



targeting london policy

Janice Fong
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Human Rights Inquiry Team
3 More London, Riverside
Tooley Street, London SE1 2RG

28 April 2008

Dear Janice Fong,

HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRY – RESEARCH PROJECTS

I am writing with regards to the EHRC's recent Call for Proposals for the three Research Projects that will inform the Human Rights Inquiry. We were very pleased to hear that the Commission will be investing some considerable resources into this important matter, but we are concerned with the procurement process you have adopted.

In particular, the timescales for the tendering process as well as for the delivery of the three projects are so tight that makes it almost impossible for groups and organisations in the Third Sector to participate. The Call for Proposals was made on the 21st of April and the deadline for bids is 1 May (8 working days). The draft final report for each project is 31 July.

As a BAME policy infrastructure organisation, Race On The Agenda (ROTA) is well aware that many BAME groups and organisations working in the Third Sector would be keen to bid for these project either individually or after forming consortiums with other organisations. However, we are also well aware of the time constraints put upon them by limitations in resources and staff. Therefore, we believe that as it stands the Call for Proposals is directly solely to large organisations mainly from private sector.

In December 2006, ROTA with London Voluntary Service Council, the British Institute of Human Rights and London Civic Forum carried out a consultation project on the relationship of the EHRC and the Third Sector. One of the recommendations for the Commission was to be as inclusive as possible in its procurement procedures, respecting the limitations placed upon non-profit companies and consortia. We are disappointed that this recommendation was not considered on this occasion. If you would like a copy of the consultation paper we would be glad to send you one.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Please note that we will be contacting other organisations as well as EHRC Commissioners. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Dr. Theo Gavrielides
Head of Policy