mailto:womenatwork@weascotland.org.uk).

**Ongoing**, [Highlands & Islands Equality Forum](#) training and awareness raising throughout Highlands and Islands for further details contact [HIEF](#)

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