



MONTHLY EQUALITIES BULLETIN



EQUALITIES UPDATE: Dec 2008, Issue 12/2008

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.

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CONTENTS:

[AGE](#)

[DISABILITY](#)

[GENDER](#)

[RACE](#)

[RELIGION OR BELIEF](#)

[SEXUAL ORIENTATION](#)

[EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL](#)

[EVENTS](#)

AGE

28 Nov 08 [Ageing And Retirement In Europe](#)

The results of the SHARE project (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) have now been release as a public database of data on 11 countries.

12 Dec 08 [Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Age](#) Scottish Government information on collecting information on [age \(PDF\)](#)
[back to contents](#)

DISABILITY

19 Nov 08 [Scotland's first mental health service for deaf people](#) - Launched in Edinburgh for the Deaf Community to hear and learn about common mental health conditions and issues.

27 Oct 08 [Disabled people more likely to experience bullying and harassment at work](#) Disabled people and those with long term ill-health are facing higher levels of hostile and negative treatment in the workplace according to research published by the Commission.

27 Nov 08 [Disabled people more likely to experience bullying and harassment at work new research finds](#) Disabled people and those with long term ill-health are facing higher levels of hostile and negative treatment in the workplace according to new research published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

01 Dec 08 [Opening doors for the disabled](#) EU invites ideas on how to improve life for people with disabilities. In the southern Spanish city of Linares some of the shops are missing doors, but it's not because of the warm weather. It's because of residents like Coral Montilla Gonzalez, who need a wheelchair to get around.

02 Dec 08 [Revised guidance on the provision of equipment and adaptations](#) To provide the NHS and local authorities with updated guidance on the provision of equipment and adaptations.

02 Dec 08 [Support for independent living](#) - More people affected by disability, ill health, traumatic injury or immobility will now benefit from simplified access to equipment and adaptations to assist them in everyday activities.

03 Dec 08 [Partnership approach to love scoops top award](#) A Highland project helping support people with learning disabilities to be informed enough to develop and sustain safe sexual relationships has won the People of the Year Human Rights Award from a top disability organisation.

03 Dec 08 [Public authorities key to ensuring dignity for all.](#) The Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales has highlighted the crucial role that public authorities have in ensuring that disability equality is at the heart of modern-day life.

03 Dec 08 [United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) The UN has called for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to be a time to make a renewed commitment to the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

05 Dec 08 [Carers' Rights Day](#) The Highland Council is supporting Carers' Rights Day - a national awareness

day organised by Carers Scotland to inform carers of their rights and services available to help support them in their caring role.

09 Dec 08 [Programmes to promote employment for disabled people: Lessons from the United States](#) A report focusing on US evaluations that have informed best practices in providing services to disabled people in the US is published by the DWP.

11 Dec 08 [Guidelines Create Landmark Month For Web Accessibility. WCAG 2.0](#) The long-anticipated publication of new international web accessibility standard WCAG 2.0 has coincided with the release of a draft British Standard for managing web accessibility, in a landmark month for internet inclusion. This is the new version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines from the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), accepted as the main benchmark for ensuring web content is usable by people with disabilities.

11 Dec 08 [The consultation draft of a new British Standard](#) New British Standard for developing accessible websites has been published on the website of BSI, the UK's national standards body.

12 Dec 08 [Fresh batch of experience boosts work of disability committee](#) The Disability Employment Advisory Committee (DEAC), which provides advice to Government on the best ways to tackle barriers to employment for disabled people, has announced their new set of members who will now be in office for the next three years.

[back to contents](#)

GENDER

26 Nov 08 [Equality between Women and Men](#) Mid-term progress report on the roadmap for equality between women and men (2006-2010).

01 Dec 08 [Women 'need senior sponsors'](#) Support is needed for women who are striving to reach the top of their particular sectors from people who are already there, it has been claimed by the lead author of a study into the lack of women in science, engineering and technology.

08 Dec 08 [Police to step up abuse campaign](#) A police force has begun a Christmas crackdown on domestic abuse in the Highlands and Islands.

12 Dec 08 [Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Gender](#) Collecting Equality Information on [Gender \(PDF\)](#)

15 Dec 08 [Girls feel 'robbed' of their childhood](#) A COMBINATION of regular school testing and a lack of family time is "robbing" girls of their childhoods, findings from a voluntary organisation suggest.

[back to contents](#)

RACE

Oct 08 [Equality in Action](#)

European Commission published its new 'social package', aimed at strengthening social policies for EU citizens.

Nov 08 [Code of practice on employing migrant workers](#)

A guide for employers to recruiting, employing and helping to integrate migrant workers into the UK has been published by Business in the Community, a group of 850 companies committed to improving their impact on society.

25 Nov 08 [Most senior Asian police officer settles out of court](#)

Britain's most senior Asian police officer Tarique Ghaffur has withdrawn his claims that former Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Ian Blair was racist towards him, it has emerged.

29 Nov 08 [Marchers join anti-racism rally](#)

Hundreds of people have been taking part in a march and rally against racism, in Glasgow.

03 Dec 08 [National black role model launch: Hazel Blears](#)

Top business men, journalists, servicemen, a fire-fighter, lawyers and media experts amongst others will be unveiled in the first-ever national role model programme for Black boys and young Black men, by Communities Secretary Hazel Blears.

04 Dec 08 [Action on forced marriages](#) -

Views being sought on what can be done to tackle forced marriage in Scotland.

09 Dec 08 [Building a New Home: Migration in the UK construction sector](#)

This report investigates the role of migrant workers in UK construction, and the impact that their migration into this industry is having on its existing construction workforce.

10 Dec 08 [Living in the UK as a spouse or partner](#)

New immigration rules came into force on 27 November 2008.

12 Dec 08 [Census criticised for not including 'Scottish-British' option](#)

The proposed questions for the 2011 census have been criticised by opposition politicians for requiring Scots to choose between Scottish and British ethnicity.

12 Dec 08 [Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Ethnic Groups](#) Collecting information on [ethnic groups \(PDF\)](#)

15 Dec 08 [National action on language support in schools urged](#)

More support and co-ordination from central government is needed for pupils with English as an Additional Language, stakeholders have urged.

[back to contents](#)

RELIGION OR BELIEF

28 Nov 08 [Religion, beliefs and parenting practices](#)

The influence of religious beliefs on parenting, from the perspectives of both adolescents and parents.

03 Dec 08 [New citizenship classes for mosque schools](#)

New citizenship lessons challenging the notion that there is any conflict between being a good Muslim and a good citizen are starting to be taught in after school madrassahs or mosque supplementary schools across the country as part of efforts to emphasise shared values.

03 Dec 08 [Strathclyde Police Muslim Association](#)

The launch of Scotland's first Muslim police association is a positive step in strengthening relations between the police and Muslim communities, First Minister Alex Salmond said in Glasgow.

04 Dec 08 [Right to Divide? Faith Schools and Community Cohesion](#)

A new [report](#) from Runnymede concludes that faith schools in England must become schools for all children in order to encourage interaction between people of different faiths and ethnicities.

09 Dec 08 [Funding to beat anti sectarian drive](#)

Projects which tackle sectarianism in the west of Scotland have been given funding worth £412,731. The Scottish Government cash will be distributed during the next three years by Sense Over Sectarianism.

11 Dec 08 [Government launches consultation on Islamic finance in the UK](#)

A joint Treasury-FSA consultation on proposals for the legislative framework for the regulation of alternative finance investment bonds, which include sukuk, was launched by Ian Pearson MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

12 Dec 08 [Collecting equality information: Guidance on asking questions on: Religion/Belief](#) Collecting information on [religion/belief \(PDF\)](#)

15 Dec 08 [Some Imams 'biased against women'](#)

A Muslim think-tank has found some UK Imams discriminate against women when enforcing Islamic Sharia law.

[back to contents](#)

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

27 Nov 08 [Lesbian soldier wins large harassment payout](#)

The Ministry of Defence has been ordered by Leeds Employment Tribunal to pay Lance Bombardier Kerry Fletcher almost £187,000 for sex discrimination,

victimisation and sexual harassment.

03 Dec 08 [Commission welcomes ONS decision to include sexual identity question in surveys](#)

The Commission welcomes the decision by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to include a question on sexual identity in its major continuous surveys as a good start in giving a clearer picture of the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) population.

[back to contents](#)

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL

27 Nov 08 [Human Rights Report](#) EU annual Report on Human Rights 2008.

Dec 08 [Why do people think inequality is worse than poverty?](#)

Jeremy Seabrook argues that, in the face of extraordinary imbalances in society, the myth that accumulating wealth is the supreme human purpose needs to be replaced.

Dec 08 [Five types of inequality](#)

Ferdinand Mount takes a wide view of the causes and possible cures on injurious inequalities, looking at five overlapping types of inequality and how to remedy them.

03 Dec 08 [Commission welcomes 'ambitious' Bill on fairness](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission welcomes the Government's Equality Bill announced in the Queen's Speech as an ambitious measure to change the way people view equality and make Britain a fairer country for all.

03 Dec 08 [New Commission Inquiries to address discrimination and promote good practice in the construction and financial services sectors.](#)

The Commission announced two formal Inquiries into the financial services and construction sectors.

03 Dec 08 [Harman: Equality Bill confirmed in legislative programme](#)

Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, welcomed the announcement by Her Majesty the Queen that the Equality Bill will be brought forward in Parliament within the next year.

03 Dec 08 [Civil servants celebrate diversity](#)

Civil servants from across the country have been honoured by the Cabinet Secretary in the second Civil Service Diversity and Equality Awards.

08 Dec 08 [Bid to 'rebalance' Human Rights Act](#)

Justice Secretary Jack Straw has signalled he is preparing to "rebalance" the Human Rights Act amid concerns it had become a "villains charter". Mr Straw - who introduced the act 10 years ago when he was Home Secretary - said he had become frustrated with the way that it is operating.

10 Dec 08 [PM speaks on 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of](#)

[Human Rights](#)

The PM has given the keynote speech at an Equality and Human Rights Commission event in London on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

11 Dec 08 [2011 Census plans unveiled](#)

Scotland's next census will include new questions on language, household income and national identity.

11 Dec 08 [Scotland's census 2001: A Government statement](#).

Scottish Government ministers published proposals for the [2011 Census](#) in December 2008 - Scotland's Census 2011 - A Government Statement.

16 Dec 08 The 18th Meeting of the [Equal Opportunities Committee](#)

17 Dec 08 [New skills = better jobs](#) Report finds that most EU workers will soon be employed in the service industry. By 2020, three out of four people employed in the EU will be working in services like insurance, healthcare, retail and education, according to a [new report](#) on the future of the European job market.

[back to contents](#)

EVENTS

15 Jan 09 [Knowledge Exchange on Public Policy Dimensions of persistent inequality in Scotland](#)

A knowledge exchange programme supported by the Scottish Funding Council Park Inn Hotel, 2 Port Dundas Place Glasgow G2 3LD.

14 Jan 09 [Employers Forum on Belief – 'get to know us' introductory sessions](#) These events are for all employers who are interested in how the Employers Forum on Belief can help them learn more about integrating different beliefs in the workplace.

24 Jan 09 [Roars Not Whispers – Identity?](#)

2009 is a big year for celebrating culture in Scotland and on the eve of Robert Burns' day, we ask young people living in Scotland to give their views on their country and their cultural identity.

28 Jan 09 [Changing the Face of Human Rights](#)

The purpose of this exciting one day conference in London is to stimulate fresh thinking about human rights.

29 Jan 09 [Ageing Population 09 Conference](#) Ministers are warning that the UK's social care system is heading towards a £6bn funding gap unless there is radical reform. This groundbreaking conference will debate the government's strategies on the future funding of social care.

11 Feb 09 [Stonewall Scotland Workplace Conference](#)

The conference, titled *Making it real: supporting your LGBT staff*, will be held

at Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh.

25 Feb 09 [The Equality and Diversity Symposium: Developing the Framework for a Fairer Future](#), Public Policy Exchange Symposium, London.

25 Feb 09 [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) in Inverness. Opportunities for advice-giving and frontline representatives of voluntary, community, and educational organisations to meet the EHRC Legal Team and find out more about the Commission and how to work with it. For information contact James Andrew 0141 228 5917/David Reilly 0141 228 5967

21 April 09 [Transitions Conference "Moving Out: Moving on- But Where To?"](#) at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld, Glasgow.

[Peter Gibson Memorial Fund](#)

The Fund are particularly interested in working with people with an interest in helping those who are disadvantaged through age, ill-health, disability, or financial hardship.

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

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