

Human rights: tackling inequality and social exclusion

Awareness raising/consultation events on human rights for the third sector



- Midlands, 2nd October, Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living, Leicester
- South West, 21st October, Somerset College of Arts and Technology, Taunton
- North East and Yorkshire and Humberside, 24th October, One North East, Newcastle
- London and South East, 27th October, Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, London
- North West, 17th November, Lesbian and Gay Foundation, Manchester

Human rights – tackling inequality and social exclusion

Awareness raising/consultation events on human rights for the third sector

- **What are human rights - what do they mean for the third sector?**
- **How can human rights be used as a tool by the third sector to tackle inequality and social exclusion in our society?**
- **How can the third sector be skilled up to be able to use human rights in their work?**

BIHR, NEP and regional equality partners are organising a series of **FREE** one day regional events that are designed to give the third sector the opportunity to explore the relevance of human rights to their work. 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 of the sector. Information will also be provided on the BIHR Principles to Practice Project and the work of the National Equality Partnership.

Why these events?

BIHR and the National Equality Partnership have joined forces and with the support of regional equality networks and organisations have arranged these events for third sector representatives to:

- Be introduced to human rights and human rights based approaches (HRBAs) and their potential use within their work
- Explore the relationship between equality and human rights and have the opportunity to discuss opportunities and challenges that using human rights in their work may bring
- Identify their capacity building needs around human rights and HRBAs and how these could best be delivered
- Find out more about BIHR and its Principles to Practice programme for the third sector
- Find out more about the National Equality Partnership and its support to the third sector on equality, diversity and human rights through the Capacitybuilders national support service

- Have the opportunity to meet and network with other organisations with an interest in human rights and equalities, social exclusion and community relations in their area

Who should attend?

The event will be relevant to **regional, sub-regional and national support and umbrella bodies** that support and represent organisations that:

- Are run by and for, or provide services or advocacy and representation to, marginalised groups, including but not limited to black and minority ethnic people, deaf and disabled people, faith groups, Gypsies and Travellers, lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, migrant workers, older people, refugees and asylum seekers, transgender people, women, young people, carers and people who experience poverty
- Facilitate the participation of or are made up of groups with direct experience of discrimination

Programme	
10.00	Registration
10.30	Introduction to the context and aims of the day – regional speaker/chair
10.45	<i>Bringing rights to life</i> – an interactive session (BIHR)
11.45	Break
12.00	<i>Bringing rights to life</i> continued
12.30	Lunch
13.15	Introduction to BIHR's Principles to Practice Project and the National Equality Partnership
13.35	Consultation discussion focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relationship between human rights and equalities • Capacity building needs and priorities of the sector around human rights • Recommendations on supporting and strengthening the third sector's ability to understand and apply human rights to their work
14.35	Break
14.50	Consultation discussion continued – feedback from groups
15.45	Closing remarks and next steps
16.00	Close
	<i>Please note this programme may be subject to minor adjustments within each region.</i>

About the organisers

British Institute of Human Rights

The British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) is a national, independent, human rights voluntary organisation that is committed to challenging inequality and injustice in everyday life here in the UK. We want a society that has become stronger because all human beings are equally valued, can participate fully and are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. We aim to achieve this by *bringing human rights to life* – supporting people to use human rights principles and standards to improve their own lives and as a tool for voluntary and community organisations and the public sector to develop more effective public policy and practice.

www.bihar.org.uk

National Equality Partnership

The National Equality Partnership (NEP) is a new three-year project funded by Capacitybuilders to support the third sector on equality and diversity issues. The NEP aims to ensure that all work to address equality, diversity and human rights is done with close involvement of equalities organisations, enabling an increase in their own voice and further integration into the wider sector.

The programme is steered by a partnership of Women's Resource Centre, Voice4Change England, the Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voluntary and Community Organisations and the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA).

www.improvingsupport.org.uk/equality

Fees

There is NO FEE for attending. However, places are limited so you will need to book. Unfortunately we are unable to reimburse travel and accommodation costs.

How to book

If you would like to attend one of the events please complete the relevant booking form for your region. Booking forms are available from BIHR's website, www.bihhr.org.uk. Each form has contact details (different for each event) of where the form should be sent to/emailed. Before sending, please check that you are using the correct contact details given on the form.

Individual requirements

Please provide details of any individual requirements/special arrangements on your booking form. The venues have full disabled access and we welcome delegates with disabilities.

Regional partners

North West

Lesbian and Gay Foundation

The Lesbian & Gay Foundation is a community-based charity, working towards a world where Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual (LGB) people are free to live our life's without fear, without prejudice and without discrimination. Our mission is ending homophobia, empowering people. We provide a range of services to LGB communities and groups across the North West. Our work is delivered within four strategic programmes: services, information, advocacy and research.
www.lgf.org.uk

South West

Equality South West

Equality South West (ESW) is England's first regional cross strand equality and diversity body. We have a small team of committed professionals, based in Taunton. Set up in 2005, ESW is a registered charity with a Board of Trustees and is supported by the South West of England Regional Development Agency, Government Office for the South West and the South West Regional Assembly.

ESW's aim is to work with partners in the South West to tackle discrimination on the grounds of Age, Disability, Gender,

Race, Religion and Belief, Sexual Orientation, and Transgender. ESW supports dedicated regional networks for each of these seven strands, and also works with other groups for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Migrant Workers, and Gypsies and Travellers. We aspire to support effective, dynamic equality networks capable of representing their communities and influencing equality policy in the region and nationally.
www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk

North East

The North East Voluntary and Community Sector Equalities Coalition

The Equalities Coalition is a collection of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations with an interest in equality and diversity – the first of its kind in the country. It represents seven diversity groups: children and young people, disability and Deaf, faith, gender, older age, race and sexuality and transgender across the region. The Coalition aims to tackle discrimination by developing collaborative approaches; raising awareness; promoting equality and diversity in all regional developments; gathering evidence; and strengthening and supporting advocacy and campaigning. Our motto is nothing about us without us!

Equality North East

Equality North East is an independent, not-for-profit company that works throughout the north-east with the overriding aim of “making equality a reality.”

The organisation has been established for over ten years and during that time it has become the leading organisation in the region for information, advice, guidance, training and support pertaining to equality in the workplace. The non executive board is made up of members from the public private and voluntary sectors including organisations representing disadvantaged groups. As a partnership organisation we have access to a wide range of expertise on equality and diversity issues.

www.equality-ne.co.uk

Midlands

Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living

Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL) is the accountable body for the equality and diversity partnership – a partnership of equality organisations based within the voluntary sector who work together to promote equality issues relating to age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief and sexual orientation. As part of our role we work with the Leicester Strategic Partnership. In this capacity we are joined by representatives from the Local Authority, Leicester City PCT, and Leicestershire Constabulary. As voluntary sector members we work with and develop new resources for infrastructure groups within Leicestershire and Rutland.

We are seeking to develop this work across the East Midlands Region and to expand our membership to include other equality members in the future. We are

also actively involved in a range of partnership structures at a regional and national level on a generic and equality specific basis. This includes the National Equality Partnership, English Regions Equality Network of which we hold the position of Co-Chair and the Equality and Diversity Forum.

www.lcil.org.uk

brap

brap is Birmingham’s leading equalities and human rights charity, working locally, regionally, and nationally with individuals, communities and the organisations that serve them to turn equality into a reality.

brap works towards an inclusive and rights based approach to equality, one that recognises that we are all different, and because of this cannot easily fit ourselves into the current equality picture, which tends to see us as belonging to a particular group. brap’s cutting edge approach has seen it move away from traditional approaches to equality which promote one group’s needs over another’s. Whether it’s through our learning and development programmes, our community based work, or our nationally renowned research, brap promotes its belief that our shared future depends on us focusing on what we have in common – our humanity – and not on what divides us.

www.brap.org.uk

London and South East

RAISE

Regional Action and Involvement South East (RAISE) was established in 1999 in response to the growing importance of regional government and the need to ensure that voluntary/community organisations have the capacity and the mechanisms to influence regional policy.

RAISE exists to champion the third sector’s unique contribution to making

South East England socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

In January 2007, RAISE began to address the lack of a regional equalities network with funding support from the Government Office South East.

www.raise-networks.org.uk

HEAR

HEAR is a network of equality organisations that represent people who experience discrimination including BAME people, children and young people, disabled people, LGBT people, older people, people of particular religion or belief, refugees and migrants, and women. It also includes organisations interested in using human rights to address inequality and mainstream support organisations. It is underpinned by the belief that people who have direct experience of inequality and discrimination are best placed to develop strategies to achieve equality.

HEAR is concerned with the support available to, and issues affecting, equality organisations in the third sector. It was originally set up as the equalities and human rights sub-group of the ChangeUp London Regional Consortium to ensure issues for frontline equality organisations were included in plans to develop support for London's third sector.

www.rota.org.uk/pages/HEAR.aspx

London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC)

LVSC brings London voluntary and community sector organisations together to learn and share best practice and to create a co-ordinated voice to influence policy makers. LVSC's vision is for the voluntary and community sector to play a fully empowered and effective role in the diverse life of London.

LVSC hosts and services four networks including Third Sector Alliance, Voluntary Sector Forum, Second Tier Advisors Network and Cascade. It is from the networks that LVSC's policy work is driven. LVSC also provides HR related services such as PEACs (the Personnel Employment Advice and Conciliation service) and the BMER Outreach HR Advice and Support Project. There is also a specialist legal advisor providing legal advice on leases, licences, contracts, commercial agreements constitutions and other voluntary and community sector commercial matters. LVSC also provides up-to-date information on organisational management and funding, advice and support for voluntary and community groups, an information service and short courses for those working in the sector.

www.lvsc.org.uk

