

# Equality & Diversity Update September 08



## Welcome

Welcome to the Equality and Diversity Update, the newsletter of the Regional Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity, which provides a brief update on current developments and details of forthcoming events.

## Partnership Activity Update

The Equality and Diversity Partnership met on 16<sup>th</sup> September 08. Notes from the meeting will be available shortly on our new website at [www.wmra.gov.uk](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

## The EHRC launch the Sex and Power 2008 report

The EHRC recently launched the Sex and Power 2008 report. The annual report looks at women in top positions of power and influence across the public and private sectors. This year's index suggests an overall decline in the number of women achieving top jobs in Britain with only a few significant increases.

The full report can be accessed at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>  
For further information please contact [zahid.nawaz@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:zahid.nawaz@equalityhumanrights.com)

## Diversity Week 2008

Diversity Week 2008 will be taking place at King Edward's Court, Sutton Coldfield, from 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2008. The event will demonstrate the *Seven Strands of Diversity* across the West Midlands and the benefits of employing a truly diverse workforce by putting the business case clearly and effectively, and enabling further signposting to support real future action by businesses and organisations.

For further information visit [www.diversityweek.co.uk](http://www.diversityweek.co.uk)

## CLG Faiths in Action Programme

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) will be distributing grants of up to £12,000 to groups within the Region over the next two years. The Faiths in Action programme will support opportunities within local communities for people of different religions and beliefs to develop strong and positive relationships with one another.

For further information please visit [www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk](http://www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk)

## West Midlands and UK MEPs take lead on the renewed Social Agenda

Following the publication of the European Commission's newly revised 'Social Agenda' which sets out how the Commission proposes to support citizens and Member States to tackle social inequalities by strengthening current legislation, West Midlands MEPs Philip Bushill-Matthews (Conservative) and Liz Lynne (Liberal Democrat) will be taking centre stage to negotiate successful outcomes for European citizens.

Opportunities to comment on the reports and directly influence the outcome of these proposals will shortly be publicised at [www.westmidlandsineurope.org](http://www.westmidlandsineurope.org).

## Policy briefings: A Framework for a Fairer Future – the Equality Bill

In June this year, Government published *Framework for a Fairer Future*, which sets out a programme of legislative measures for the Equality Bill. Over the coming months, Government will be taking forward a range of work needed to support the new legislation in time for the introduction of the Bill in the next Parliamentary session. HEAR, ROTA and LVSC have produced three policy briefings outlining the implications of the Bill on equality, BAME and mainstream third sector organisations, respectively.

The briefings for equality and BAME organisations are available at [www.rota.org.uk](http://www.rota.org.uk). The briefings for mainstream organisations are available at: [www.lvsc.org.uk/Templates/information.asp?NodeID=93607&i1PNID=90619](http://www.lvsc.org.uk/Templates/information.asp?NodeID=93607&i1PNID=90619)

## Human Rights Event: London, 27 October

A free one day event designed to give the Third Sector the opportunity to explore the relevance of human rights to their work is to take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October, London. The day will include a short human rights awareness-raising session by the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) and a number of consultative discussions aimed at identifying the human rights capacity building needs for the sector. Please visit [www.bihhr.co.uk](http://www.bihhr.co.uk) for more information.

## Contact

If you would like further information about the issues raised or to disseminate information through this newsletter, please contact [c.kerr@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:c.kerr@wmra.gov.uk)