



MONTHLY EQUALITIES BULLETIN



EQUALITIES UPDATE: June 09, Issue 6/2009

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.

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AGE

April 09 [Age discrimination in the NHS](#)

Linda Sturdy had worked at Leeds Teaching Hospital for 17 years and has just been awarded £39,000 damages, which includes the biggest ever payout for injury to feelings in a discrimination case in the UK.

June 09 [Millions of baby boomers fear age discrimination](#)

Baby boomers are not slowing down, new research for the Commission reveals, but they clearly fear being stopped in their tracks by ageism.

01 June 09 [Koh v Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd](#)

In Koh v Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, a tribunal decided that inviting a claimant in her fifties to step down as duty manager because of her perceived physical inability to cope, and making comments which implied that she was "past it", constituted age discrimination, and awarded her compensation of £124,182.

09 June 09 [Staying On report calls for a better deal in education for all young people](#)

The Commission launched 'Learning and Training to 18 – A Fairer Future for All' at the Tate Modern in London.

17 June 09 [New research reveals groups most affected by recession](#)

Young people, those living in deprived areas and men have suffered the biggest rises in unemployment in the recession so far, according to a new report jointly published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Department for Work and Pensions and the Government Equalities Office.

25 June 09 [Youth Tracker](#) The first edition of the Youth Tracker – a quarterly newsletter looking at how Britain's young people are faring in the recession, and what we can do to support them.

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DISABILITY

Jan 09 [Doing the duty: the Disability Equality Duty - impact so far and legal enforcement](#) Summarises key messages in the [report](#) from the conference to look at the impact of the Disability Equality Duty (DED), two years after its introduction.

June 09 The Summer edition of the SCLD News is hot off the press and you can download a copy from the website on the link here [SCLD News](#)

June 09 [UK ratifies the UN Disability Convention](#)

On 8 June 2009 the UK Government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

01 June 09 [Celebrating Completion of Inverness Resettlement Project](#)

The resettlement of 38 adults with learning disabilities from New Craigs Hospital, Inverness, into their own supported tenancies within the Inverness area has been hailed as a "great success story".

03 Jun 09 [Adults with Learning Disabilities and the Criminal Justice System: Their Rights and Our Responsibilities](#) Report on the summit held on adults with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system.

04 June 09 [Software 'gives children a voice'](#)

Scientists claim to have developed the first technology of its kind to allow children with communication problems to converse better.

07 June 09 [More than half of British society sees disabled people as 'inferior', according to research](#) Disability charity Scope said it found 53% viewed disabled people 'in a negative way'. The equality rights campaigners said an online survey also found 38% of respondents thought the disabled were a 'drain on resources'.

08 June 09 [Commissions call for fresh impetus on delivering disability rights](#) The four human rights and equality commissions of the UK will collectively call for a fresh impetus to ensuring disabled people are able to participate fully and equally in society.

11 June – 30 Sept 09 [ODI launches consultation on the Right to Control](#) Right to Control embodies the principles of independence and freedom of choice set out in the UN Convention.

18 June 09 [Minority status call for signing](#) Signing should be treated as an indigenous and minority language, a professor will argue at a conference on Scotland's "lesser used" languages.

22 June 09 The latest SAIF publication is [The Social Model of Disability](#) This booklet is aimed at policy and decision makers across all sectors. It explains the Social Model and its importance.
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GENDER

24 May 09 [Women in ground close combat roles - review](#) The MOD has launched a review into its policy governing women serving in ground close-combat roles. Servicewomen are currently excluded from roles where there is a requirement to deliberately close with and kill the enemy face to face.

01 June 09 [Tackling violence against women](#) Scottish Government and COSLA launch blueprint to crack down on violence. Safer Lives, Changed Lives - a Shared Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland, outlines how the Government, local authorities and key support agencies will work together to tackle all forms of violence against women.

09 June 09 [Working class girls fear failure](#) Almost half of girls from a working class background have a profound fear of failure which is seriously affecting their chances at school and work, a new report from the EHRC has found.

10 June 09 [Committee calls for urgent talks on equal pay](#) Local authorities, trade unions and lawyers need to hold urgent discussions on how to deal with equal pay in local government, according to a [report published by the Local Government and Communities committee](#).

10 June 09 [MSPs poised to pass new rape law](#) Holyrood is poised to pass new legislation to toughen up rape law in Scotland.

18 June 09 [Women, Politics and Elections](#) The European Elections from a women's perspective.

25 June 09 [Male workers win equal pay claims](#)

A "landmark" legal decision involving three councils in the north east of England could pave the way for 12,000 men to take forward equal pay claims.

04 July 09 [Lifts and Ladders](#): Resolving ethnic minority women's exclusion from power. Fawcett has published a new report on why ethnic minority women are excluded from power in the UK. [To download the report, click here.](#)
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RACE

28 May 09 [Muslims And Discrimination](#)

It is the first EU-wide [survey](#) to ask immigrant and ethnic minority groups about their experiences of discrimination and criminal victimisation in everyday life.

June 09 [Commission calls on Scotland to become fairer and more welcoming to migrants](#) The Commission in Scotland has warned that the Scotland of 2030 will not be economically or socially fit for purpose unless Scots become more fair and welcoming as a nation.

June 09 [Migration and Rural Economies: Assessing and addressing risks](#)

The project aims to shape thinking around how we conceptualise the economic impacts of migration, provide new evidence about the extent and nature of those impacts in the UK and provide new insights as to how policy might best address migration to maximise economic benefit.

08 June 09 [Statement following European Union elections](#)

EHRC statement. It is beyond party politics when for the first time, nearly a million British people voted for an organisation which will not accept many voters as members because of the colour of their skins.

16 June 09 [Woman honoured for ethnic group work](#)

Hong Kong born Monica Lee-Macpherson, who was made an MBE at the weekend for her services to Chinese people in the Highlands and Moray. Monica set up what is now known as the Scottish Highlands and Islands and Moray Chinese Association (SHIMCA).

17 June 09 [Romanians flee homes after attack](#)

A five-day-old girl is among more than 100 Romanian people who have spent the night in a church hall after fleeing their homes in south Belfast.

23 June 09 [BNP: Commission takes action over potential breach of race discrimination law](#)

The Commission has demanded that the party address potential breaches related to its constitution and membership criteria, employment practices and provision of services to the public and constituents.

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RELIGION OR BELIEF

16 June 09 [Cabinet meets faith groups](#)

The Cabinet will meet faith groups to discuss working together for strong economic recovery.

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SEXUAL ORIENTATION

01 Jun 09 [LGBT History Month bulletin](#)

The latest edition of the LGBT History Month bulletin is now available, as usual packed-full of news, information, notices of upcoming events and quotations.

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EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL

Spring 09 [Equality in Action](#) (European Commission newsletter)

Taking a look at the latest round-up of events in the field of Equality and Non-discrimination

28 April 09 [Moving faster to a more diverse judiciary](#)

Lord Chancellor Jack Straw announced the establishment of an Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity with Baroness Julia Neuberger as its Chair.

29 April 09 [Opportunity Now Awards 2009](#)

Opportunity Now runs a prestigious awards programme which recognises excellent practice in organisations working to create equal, diverse and inclusive workplaces, with a particular focus on gender.

28 May 09 [UN Report on UK's record on human rights welcomed](#)

The EHRC welcomed a UN report which finds that despite some improvements, some groups in the UK continue to experience significant inequality in wages, access to health and housing and other social services.

29 May 09 [Has a devolved Parliament addressed poverty and inequalities?](#)

Julia Unwin CBE, chief executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, will lead a conference to assess the work of the Scottish Parliament in reducing poverty and inequalities.

June 09 [Commission unveils findings of most comprehensive study into human rights in England and Wales](#)

The Commission's Human Rights Inquiry is the most comprehensive research to date into the Human Rights Act's first 10 years.

02 June 09 [Equal Opportunities Committee](#)

9th 2009 meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee.

03 June 09 [Extension of hate crime laws](#)

The Scottish Parliament backed legislation to better protect disabled people and those from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities.

9 June 09 [Equal Opportunities Committee](#)

10th Meeting, 2009, of the Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee.

10 June 09 [Sexual Offences Bill](#)

MSPs back new legislation to replace complex mix of common law and statute.

11 June 09 [Equality Duty: Consultation launched](#)

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) set out its proposals for the new single Equality Duty which will require public bodies to tackle discrimination and advance equality of opportunity, including reporting annually on their gender pay gap and considering using procurement to drive equality.

11 June – 30 Sept 09 [Equality Bill: Making it work, Policy Proposals for specific duties- a consultation](#)

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has set out its proposals with regard to the Duty and is now seeking views before proceeding further. The [consultation](#) runs until September and the GEO expects the new Equality Duty to come into force in April 2011.

13 June 09 [Commission unveils findings of study into human rights](#)

An overwhelming majority of the British people support legislation protecting their human rights and where a human rights approach is incorporated into public services both users and providers benefit, a major new Inquiry Report released by the EHRC has found.

15 June 09 [Come HOME to Refugee Week Scotland](#)

The full programme for Refugee Week Scotland 2009 launches with its biggest ever national line-up of events. Over 100 diverse arts, cultural and sporting events will take place across Scotland.

15 June 09 [Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2009](#)

The Annual Report is the record of the Commission's activities in 2008/2009. Scottish Human Rights Commission has a new [website](#).

17 June 09 [Harman: action to improve diversity in public appointments](#)

Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, will launch a new cross government drive to increase the number of women, black, Asian and minority (BAME) ethnic people and disabled people on the boards of public bodies.

18 June 09 [Commission welcomes ruling on rights of social housing tenants](#)

Many social housing tenants will now be protected by the Human Rights Act after an intervention by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in a landmark human rights case judgment at the Court of Appeal.

19 June 09 [An impressive commitment by all to Equal Opportunities for All!](#)

The Commission has adopted a communication on the implementation, the results and the overall assessment of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO).

22 June 09 [Funding programme launched for legal equality and human rights projects](#) The Equality and Human Rights Commission has launched a Strategic Funding Programme available to organisations offering legal advice on equality and human rights issues.

22 June 09 [Understanding attitudes to tackling economic inequality](#)
An exploration of the underlying 'drivers' of public attitudes towards economic inequality and welfare policy.

22 June 09 [What are the implications of attitudes to economic inequality?](#)
This collection of three Viewpoints responds to work by the Fabian Society and Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) that looks at attitudes towards economic inequality and how to tackle it, and the political debate around it.

23 June 09 [Report of the Nationwide Consultation](#)
Commission travelled the length and breadth of Scotland to consult and gather feedback on our Draft Strategic Plan.
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EVENTS

04 July 09 [Scottish Transgender Alliance Forum](#). Glasgow

09 July 09 [Hearts And Minds: Building Public Support To Tackle Poverty And Income Inequality In The UK](#) Edinburgh

15 July 09 [National LGBT Forum](#) Stirling

09 July 09 [Equal Pay: Law and Best Practice](#) London

16 July 09 [Equality and Diversity Forum conference on the Equality Bill](#)
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.

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