

PREC NEWS

AUGUST 2008 ISSUE

Page 1	PREC Advice Services
Page 2	PREC AGM, Equality & Human Rights Commission – Mapping Minority Groups in Britain, UK Border Agency Reforms
Page 3	Funding Strategies Training, Double Act Celebrations
Page 4	Dosti (Friendship) Women’s Group, Festival Dates August & September 2008

PREC ADVICE SERVICES

DISCRIMINATION - YOUR PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

The race relations act protects you from racial discrimination in most (but not all) situations.

Racial Discrimination is unlawful under the Race Relations Act in the following areas:

- Employment, Education, Stop and Search, Housing, Any Public Function, Goods, Facilities & Services

If you feel you have been discriminated due to your colour, nationality, race, ethnic or national origin, Peterborough Racial Equality Council can offer advice and support regarding your legal rights.

HARASSMENT – OPEN OUT REPORTING

Peterborough Racial Equality Council is a member of the 'Open Out' Partnership which operates a scheme for the reporting of hate crimes in Peterborough. A hate crime is “any incident which is perceived to be aggravated by motives directed at a person or group of persons (or property associated with such a person or group) by reason of hatred of his or her race, religion, or lack of religion, sexual orientation or other identifiable characteristic”. Hate Crime includes:

Racial Harassment, Harassment due to Immigration Status, Harassment due to Religion or Belief

If you feel you have experienced racial harassment, Peterborough Racial Equality Council are a Reporting Centre. We can take a statement from you and forward it to the Hate Crime Co-ordinator for investigation.

IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY

Immigration and Nationality law is currently updating on a constant basis. Peterborough Racial Equality Council offer advice and application support for indefinite leave to remain, visa extensions, travel documents, residence permits, naturalisation and registration for British Citizenship.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

On Thursday 26th June 2008, we held our AGM at the Millennium Caribbean Centre. Presentation was made to our members of the Annual Report and Audit Accounts, with nominations also being made for our Executive Committee for 2008/2009. After the official business, Banner Theatre Company presented "They get free mobiles...don't they?" a thought provoking performance uncovering the myths about refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. The performance instigated a lively debate between attendees.

The event was attended by around 60 people and a superb Indian buffet was provided.

If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of our Annual Report, please get in touch.

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MAPPING MINORITY GROUPS IN BRITAIN

In order to illustrate the current diversity of different parts of the Country, the Equality and Human Rights Commission have designed an interactive map. 30 cities across Britain have been posted so far, including Peterborough, which appear as red circles. (The White British population has been excluded, as these stats would dominate the map, so obscuring the minority group data).

The map will be further developed over the next few months, adding further information and covering more areas of the UK.

To view the map go to www.equalityhumanrights.com, click on Projects and Campaigns, Modern Multiculturalism, then Mapping Minority Groups in Britain.

UK BORDER AGENCY REFORMS

2008 has seen the beginning of the biggest reform of British Immigration for 45 years.

This year, we will see the age for sponsorship for a marriage visa rise from 18 to 21 years, risk tests to aid the identification of vulnerable persons in relation to forced marriage and the reform of evidence requirements to support applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

2009 will see the major changes, including a commitment by those seeking spouse visas to learn English as part of the application process, stronger measures to revoke Indefinite Leave to Remain if there is evidence of abuse and 'earned citizenship', 3 key stages (temporary residence, probationary citizenship, british citizenship/permanent residence) of which you must demonstrate certain requirements in order to progress between them.

For further information, please go to www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/managing_borders/simplifying

FUNDING STRATEGIES FOR YOUR VOLUNTARY GROUP

As part of the Capacity Development Project at PREC, funded by the Big Lottery, we have developed some further training sessions aimed at enhancing the potential of your group or organisation.

The first session was held on 22nd July 2008, entitled 'developing your voluntary group'. The training looked at PEST and SWOT analysis of an organisation.

The next session will be on Tuesday 9th September 2008 from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm, covering funding strategies for your organisation.

If you are interested in attending this training session, please contact Theresa at the office to register your interest – 01733 554630 or theresa.prec@btconnect.com.

DOUBLE ACT CELEBRATION EVENT

As part of the National Health Service 60 year celebration, NHS Peterborough is working in partnership with Peterborough Racial Equality Council, Peterborough Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the African Caribbean Community to host the first ever Double Act Celebration Event.

The celebration will recognise and value the contribution made by members of NHS staff over the years, with a focus on BME members. The event coincides with Black History Month, so another aspect of the celebrations will be to focus on BME leaders and historical events.

The event is on Thursday 2nd October 2008, from 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm at the Reception Hall, Town Hall, Peterborough City Council.

The evening will open with a Bucks Fizz reception, followed by key speakers, including NHS BME members of staff, both local and national. They will be telling their journeys into the NHS.

Banner Theatre Group will perform Wild Geese, a song and video ballad of exile and migration. Poetry and displays focusing on Black history will also be presented.

Further entertainment will be provided with a DJ, and finally all NHS staff attending will receive a gift of appreciation for their valuable contribution to the service.

Everyone is welcome to the event, especially NHS staff past and present. If anyone would like to contribute to the celebrations, tell or submit a story or photo, this will be collated for an album to be produced after the event.

For further details or to book your tickets please contact: Geeta Pankhania, 01733 758451 or Geeta.pankhania@peterboroughpct.nhs.uk

DOSTI (FRIENDSHIP) WOMEN'S GROUP

Dosti Group is now back at Peterborough Women's Centre, with lots of new and fun activities – genealogy (family tree), healthy cookery, sewing, beauty therapy, glass painting, tai-chi and candle making to mention just a few!

Drop in every Friday from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm to take part in the wonderful activities and to make lots of new friends.

The group will start from FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 2008.

For further information please call Farah Kahn on 01733 311564 or pop in to Peterborough Women's Centre at 69-71 Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 1SY

IF YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE, ADVERT, NOTICE ETC YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDING IN OUR NEWSLETTER, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US ON THE DETAILS BELOW

FESTIVAL DATES – AUGUST 2008

6 th	The Transfiguration, Christian	10 th	Tisha B'av, Jewish
10-19 th	Farvardigan, Zoroastrian	15 th	The Assumption, Christian
16 th	Raksha Bandhan, Hindu The Night of Forgiveness (Lailat-UI- Bara), Muslim	19 th	No Ruz, Zoroastrian
24 th	Khordad Sal, Zoroastrian	28 th	Paryushan, Jain

FESTIVAL DATES – SEPTEMBER 2008

	Harvest Festival, Christian		
1 st	Installation of Sikh Scripture in Harmandir Sahib, Sikh	2 nd	Ramadan, Muslim
11 th	Ethiopian New Years Day, Rastafarian	23 rd	Shubun Ho Hi, Japanese
30 th	Navaratri/Durga Puja/Dussehra (9 nights), Hindu Rosh Hashanah, Jewish		

* Dates are subject to change