



Olu Alake,
EHRC, 3 More London

Dear Olu,

RE: EHRC Future Funding Programme

I am writing to express our great disappointment and concern regarding EHRC's decision to delay its next funding programme. The Black and minority ethnic (BME) Third Sector is particularly frustrated with this delay which is announced during a period of uncertainty and a challenging financial, policy and legislative environment.

Race On The Agenda (ROTA) has been a critical friend of EHRC even before its formal establishment. We have been working hard through our policy team and two regional networks (MiNet and HEAR) to increase awareness about the Commission's work and to dispel the myths that surrounded it. However, your decision to defer the new funding round leaves us completely unprepared and shocked as no consultation was carried out externally. The equality impact assessment that was carried out is still to be circulated while no genuine effort has been made to find out how multi-year projects will be affected. More importantly, the decision seems not to be Compact compliant particularly in relation to the Funding Code of Good Practice articles 7.3 and 7.4 and the BME Code of Good Practice articles 6.2 and 6.5.

ROTA is one of the funded organisations under the interim grants programme. Our hate crime project was originally funded by CRE under the Getting Results Fund. In our original application we indicated that it concerned a multi-year project which required long-term investment for its real impact to show. The project was structured in such a way that corresponded to the EHRC's priorities and long-term strategy and vision. At this late stage it is simply impossible for us to restructure the project to receive alternative funding from April. The 6 months' gap will force us to release the staff and shut down the activities losing momentum, expertise and the relationships we fought to build over the last 2 years.

Without the BME Third Sector, the EHRC simply will not be able to meet its strategic objectives and it seems that this decision, if not reconsidered, will destroy relationships and confirm our original fears. ROTA will be holding events and preparing publications on this topic targeting BME organisations, and I would be grateful for a statement at your earliest convenience. We are happy to provide you with evidence of the impact that this will have on the BME funded organisations. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Theo Gavrielides,
Chief Executive

Race on the Agenda

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