



CALL FOR EVIDENCE **Race on the Agenda**

Government Equalities Office consultation on *Equality: making it work, policy proposals for specific duties.*

Introduction

On the 11th June 2009 the Government Equalities Office (GEO) published a consultation *Equality Bill: Making it work Policy proposals for specific duties*. This document sets out the proposed changes to the duties of public authorities under the new Single Equality Bill. This is very important for BAME communities and the BAME third sector as it changes what local public services are obligated to fulfil to ensure equality for communities.

ROTA will be sending a response to this consultation on behalf of the Winning the Race Coalition, a national coalition of third sector organisations highlighting concerns with the Single Equalities Bill.

To build the response we are circulating this **CALL FOR EVIDENCE** to organisations currently working in the BAME third sector. We will use what is sent to us and our in-house expertise to produce a response that you can use to send your own response to the GEO, or you can join the Winning the Race Coalition and sign up to the **ROTA** response.

This document summarises the consultation and highlights areas of interest for BAME communities. If you would like to provide feedback we will be running targeted workshops for the third sector to gather views on the consultation. If you are interested in responding please contact Ewan Kennedy on ewan@rota.org.uk

The documents can be accessed from
http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/equality_duties.aspx .

The deadline for the consultation is Wednesday the 30th September

The Consultation

The specific duties are the obligations that will be placed on public authorities as a means to fulfil their Single Equality Duty under the Single Equalities Bill that is presently before parliament. It will require secondary legislation so this consultation will inform what that secondary legislation looks like.

Under the present Race Relations Act 2000 public authorities have specific duties that focus on a **process** to ensure all policies are delivered equally. This means they have to impact assess **all activities** for their impact on different communities, collect data on all these services to monitor their effect; consult the community, publish the results and change the policy if it is required to ensure equality. It quite specifically sets out the process public authorities should follow.

The new proposals are light touch requirements that focus on **outcomes**. They **do not specify** what activities are to be impact-assessed, monitored, and responded to, any training requirements or when and how communities should be consulted.

Instead the new proposals require public authorities to select equality objectives and ask that principles of reporting on progress and involving communities are maintained by public authorities. The key themes within the consultation are:

- Setting equality objectives
- Reporting on progress in achieving equality objectives
- Reporting important equality data in the workforce
- Demonstrating the impact on equality of policies and services
- Involvement and consultation
- Procurement
- Reporting duty on central government

Considerations

The following issues are considered by ROTA to be necessary for the success of the Single Equality Bill, and must be considered in this consultation. We are interested in your views on

- How to equality impact assess policies
- The role of equality training
- successful consulting with communities
- Ensuring equality in procurement

What to do Now

If you would like to send **ROTA** feedback on any of the issues above please email them by Thursday September 3rd 2009 to Ewan Kennedy at ewan@rota.org.uk

Or

Phone Ewan on 020 7902 1933

Or

Post to Ewan Kennedy at Race On The Agenda, Waterloo Business Centre, Unit
217 & 208, 117 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UL

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.