



## MONTHLY EQUALITIES BULLETIN



EQUALITIES UPDATE: Feb 09, Issue 2/2009

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

28 Jan 09 [Child Poverty Bill is only as good as the resources committed to it says Campaign to End Child Poverty](#) Over 85 members of the Campaign to End Child Poverty called on the Government to guarantee that the forthcoming child poverty legislation is underpinned by a set of principles that will ensure major improvements to children's life chances.

11 Feb 09 [Channel 4 probe prompts ageism broadside](#)

Claims made in a Channel 4 documentary that seeks to expose widespread ageism within the UK workplace has prompted an angry reaction from the Employers' Forum on Age.

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### DISABILITY

03 Dec 08 [Improved access to equipment and adaptations](#)

The Scottish Government has recently issued a consultation on proposals to provide improved support for disabled people to allow them to live independently in their own homes. The consultation closes on 31st March.

22 Jan 09 [Disability targets for public sector to be introduced this year](#)

Public sector employers will be required to recruit more people with mental and learning disabilities to meet government targets introduced later this year.

26 Jan 09 [New Tube maps to make life easier for thousands of Londoners](#)

Designs show toilet facilities and give new information on step-free use. To make life easier for pregnant, elderly, or disabled passengers the Mayor and London Underground are launching two new [Tube](#) maps - a Tube Toilet map, and a new Step-free Tube Guide.

27 Jan 09 [Judge rules CPS wrong to deny victim with mental illness his day in court](#)

The High Court has ruled the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) were wrong to drop a prosecution where the victim had a history of mental illness.

29 Jan 09 [Review of international evidence on the cost of disability](#)

This report examines how the international literature on the extra costs of disability could contribute to an assessment of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) programmes in the UK.

02 Feb 09 [Consultation on improving access to taxis](#)

This consultation seeks views on how to improve access to taxis by disabled people ensuring that they have greater access and equality of opportunity.

03 Feb 09 [Government signs up to the optional protocol to the UN Convention on Rights of Disabled People](#) Disabled people will have the opportunity to take their case to the UN if they feel their rights have been breached, said Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People.

03 Feb 09 [Equality and Human Rights Commission welcomes Government's commitment to disabled people's human rights](#) The Commission welcomed the Government's plans to empower disabled UK citizens to exercise their rights under the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), which the Government has pledged to ratify by Spring 2009.

11 Feb 09 [British Sign Language and Linguistic Access Working Group Scoping Study: Linguistic Access to Education for Deaf Pupils and Students in Scotland](#) This work has been undertaken by the British Sign Language and Linguistic Access Working Group. Although the work has been facilitated by the Scottish Government.

12 Feb 09 [Olympic champ Chris Hoy named Scotland's first ambassador for mental health](#)

Olympic hero Sir Chris Hoy was yesterday named as Scotland's first ambassador for mental health. The cycling champion, who received a knighthood in the New Year Honours list, will lend his backing to leading charity the Scottish Association for Mental Health.

16 Feb 09 [It Pays to Look After Your Workforce](#)

Scottish Mental Health & Employment Network information leaflet for employers.

24 Feb 09 [MSPs to pass disabled parking law](#)

Legislation which would see people fined for wrongly parking in disabled bays is expected to be passed by MSPs.

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## **GENDER**

08 Jan 09 [Metropolitan Police sued by two WPCs for sexual harassment](#)

Two women police officers are each suing the Metropolitan Police for £1m over alleged sexual harassment by three policemen at stations in the Romford area.

23 Jan 09 [CIPD urges government to promote value of equal pay reviews](#)

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) has called on the government to publicise the business case for equal pay reviews.

26 Jan 09 [Ministers vow to protect female jobs](#)

A crusade to stop employers laying off more women than men during the recession has begun to prevent those facing redundancy becoming victims of discrimination.

28 Jan 09 [Muslim Women Pioneering Change in 21st Century Britain: Speech by Sadiq Khan](#)

This is a transcript of the speech by Communities Minister Sadiq Khan at the London Muslim Centre talking about the importance of Muslim women in Britain.

30 Jan 09 [Commission threatens legal action as one in four local authorities leave female victims of violence without support](#)

The Commission announced it will target over 100 local authorities with the threat of legal action over their failure to provide specialised services for women who have experienced violence.

10 Feb 09 [New support for victims of domestic violence](#)

This Home Office [Domestic Violence Leaflet](#) provides information about how to support a friend or relative who is in a violent relationship.

15 Feb 09 [Jowell calls for Olympic equality](#)

Olympics minister Tessa Jowell wants rules that prevent women from competing in as many Olympic or Paralympic events as men to be changed by the 2012 Games.

28 March 09 [Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy Consultation](#)

This consultation is an opportunity for us to consider what more we can do to help those affected by forced marriage in Scotland and to ensure our communities are safer, stronger and fairer places for all.

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## **RACE AND INTEGRATION**

Jan 09 [Change and continuity among minority communities in Britain](#)

Compares the social and economic characteristics of the largest ethnic minority groups in Britain to see if the two largest Muslim communities (Pakistanis and Bangladeshis) are somehow different and whether this is changing.

12 Jan 09 [Ethnic minority police recruits are more likely to drop out](#)

Ethnic minority police recruits are twice as likely as white recruits to drop out in their first six months of service, an official inquiry has found.

14 Jan 09 [Borders and Migration Bill threatens the UK's economic recovery](#)

On the day the government publishes its Borders and Immigration Bill, the UK's leading progressive think tank, the institute for public policy research says proposals to make it more difficult for migrants to gain British citizenship could have damaging consequences for the UK's economic recovery.

15 Jan 09 [National Policing Improvement Agency vows fight against racism will continue](#)

The National Policing Improvement Agency has promised to continue to help police forces improve recruitment and retention of officers from ethnic minorities.

19 Jan 09 [Ethnicity and family](#)

Relationships within and between ethnic groups: An analysis using the Labour Force Survey

19 Jan 09 [All Together Now? A portrait of race in Britain](#)

Next month, it will be 10 years since the Macpherson report highlighted the institutional racism that marred the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. In the [following interviews](#), 10 Britons, all born in 1974 – the same year as the south London student – describe their experiences of race relations in this country.

20 Jan 09 [New Commission poll shows British institutions need to 'keep up with Obama generation'](#)

Ten years on from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry a new Ipsos MORI survey for the Commission shows British people are increasingly at ease with racial diversity but lack faith in our institutions to represent all groups or treat them fairly.

02 Feb 08 [Empowering Birmingham's migrant and refugee community organisations](#)

An exploration of how migrant and refugee community organisations can be supported and trained to collect evidence from their communities that will help influence policy and service provision.

02 Feb 08 [The potential of migrant and refugee community organisations to influence policy](#)

A report on a partnership set up to test how migrant and refugee community organisations could change policies and practices that are crucial to the lives of their communities.

04 Feb 09 [Evaluation of Partners Outreach for Ethnic Minorities](#)

This report evaluates the first year of the programme, which supports people who are non-working partners in low-income families. Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Somali communities are the main target groups, with a particular focus on women.

15 Feb 09 [Police accused over race equality](#)

The UK's police force is still institutionally racist despite attempts to confront the issue, a review claims.

19 Feb 09 [Commission calls on construction insiders to submit evidence to its formal inquiry into race discrimination in the sector](#)

The Commission is inviting employees, employers and organisations representing the construction industry to submit evidence for a formal inquiry into race discrimination in the sector.

20 Feb 09 [Politicians 'ignoring' polygamy](#)

Cultural sensitivity has prevented politicians from discussing the issue of polygamy in the UK, a leading Muslim peer has told the BBC.

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## RELIGION OR BELIEF

22 Jan 09 [Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association Lecture](#)

The First Minister Alex Salmond will celebrate the strengths of a diverse modern Scotland when he delivers the annual Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association Lecture at St John's Church, Edinburgh. Following the lecture the First Minister will formally launch a programme of events celebrating the 20th Anniversary Year of the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association.

12 Feb 09 [Young Muslims Advisory Group holds their first meeting with Hazel Blears and Ed Balls](#) The group launched late last year and was set up to help Government deepen its engagement with young Muslims. Today will see the first formal meeting with two cabinet ministers.

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## **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

20 Jan 09 [MSPs hear objections to new homophobic hate crimes proposal](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee has heard evidence on proposed legislation that allows courts to impose tougher sentences for offences aggravated by the victim's disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

02 Feb 09 [LGBT doctors hailed for contribution to NHS](#)

The British Medical Association has produced a [document](#) which describes the experiences of LGBT doctors and medical students working in the NHS.

16 Feb 09 [Homophobia in the Fire & Rescue Service is unacceptable](#)

The Fire Minister Sadiq Khan and the Fire & Rescue Service's associations and unions joined forces urging all Fire and Rescue Services to sign up to the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme.

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## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL**

16 Oct 08 [Citizenship survey April-September 2008](#)

The release is divided into three sections covering empowered and active communities; community cohesion; and prejudice and discrimination.

24 Oct 08 [Review of equality statistics](#)

Examines the availability of data on key equality areas: sex; ethnicity and race; disability; religion or belief; age; sexual orientation; and socio-economic status.

Dec 2008 [Continuing the diversity journey: business practices, perspectives and benefits](#)

Sets out the business case for diversity and considers the main barriers faced by small and medium sized enterprises when employing staff with diverse profiles and identifies tools for a successful diversity journey.

20 Jan 09 [Hate crime in Scotland](#)

The EHRC in Scotland appeared before the Justice Committee, and a transcript of the evidence session is available from the Scottish Parliament website.

26 Jan 09 [Flexible working rights should be granted to parents of 18-year olds says Tory peer](#)

Flexible parental rights should be extended to parents of children who are aged 18 and under, said a Tory peer who has introduced a private bill on equality issues into Parliament.

Currently only parents and carers who have children aged six or under have the right to request flexible working though [the government plans to raise the age limit to 16](#).

09 Feb 09 [Agency workers - know your rights](#)

The Government has launched a new £1million campaign to help agency workers know their rights and help employers know their responsibilities.

10 Feb 08 [Consultation on the Modernisation of the Planning System with 'Seldom Heard' Groups](#)

Part of The Scottish Government's ongoing consultation process to help improve the evidence base for policy direction and implementation.

10 Feb 09 [Equal Opportunities Committee 2nd Meeting, 2009](#)  
The Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee meeting

12 Feb 09 [Equality and Human Rights Commission becomes first in Britain to gain UN accreditation as a national human rights institution](#) Sixty years after Britain signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Equality and Human Rights Commission has this week received formal notification of accreditation from the United Nations (UN) as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI).

18 Feb 09 [The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism](#) This is the Government's response to a consultation on the role of further education colleges in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism. It is published alongside a document outlining the next steps and a toolkit aimed at helping colleges prevent violent extremism.

25 Feb 09 [Poverty, inequality and policy since 1997](#)  
This study examines the impact of policy on poverty and inequality in Britain since 1997.  
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## EVENTS

**07 and 08 Mar 09** [International Women's Day Celebrations](#), Women@Work, Inverness and Argyll

**10th and 11th March 2009** [Certificate in managing disability in the workplace](#)  
Lion Court Conference Centre, London.

**12 March 09** [Barriers to Success: Muslim women's perspective](#), Birmingham City Council from 9:30am – 3:00pm and is planned to coincide with activities planned as part of International Women's Day 2009.

**13 Mar 09** [Capturing the Gains of the Public Sector Duties in Scotland Conference](#), Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh 9.30am – 3.00pm. Please [email](#) the booking form.

**14 Mar 09** [2009 Pride Ball](#), Highland LGBT Forum (Highland Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Forum) Thistle Hotel Inverness.

**19 Mar 09** [The Big LGBT Conversation: Including Rural](#) Fairways Business Park, Castle Heather, Inverness, supported by [Highlands and Islands Equality Forum](#).

**24 March 09:** VIAS - [More Jobs HOW? Conference](#), Scottish Youth Theatre, Old Sheriff Court, Glasgow

**25 Mar 09** [Integration, Building a New Life in the UK](#), Refugee Council Conference, London

**25 Mar 09** [BEMIS in partnership with STUC Conference](#); Employment rights: promoting race equality, dignity and respect in the workplace for em communities. STUC at 333 Woodlands Rd, Glasgow G3 6NG 10.30 – 3.00 pm, contact: [Adnan Miyasar](#).

**26 Mar 09** Glasgow, **27 Mar 09** Aberdeen, **20 April 09** Edinburgh [Conference for Women](#), SkillPath Seminars

**14 May 09 [Epilepsy: Psychological and Social Wellbeing](#)**

Apex International Hotel, Edinburgh - To register please call Epilepsy Scotland on 0141 427 4911 or download a [registration form](#).

**30 June 09 [www.govnet.co.uk/engage](http://www.govnet.co.uk/engage)** The National Dementia Strategy: Get ahead through EngAge 09 - Early Bird Ends Soon

**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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