



## MONTHLY EQUALITIES BULLETIN



EQUALITIES UPDATE: Aug 09, Issue 8/2009

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

May 09 [The Scotland-Wide Free Bus Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled People](#) The Scottish Government has published the review of the Concessionary Travel Scheme.

03 Aug 09 [Medical receptionist settles age discrimination case for £6000](#)

A medical receptionist has settled her age discrimination claim against a medical practice in Lothian after she had been asked to leave her post as a part-time receptionist when her employers discovered that she was over 65.

10 Aug 09 [Equality Camp unites young people from different backgrounds](#) More than 90 UK young people from all walks of life are in the Lake District this week for five days to learn more about each other at [Our Space](#), the Equality and Human Rights Commission's annual summer camp.

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## **DISABILITY**

30 July 09 [People with Mental Health Conditions and Pathways to Work](#)

This report presents findings from a qualitative research project carried out as part of a wider evaluation of Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work. The study was conducted in 2008 and 2009 to explore how Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work may better meet the needs of the heterogeneous mental health client group.

31 July 09 [High Court overturns decision not to license accessible taxi](#)

The High Court has overturned a decision by Liverpool City Council not to license a particular type of accessible taxi, after the EHRC intervened in the case.

Aug 09 [RNID Annual Survey of members](#)

The full findings from the 2008 annual survey of members. The survey is an important way of finding out about the issues affecting people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Aug 09 [The 2008 Statistics Release on Adults with Learning Disabilities](#)

The purpose of this Statistics Release is to present the sixth set of national figures for services provided by local authorities in Scotland for adults with learning disabilities. The publication is a result of *The same as you?* review of services for people with learning disabilities, published in May 2000.

03 Aug 09 [New ruling gives people with mental illness conditions the same human rights as others](#)

The EHRC has welcomed a Court of Appeal ruling which found that people with mental illnesses are protected from discrimination by the European Convention on Human Rights.

06 Aug 09 [Olympians receive standing ovation from Highland Council](#)

A group of athletes who took part in the 2009 Special Olympics at Leicester received a standing ovation from members of The Highland Council's Education, Culture and Sport Committee as they attended the meeting to report their triumphs at the games.

10 Aug 09 [Films attack mental health stigma](#)

Two films are being launched in cinemas in England and online to challenge the misconception that all sufferers of schizophrenia are violent.

11 Aug 09 [Bid to improve disabled justice](#)

A partnership aimed at giving disabled people better access to justice will see Scotland's legal sector team up with disability organisations.

17 Aug 09 [Opening of new Highland inter-agency centre for autism](#)

A new £1.2 million centre has opened in Inverness to improve outcomes for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families

throughout Highland.

27 Aug 09 [Parental Experience of Services for Disabled Children: National survey](#)

This document reports the data from a survey designed to generate an overall indicator and set of sub-indicators that measure parental views on the five elements of the core offer as set out in the government's report Aiming High for Disabled Children.

27 Aug 09 [Disability Equality Schemes: The three-yearly review](#)

This guidance is designed to help public authorities revise their disability equality schemes.

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## **GENDER**

July 2009 [Not having it all: How motherhood reduces women's pay and employment prospects.](#) A report by Fawcett that calculates the impact that becoming a mum has on a woman's earnings.

July 09 [The Equality Bill - defining a new approach or business as usual?](#)

A Fawcett Society think piece for the Gender Equality Forum, asking if the Equality Bill will succeed in its aim to help build a fairer society for the future.

11 Aug 09 [Women dominate 'high status' jobs](#)

More women than men in the UK now work in high status professions, research by the University of Cambridge has shown, but men are still paid far more than women

12 Aug 09 [Equality and Human Rights Commission consultation opens on gender pay gap reporting](#)

The EHRC launched [a consultation](#) on how private and voluntary sector employers with at least 250 staff can measure and report on their gender pay gap.

19 Aug 09 [Women in local government](#)

Women on the verge of an urgent breakthrough. The podcast contains a collection of interviews with women councillors and officers in a variety of councils and organisations.

21 Aug 09 [Restraining order powers to further protect victims of domestic violence and harassment](#)

A powerful tool to help protect victims of harassment including domestic abuse will come into effect next month, the Government confirmed.

24 Aug 09 [Narrowing the Gap: The gender agenda - Making a difference in science](#)

This booklet offers some practical strategies that science subject leaders and teachers can use to address underperforming groups.

27 Aug 09 [Government launches study into female genital mutilation](#)

The study aims to increase the Government's knowledge about women and girls affected by Female Genital Mutilation in England.

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## **RACE**

June 09 [Migration and rural economies: assessing and addressing risks](#)  
Looks at patterns of migration to rural areas and explores migrants' experiences of life and work, as well as their impact on rural economies and considers future trends.

31 July 09 [Inquiry reveals poor recruitment practices stop ethnic minorities entering the construction industry](#) A negative image of the construction industry and poor recruitment practices are contributing to the low numbers of ethnic minorities entering the industry, according to the results of an inquiry.

05 Aug 09 [New research shows that exodus of immigrants from UK is speeding up.](#) A [new report](#) by ippr shows that more and more immigrants to the UK are staying for a short time and then leaving. The outflow in the last couple of years is close to 400,000.

06 Aug 09 [Muslim women avoid reporting racism](#)  
Amina is a Scottish helpline for the country's Muslim females. Workers take around five to six calls a day, sometimes for hours at a time, and they say approximately half the women who call will have suffered hate crime of some sort. Of those, only one in four will go to the police.  
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## **RELIGION OR BELIEF**

Aug 09 [Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund](#)  
The fund works with local faith groups as they build hope and struggle against poverty by providing grants and support in Scotland's most fragile urban and rural communities. Closing date for applications: 30 September 2009.  
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## **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

30 July 09 [Quakers 'to allow gay marriages'](#)  
One of the UK's oldest Christian denominations - the Quakers - looks set to extend marriage services to same-sex couples at their yearly meeting later.

14 Aug 09 [Businesses 'retain gay prejudice'](#)  
Gay people still face discrimination in the corporate world, Sir Michael Bishop, the former head of the UK's second biggest airline, BMI, has said.

31 Aug 09 [Lesbians given equal birth rights](#)  
Women in same-sex relationships can now register both their names on the birth certificate of a child conceived as a result of fertility treatment.  
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## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL**

July 09 The [Equality Issues in Scotland report](#) is the first comprehensive review of research and statistics on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion or belief and sexual orientation in Scotland.

31 July 09 [Fairness and flexibility in housing allocations](#)  
Housing Minister John Healey has taken steps to give people confidence that councils allocate housing in their area fairly.

02 Aug 09 [Harman defends equalities chief](#)

Equalities minister Harriet Harman has defended the head of the EHRC Trevor Phillips.

03 Aug 09 [New council champions equality and diversity](#)

A new Equality and Diversity Council that will strengthen the national focus on improving quality in the National Health Service, was announced by the Department of Health.

04 Aug 09 [Guidance for Local Authorities on How to Mainstream Community Cohesion into Other Services](#) This guidance provides evidence and arguments that can be used by local authorities as a basis for mainstreaming or embedding community cohesion in other areas of service delivery and with other local organisations.

04 Aug 09 [Malik - new guidance to help local councils put community cohesion at the heart of their services](#) Mr Malik is clear that strong and inclusive communities are the building blocks of a fair society. To help councils ensure community cohesion is not just an add-on, the guidance gives advice on how they and their partners can embed shared values and promote cohesion in everything they do.

04 Aug 09 [The economic case for cohesion](#)

This [study](#) looks at the available evidence on the economic benefits of building cohesion. It reviews evidence for crime, fear of crime, education, employment, health and economic investment.

06 Aug 09 [Duty to Promote Democracy: Equality impact assessment](#)

The duty to promote democracy is a statutory duty on local authorities to promote understanding of local governance systems and opportunities for members of the public to be involved. This equality impact assessment assesses the impact this policy will have on different equality groups.

10 Aug 09 [MSP backs online battle against hate crime](#)

A Scottish government minister is urging the public to 'shop' those who carry out hate attacks in the Highlands by reporting incidents on a new website.

14 August 09 [Commission announces priorities for 2009/10](#)

The Commission today publishes its [2009/10 business plan](#) which sets out priorities for the next year of operation.

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## EVENTS

**2009 [Generations Working Together Seminars](#)** The Summer Seminar Series on Intergenerational working will focus on Innovation, Best Practice and Funding. Book by emailing [scipadmin@strath.ac.uk](mailto:scipadmin@strath.ac.uk) or calling 0141 548 2492.

**02 Sept 09 [British Sign Language \(BSL\) Introductory Courses](#)**, Nairn. Email the Deaf Communication Project at [alexia.greig@highland.gov.uk](mailto:alexia.greig@highland.gov.uk) or call on 01463 248102.

**08 Sept 09 [Young People and Mental Wellbeing Conference: New directions, better outcomes](#)**, Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.

**08 – 09 Sept 09 [THE FUTURE IS OLDER](#)** International [Conference](#) University of Glasgow, Dumfries Campus O4O: Older People for Older People. For a conference registration form please visit the O4O website. For further details please contact Phillipa McNeill at [p.mcneill@crichton.gla.ac.uk](mailto:p.mcneill@crichton.gla.ac.uk) or 01387 702131.

**21 Sept 09 [The Public Petitions Committee \(PPC\) of the Scottish Parliament is holding an external meeting in Alness Academy](#)**, Alness. Contact Fergus D. Cochrane, Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee, The Scottish Parliament, [fergus.cochrane@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:fergus.cochrane@scottish.parliament.uk), tel 0131 348 5186.

**01 Oct 09 [Scotland's Generations Working Together](#)** The National Conference will be held on Thursday 1st October, the UK Older People's Day 2009, in Perth. The conference will feature Scottish and international speakers, showcase best practice and provide an opportunity to network and learn.

**05 Oct 09 [How should we most effectively tackle domestic violence abuse and sexual exploitation?](#)** Royal Commonwealth Society, London Click [here](#) to book your place. Click [here](#) for the day's programme.

**10 Oct 2009 [GUDE CAUSE](#)**, Edinburgh. A re-enactment to mark the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement Procession in 1909.

**10 Oct 09 [World Mental Health Day](#)** Mental health in primary care: enhancing treatment and promoting mental health

**15 Oct 09 [Equality 2025 will be holding its third annual public event in Manchester](#)** If you are disabled and/or have a long term health condition this is an opportunity for you to influence the development of government policy and contribute to Equality 2025's workplan for 2010/11

**17 Nov 09** Focus on Opportunities Conference 2009 Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. For more information and booking please contact: Ruth Morrell or Liz Redpath on 0845 271 2345 or Email [workfocus@grampianblind.org](mailto:workfocus@grampianblind.org)

**18 Nov 09 [Tackling Hate Crime and Harassment: responding to new responsibilities and building on best practice in social housing, criminal justice, schools and communities](#)**, conference, London

**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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