

# PREC NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE

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### 10 YEARS SINCE THE MACPHERSON REPORT

Stephen Lawrence, who would now be 34 years old, was killed in an unprovoked racist attack in April 1993. The Police investigation did not lead to any prosecutions; no one was convicted of his murder.

In 1998 after years of campaigning, Jack Straw eventually commissioned William MacPherson to undertake an inquiry.

In 1999, the MacPherson report was published, exposing the institutional racism that marred the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. 70 recommendations were given in this report, which have shaped equality in Britain today.

To mark the 10 year anniversary of the Macpherson Report, the Equality and Human Rights Commission have initiated debate around race and equality in Britain today.

Together with the Observer Magazine they have produced a special feature to mark this important anniversary – "All Together Now" a portrait of race in Britain. 10 Britons, all born in 1974, the same year as Stephen Lawrence, describe their experiences of race relations in the UK.

To see this publication and to access further information on the 10 year anniversary, go to [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com).

**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**

## **CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FAITH, CULTURE AND IDENTITY (FCI) COURSE SUCCESS IN PETERBOROUGH**

PREC is a "Learning Centre" for Cambridge University, and the first class of 8 (out of 10) students have passed successfully, with each being awarded 20 credits. The University Moderator felt that the course students had submitted some outstanding work and also commended the teaching of the course. The course is equivalent to NVQ Level 4.

The course was made possible after funding from Go East.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Course, which commences on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009, has been made possible by funding by the Cohesion Board. The FCI Course in future will be sponsored by the Faculty of Divinity.

Anyone with any interest, please contact MJ on 01733 554630 or by e-mail [mj.prec@live.co.uk](mailto:mj.prec@live.co.uk). Alternatively, contact Roger Ali by e-mail [rogerali@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerali@btinternet.com)

Also being explored is an Oral History course, which, like the FCI course, is also recognised at NVQ Level 4. Discussions are being held with the African Caribbean Forum for joint sponsorship of the course.

It is hoped that this course will be part of the Faculty of Social Anthropology. Course content and starting dates have not been finalised, but some 25 people have already expressed an interest.

For further information, contact Roger Ali in the first instance (details as above).

## **VISIT BY GERMAN STUDENTS**

Over 60 German students from the Black Forest area, came to Peterborough and had discussions with PREC and representatives from the Faizan-e-Madina Mosque on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

They all study A Level English in Germany and have been coming to Peterborough for over 3 years now. It is hoped that in the next year or two, a group of Peterborough students can go across and spend 3 or 4 days over in Germany and build links with young people from other EU countries.

For further information, please contact MJ on 01733 554630 or [mj.prec@live.co.uk](mailto:mj.prec@live.co.uk).

## **CHIEF CONSTABLE DISCUSSION ON MIGRATION**

The Chief Constable, Mrs Julie Spence, is coming to Peterborough to discuss "A10 (East European) migration to Peterborough and its impact on community cohesion and police resources".

***The meeting will be held at The City Club, 21 Priestgate, PE1 1JL between 4 pm and 6 pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.***

The meeting is jointly organised between the GPP's Cohesion Board and PREC. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting organised by PREC, the 1<sup>st</sup> being the meeting on Immigration issues, led by the Chief Executive of the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS).

For further information on this event, please contact MJ on 01733 554630 or [mj.prec@live.co.uk](mailto:mj.prec@live.co.uk).



# PCVS Small Group Drop In

*A monthly Drop-In Session for Small Groups and  
Active Community Workers*

**A**ccess group support..

**C**ollective problem solving..

**T**ogether we stand..

**I**nformative group discussions..

**O**pen to All..

**N**ext move?..

**... Join Us!**

**First Wednesday of every month – 1pm to 3pm  
NO BOOKING NECESSARY, ALL WELCOME,  
TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE**

## **ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN COUNCILLORS' TASKFORCE**

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women are under-represented in the democratic life of this country. Currently, only 2 women MP's come from a minority ethnic background.

To address this situation, the cross party BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Women Councillors' Taskforce has been set up. It will aim to make local Council's more representative of the community. Under the leadership of Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green – the first Bengali woman Councillor to be elected to a local Council in the UK and the first woman Muslim member of the House of Lords, the Taskforce will explore and develop practical ways to encourage BAME women to become Councillors' and champions of their communities.

The Taskforce was officially launched in May 2008 and have been holding a series of events to attract and engage women since then.

An outreach event is currently being organised for the East of England led by Councillor Sherma Baston. For further information on this event and/or the project, contact [womencouncillorstaskforce@geo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:womencouncillorstaskforce@geo.gsi.gov.uk)

## **EVENING OF EUROPEAN THEATRE**

European Theatre Company, New International Encounter (NIE), will be bringing their professional international award winning show to Gladstone Park Community Centre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 from 7.00 pm.

Using a six-piece band, multiple languages and an array of theatrical styles from clowning to high tragedy, NIE will present their epic new show "The End of Everything Ever". Agata is 6 years old, she is going to the train station with her father. Everyone seems happy enough, but she has a strange feeling she will never see her father again. On the train, tired and hungry she absent-mindedly chews on the paper name and address tag tied around her neck, erasing any chance of getting back home again.

Drawing on true stories and accounts of the Kindertransport (used to take children from Nazi Germany to the UK), NIE shine a light into some of our continents darkest history and emerge with a story of survival and hope.

The show lasts around an hour and 15 minutes, followed by an hour of live music and a chance for people to bring along their own instruments and songs to share in an open music session.

Tickets are £2.00 and are available from Gladstone Connect on 01733 892229 or NIE on 01223 403343.

## PREC NEWS ROUNDUP

- **Darran Partridge** is a volunteer who specialises in employment casework. He works mainly on Thursdays and can be contacted on [darran.prec@btconnect.com](mailto:darran.prec@btconnect.com) or 07515850183
- **Umay Kalsoom** works as a caseworker for a mere one day a week – she is studying law in London at the same time. An all-rounder, her speciality is non-employment cases and she can be contacted on [umay.prec@btconnect.com](mailto:umay.prec@btconnect.com) or on 07515850184
- Cliff Walker (PREC Chair), will be replacing Maheeb Ladha (PREC Director) as PREC's representative on the **GPP Board**, so that the Director can concentrate on the Partnerships' work and the Chair on the Board's meetings.
- **Richard Howitt**, the Vice Chair of the European Parliament's Human Rights Committee, has been invited to speak at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PREC public meeting. It is hoped that he will be able to come to Peterborough in either April or May 2009.
- **PREC's Casework** continues to grow, and the employment casework alone has gone to over a 100 cases since April 2008; PREC's SLA with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is for 40!!
- An independent assessment was recently concluded of the **Peterborough Race Equality Network (PREN)**; there was strong support for involvement in the PREN and a programme of work is being devised to involve all communities and to advise on some key issues to target. A proposed meeting on human rights is part of the information from the consultations undertaken.
- **Unity Peacemakers** is part of the Peterborough Youth Project (PYP), and has been funded by PREC through a grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for the past 3 years. From this funding, a stunning website is being created, which will enable Unity and the PYP to publicise their work, such as the *Unity presentation to the OFSTED* as part of the cohesion assessment.

Ofsted were impressed enough to recommend that Unity be put forward by Peterborough as a form of good practice. The project, filmed last year as one of the highlights for EHRC funding, is to be again included this year in the Commission's database of excellent practice.

However, despite its fine work, the EHRC will now not be able to fund Unity until October because of savings it says it needs to make. So if anyone has any spare funding despite the serious recession, please make contact!!

## PREC ADVICE SERVICES

Peterborough Racial Equality Council offer a number of advice and support services as detailed below:

### IMMIGRATION, EEA & NATIONALITY

Immigration, EEA and Nationality law is currently updating on a constant basis, so it is more important than ever to gain timely and correct advice.

We can provide general advice and/or process applications for indefinite leave to remain, visa extensions, British citizenship, EEA residence documents and the new points based system.

### RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Racial discrimination is unlawful under the Race Relations Act, we can provide free advice and initial application support for cases, up to employment tribunal/county court. Areas we can support are within 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, we can advise you.

### HARASSMENT – OPEN OUT REPORTING

We are a member of the 'Open Out' Partnership which operates a scheme for the reporting of hate crimes in Peterborough.

Hate Crime includes racial harassment, harassment due to immigration status or harassment due to religion or belief.

We are a reporting centre for the 'Open Out' Partnership and offer our support in taking statements from victims and assisting incident investigation.

**All of our services are confidential, free of charge and above all here to help**

## FESTIVAL DATES – FEBRUARY 2009

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Candlemas, Christian	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Setsubun/Bean Japanese Scattering,
8 <sup>th</sup>	Parinirvana – Nirvana Day, Buddhist	9 <sup>th</sup>	Tu B'Shevat, Jewish Tengh Chieh, Chinese
15 <sup>th</sup>	Nirvana Day (Alternative Date), Buddhist	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mahashivratri, Hindu
24 <sup>th</sup>	Shrove Tuesday, Christian	25 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday, Christian 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Lent, Christian

## FESTIVAL DATES – MARCH 2009

1 <sup>st</sup>	S <sup>t</sup> David's Day, Welsh	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Lent, Orthodox
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hanamatsuri, Buddhist	6 <sup>th</sup>	Women's World Day of Prayer, Christian
9 <sup>th</sup>	The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday, Muslim	10 <sup>th</sup>	Purim, Jewish
11 <sup>th</sup>	Magha Puja, Buddhist Holi, Hindu Hola Mahalla/Mohalla, Sikh	17 <sup>th</sup>	S <sup>t</sup> Patricks Day, Irish
21 <sup>st</sup>	Naw Ruz, Baha'i Shunbun No Hi, Japanese Jamshedi Noruz, Zoroastrian	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mothering Sunday, Christian
25 <sup>th</sup>	The Annunciation of the Lord/Blessed Virgin, Christian	26 <sup>th</sup>	Khordad Sal, Zoroastrian

\* Dates are subject to change