



MONTHLY EQUALITIES BULLETIN



EQUALITIES UPDATE: Mar 09, Issue 3/2009

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](#)

27 Feb 09 [Managing resources in later life](#)

This report explores the changing lives of older people and shows how resources are used to manage change and maintain stability.

Mar 09 [Foundation findings: drawing on experience - older women workers in Europe](#) Highlights issues relating to older women workers in Europe.

Discusses employment rates for older female workers (55-64) in Europe.

05 Mar 09 [Age campaign awaits Euro verdict](#)

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) is to rule later on whether it is legal for employers in the UK to force workers to retire at the age of 65.

05 Mar 09 [European ruling: EHRC calls it a setback for older people, employers and the economy](#) ERHC calls European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling a setback for both older people and employers..

11 Mar 09 [Plans for more young Mayors unveiled](#)

Politics is to be opened up to young people as new opportunities to become a young mayor with a real mandate and a real budget are announced.

20 Mar 09 [Age diversity can help business recover from the downturn, says EHRC](#) Employers who retain the skills and experience of older workers will be better placed to emerge from the recession say EHRC.

DISABILITY

24 Feb 09 [Councils fall short on support for disabled parents and their children, says Commission for Social Care Inspection study](#) Disabled parents and their children often receive fragmented and inadequate support, says a [new study](#) by CSCI, the social care watchdog for England.

26 Feb 09 [MSPs approve disabled parking law](#)

Legislation which will see people fined for wrongly parking in disabled bays has been passed by MSPs.

03 Mar 09 [The Impact of Disability Benefits: A feasibility study](#)

This study assesses the impact of disability benefits. It summarises the questions raised and assesses options for further investigation.

03 Mar 09 [Support for wheelchair users](#)

Services for people who use wheelchairs will now be closer to home and much more flexible, thanks to a new wheelchair [action plan](#) in Scotland.

09 Mar 09 [EHRC responds to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#). The EHRC warmly welcomes publication by the UK Government of its [Explanatory Memorandum](#) concerning ratification of the United Nations CRPD which was laid before Parliament on 3rd March 2009.

17 Mar 09 [Real help for disabled people](#)

An additional £8 million to help disabled people remain in work will be made available this year through the Access to Work programme.

18 Mar 09 [Cash boost for 20,000 blind people](#)

20,000 severely visually impaired people will be entitled to receive the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

23 Mar 09 [Launch of the Independent Living in Scotland Project](#)

The project is being hosted by the EHRC up to March 2011. It aims to build the capacity of the Independent Living Movement in Scotland to help transform the lives of disabled people. The project is backed by £372,000 from the Scottish Government.

23 Mar 2009 [High Court ruling on Direct Payments and NHS](#)

The EHRC expressed its disappointment with a High Court ruling denying people more control over their caring arrangements.

24 Mar 09 [EHRC to act on the recommendations of the Health Services Ombudsman Report](#)

The EHRC welcomed the findings and recommendations of the Health Services Ombudsman Report Six Lives: the provision of public services to people with learning disabilities.

24 Mar 09 [NHS and social services in England are failing to meet the health needs of people with learning disabilities, investigators say](#)

The Health Service and Local Government Ombudsmen said the standard of care was an "indictment of our society" after reviewing the deaths of six people.

25 Mar 09 [Sound Revision For Fort William Pupils](#)

Lochaber High School and a local dyslexia charity have joined forces to create an on-line bank of audio revision materials for pupils. Believed to be a first for Scotland, this venture blends the latest technologies with traditional methods effectively delivering revision opportunities across the curriculum.

[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.

GENDER

28 Jan 09 [Groundbreakers: Using the strength of women to rebuild the global economy](#)

Ernst & Young released a report highlighting the significant and proven contributions women make toward business and economic growth.

04 Mar 09 [Harman: Real help now for women](#)

Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, urged women to make sure that they know what extra support is available to them through the downturn, as well as what their employment rights are, as she launches a new booklet '[Real help now for women](#)'.

04 Mar 09 [EHRC ends Formal Investigation into Royal Mail Group](#)

The EHRC announced today that it has ended its Formal Investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of women employees of Royal Mail

06 Mar 09 [EHRC publishes briefing on Formal Inquiry into sex discrimination in the financial services sector](#)

The EHRC published [further information](#) on its Formal Inquiry into systematic gender bias in the financial sector.

06 March 09 [Muslim women to be trained for public office](#)

The Muslim Women's Advisory Group have today kicked off a project to get more Muslim Women involved in politics.

06 March 09 [Speaking out against violence towards women and girls](#)

The Home Secretary has launched the largest ever, cross-government public consultation on violence against women and girls. The [Together we can end violence against women and girls](#) consultation will look at how we can challenge the attitudes behind violence and help make women feel safer.

09 Mar 09 [EHRC welcomes Government plans to tackle violence against women](#) Home Secretary Jacqui Smith has launched the largest ever cross-government public consultation to tackle violence against women and girls.

09 March 09 [Violence Against Women Opinion Polling Results](#)

This report presents the results of telephone interviews with people in England and Wales regarding their opinions on violence against women.

09 March 09 [Prime Minister celebrates women's achievements](#)

The PM has celebrated International Women's Day by meeting with female community heroes from across the country.

09 Mar 09 [Time to end women's poverty:](#)

The TUC has produced a set of three posters raising awareness about women's low pay and poverty.

12 March 09 [£1bn financial time-bomb as tribunal considers 35,000 equal pay](#)

The Employment Tribunal in Scotland was presented with almost as many equal pay claims as for the whole of England and Wales

16 Mar 09 [Documenting a history of women in the army](#)

In honour of this month's celebration of International Women's Day, The National Archives highlights the records held on women in the army during the two world wars and beyond.

16 Mar 09 [Commission calls for radical equal pay reform and a new approach to closing the pay gap](#) The EHRC says Britain's outdated equal pay laws are almost exclusively reliant on individual women bringing lengthy and costly tribunal cases when they experience discrimination - a system that delivers more conflict than change.

20 Mar 09 [Statement: Commission welcomes efforts to plug funding gap for sexual violence services, but calls for long-term funding solutions](#) The EHRC responded to an announcement by Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, promising £1.6million for Rape Crisis Centres and The Survivors Trust sexual violence charities across England and Wales.

25 Mar 09 [Britain's most powerful Muslim woman named](#)

Baroness Warsi, the Conservative Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Social Action, has been named as Britain's most powerful Muslim woman.

25 Mar 09 [New survey reveals a third of working Muslim women see themselves as future chief executives](#) An Ipsos MORI survey for the EHRC about the career aspirations of Muslim women reveals an ambitious group who want to play a full part in the economic future of Britain.

26 Mar 09 [Flexible working rights go to extra 4.5 million](#) More than 10 million people will have the right to request flexible working from April 6th and government support is helping businesses get ready for the change.

27 Mar 09 [Electoral Reform Society women's newsletter](#).
International Women's Day – stories from around the World

RACE AND INTEGRATION

23 Feb 09 [Short term migration becoming the new norm](#)
Policymakers must pay greater attention to short-term migration according to a new report published by the Institute for Public Policy Research

24 Feb 09 [Government outlines new plans for achieving race equality in the UK](#) A wide-reaching consultation on improving opportunities for Black, Asian and minority ethnic people was announced by Communities Secretary Hazel Blears. A [new report](#) demonstrates progress in tackling race equality.

26 Feb 09 [Migration statistics to, from, and within Scotland](#)
The GROS provides links to estimates of migration within Scotland, between Scotland and the rest of the UK and between Scotland and overseas.

26 Feb 09 [Improving the Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils: Literature review](#) This review presents research evidence and literature from the UK over the last ten years on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and their parents, and also provides a European perspective.

Mar 09 [Managing the Impacts of Migration: Improvements and Innovations](#)
An update on the UK Government's progress on delivering against the commitments to helping communities maximise the benefits migration brings to the UK while mitigating the local impacts.

Mar 09 [What Works in Enabling Cross-Community Interactions? Perspectives policy and practice](#) This report reviews the evidence for the current state of community interaction within England, together with theoretical approaches such as 'contact theory' which can inform activities that bring individuals and groups together.

03 Mar 09 [Ethnic Minority Achievement Programme Newsletter: Spring 2009](#)
This newsletter contains examples of using talk to promote learning strategies

for the development of writing, personalisation of the curriculum to meet the needs of vulnerable black and minority ethnic pupils

08 Mar 09 [Warning over credit crunch racism](#)

Scottish Secretary Jim Murphy has warned the country not to pander to "credit crunch" racism in a speech to the Scottish Labour conference.

10 Mar 09 [Fire and Rescue Service Minority Ethnic Recruitment Targets 2013: Compared to the local minority ethnic working-age population](#). This document lists recruitment targets for the Fire and Rescue Service, focusing on the representation and promotion rates for women and people from minority ethnic groups.

10 Mar 09 [Recruiters warned over non-EEA discrimination](#)

A law firm that implemented a policy of not processing job applications from outside the EEA was guilty of indirect discrimination on grounds of nationality, an Employment Appeal Tribunal has ruled.

Mar 09 [Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review](#) This EHRC report reviews the available information about the severe inequalities that Gypsies and Travellers face in Britain today.

18 Mar 09 [Commission says little as one square mile of land would sort Gypsy and Traveller site provision](#) A [report](#) released by the EHRC says as little as one square mile of land across all of England would be enough to provide all Gypsy and Traveller families with sufficient authorised sites.

19 Mar 09 [Commission releases new reports on migration and the economy](#) Immigration has been largely beneficial to the UK's economy and has had little, or no, negative impact on the labour market, according to a major EHRC.

19 Mar 09 [Migrants to pay extra for visas](#)

Migrants and students from outside the EU are to be charged an extra £50 for UK visas to support communities to cope with migration. The £70m raised by the scheme will go towards providing more teachers, police and translators.

19 Mar 09 [Migrants 'face growing hostility'](#)

Migrants will face growing "hostility" as unemployment rises, equalities watchdog Trevor Phillips has warned.

21 Mar 09 [Racism denies fundamental right to equality, say top UN officials](#)

Top United Nations officials called for strengthening collective efforts to combat racism and work towards the goal of equality among all human beings, as they marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

[RELIGION OR BELIEF](#)

16 Mar 09 [Adoption charities must justify equality law exemption](#)

The two Catholic adoption charities appealing against the Charity Commission's decision preventing them from discriminating against homosexual parents must demonstrate that the public benefit arising from their activities is enough to justify their exemption from new equality law.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Mar 09 [Redrawing the Map – your input needed](#)

If you work for or run an LGBT group in Scotland, the Equality Network would like you to complete.

02 Mar 09 [Sexual Orientation: A practical guide for the NHS](#)

This document gives practical advice to enable NHS organisations to address their responsibilities relating to sexual orientation and employment or healthcare delivery

05 Mar 09 [MSPs back new gay hate crime law](#)

A new law to widen the definition of hate crimes to protect gay communities and disabled people has moved closer.

17 Mar 09 [Scottish Parliament to ask Scottish Government to review Marriage \(Scotland\) Act 1977](#) The Scottish Parliament Public Petitions committee have agreed that the Scottish Government should be asked to amend the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 to allow same sex couples to have a civil marriage, or a religious marriage if the relevant religious institution consents.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GENERAL

Jan 09 [Addressing inequality in apprenticeships: learners' views](#)

Presents the findings of focus group research which explored the experiences and perceptions of groups of learners underrepresented in apprenticeships as a whole or in certain sectors.

25 Feb 09 ['Poverty, inequality and policy since 1997?'](#)

This study examines the impact of policy on poverty and inequality in Britain since 1997.

Mar 09 [Ours to own: Your human rights](#)

An easy read booklet about human rights and what they mean for you.

03 Mar 09 [EHRC calls for reforms to make Parliament fit to represent modern Britain](#) Trevor Phillips, Chair of the EHRC, argues that our political institutions need radical reform or Parliament faces losing its legitimacy.

03 Mar 09 [EHRC to work in partnership with DWP to assess the impact of the recession](#) The EHRC is to work in partnership with the DWP to assess how the recession may be impacting on different groups of people, for example women, ethnic minorities and older and disabled people.

08 Mar 09 [EHRC intervenes to extend protection to armed forces](#)

The MoD will have to provide greater protection to soldiers serving overseas if a intervention by the EHRC is successful.

06 March 09 [Capturing the gains of the Public Sector Duties](#)
Organisation and Social Development consultants Ltd (OSDC) were commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland to identify case studies which demonstrate how public bodies in Scotland are meeting the Race Equality Duty and Gender Equality Duty.

10 Mar 09 [Equal Opportunities Committee](#)
Meetings of the Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee.

18 Mar 09 [Hate Crime Bill](#)
MSPs said yes in the first vote on Patrick Harvie's hate crime bill, the Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Bill.

18 Mar 09 [Equality watchdog plans to axe helpline](#)
PCS heavily criticised the EHRC recently, for ploughing on with plans to axe its Manchester based helpline and restructure the remaining helplines based in Cardiff, Birmingham and Glasgow.

23 Mar 09 [EHRC response to the publication of the Green Paper on a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities](#) The Green Paper rightly considers how the law can further safeguard individual freedom, opportunity and dignity while also promoting responsible citizenship.

EVENTS

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](#).

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

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

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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