



**FEBRUARY
2010**

PREC NEWS

PREC works with individuals & organisations for a fair & just society which celebrates diversity & gives everyone an equal chance to work, learn & live free from Discrimination

EASTERN EUROPEAN MIGRANT EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS REVIEWED

The Equality & Human Rights Commission has published a comprehensive report looking at the skills and employment patterns of Britain's Eastern European migrants.

The report found that as a group, Eastern Europeans are primarily working in low skilled, low paid employment. Despite on average having higher education attainment levels than local employees, Eastern Europeans earn around 12.5 % less than British born workers. They do however, enjoy a significantly lower rate of unemployment compared to British born workers and their use of the welfare system is less than half that of British born residents.

It has also come to light, that Eastern Europeans do find it challenging to progress in their careers, this is due to many not having the language skills required by employers.

The report states, of the 1.5 million people who came to the UK from the 'new' European countries, almost half have now left the UK. The number of Eastern European migrants coming to the UK has dropped by more than 60% in the past 3 years.

For further reading of the report, please go to www.equalityhumanrights.com

PRISONER FAMILIES FUN DAYS

The following creative, fun days will be held from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm at Peterborough Womens Centre for family members of those in prison:

Saturday 6th March – Mothers day themed crafts
Saturday 3rd April – Easter themed crafts & events

For further information, contact claudia@peterboroughwomenscentre.org.uk or telephone her on 311564.

REFUGEE COUNCIL RESEARCH CHANCE OR CHOICE

The Refugee Council commissioned Chance or Choice, a major independent research study to investigate the decisions made by asylum seekers who come to the UK and exploring the extent to which these decisions are a reflection of chance or choice. The research draws on in depth interviews with asylum seekers and refugees.

The research was carried out by Professor Heaven Crawley of Swansea University and findings include:

- Most asylum seekers had been in fear of their lives in their home countries, with over two thirds not specifically choosing to come to the UK. Most only discover they are going to the UK after leaving their country of origin.
- There is no evidence that asylum seekers come to the UK because of access to welfare or work. Three quarters had no expectation of receiving support.
- Amongst those who did specifically choose to come to the UK, the most important factors were the presence of family and friends and a belief that their human rights would be respected.

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk, click on policy & research to access the report in full.

PARCA FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

PARCA (Poor African Refugee Community Association) are currently offering FREE computer classes. They will be held at Unity Hall, Northfield Road, Peterborough as follows:

Thursday – 9am to 12 pm

Friday – 10am to 1pm

Friday 2pm to 5pm

For further information please call 565155.

LIBERTY HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WHATS NOT TO LOVE

Liberty's campaign – common values – aims to increase understanding and respect for human rights, countering the damaging myths about the human rights act.

Common values, common sense - Life, liberty, free speech, personal privacy, fair trials, no torture... Liberty have designed an interactive microsite to help you find out all there is to love about the Human Rights Act. The site hosts a short film, case studies, gets 'inside' the act, with material & resources. Go to www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk or direct to the microsite, www.commonvalues.org.uk

AN ANATOMY OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN THE UK

The independent National Equality Panel was set up in October 2008 at the invitation of the Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman MP, Minister for Women and Equality.

The Panel was asked to investigate the relationships between the distributions of various kinds of economic outcome on the one hand and people's characteristics and circumstances on the other.

The National Equality Panel have now produced and published their report, this can be found at www.equalities.gov.uk.

Some key report findings:

- Identifies concern with regard to the deteriorating position through secondary school of low income males from White British and Black Caribbean backgrounds
- Highlights the overall economic position of the Gypsy and Traveller communities as very poor, with educational achievement of children from Gypsy and Traveller communities being highlighted as very troubling
- Confirms there still appears to be straightforward discrimination in recruitment affecting minority ethnic groups and disabled people, particularly in the private sector

EMPLOYERS SURVEY

The East of England is one of the most vibrant, inclusive and rapidly changing areas of the UK. What role do employers in the region play in promoting equality and diversity?

MENTER (Minority Ethnic Network for The Eastern Region) invite you to participate in a short survey of employers operating in the private, public and the third sector, in order to find out more about the current equality practice in the East of England Region.

It is hoping to identify the importance employers place on equality, whether employers have found particular policies or practice that work well and the business benefits of good equality practice.

By completing this survey you will shape future services and employment practice in the region, which will bring benefits to your customers/beneficiaries as well as the people you employ.

The survey will take less than ten minutes to complete and on doing so, you will be entered in to a prize draw. £100 will be given to a winner in each of the 3 sectors – private, public and third. To access the survey please click on the link below:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1cB_2fJ_2bVfrUFdERNkg4YEmA_3d_3d

For further information contact MENTER on 01223 355034, e-mail office@menter.org.uk or at www.menter.org.uk

ANNUAL STUDENT VISIT

A group of 40+ German students, all studying A Level English, made an annual trip to Peterborough organised by their teacher Heike Janowski from 22nd to 26th January 2010.

During this short visit, PREC presented an informal discussion on the state of race relations in the city, as well as around the UK, the students visited Arthur Mellows School and the Faizan-e-Madina Mosque.

The Mayor, Irene Walsh later received the students, giving them a tour and history of the Parlour and Council Chambers.

With the help of the British Council and Foreign Office, more enduring links between the young people from Germany and Peterborough are now being explored.

STOP & SEARCH 2ND FREE-D HELD

The 2nd in the series of free discussions was held on 25th January 2010 at Jack Hunt School.

Chief Superintendent Andy Hebb, supported by Chief Inspector Kevin Vanterpool and Inspector Louise Angel, explained the reasoning around stop and search operations and the number of people involved.

Details of the next free discussion will be provided on our website, www.prec.org.uk, which also holds Policy Issue Reports from the first 2 discussions – Foreign Policy and Stop & Search.

An article on the 1st Free-D discussion, foreign policy, can be found in the Source interactive magazine produced by UK Youth. Go to www.ukyouth.org to take a look.

HATE CRIME – PREC TAKES THE LEAD

PREC is the new lead on the Hate Crime Task & Finish Group which meets monthly. The Groups draft priorities include:

1. Case Review Group membership, case reviews, quality of information available from the Police on Hate Crime cases & recruitment of 'community scrutineers' for Case Review Group meetings or creation of a community confidence scrutiny group
2. Taxi drivers advocacy
3. Support for recent arrivals to the city
4. Hate crime database/super outputs/hotspots
5. Hate crime returns from schools & training for schools on reporting of hate crimes

For further information, please contact MJ at PREC on 554630 or mj@prec.org.uk

SINGLE EQUALITY BILL (SEB)

The single equality bill is currently going through parliament.

Last year, the Government Equality Office (GEO) claimed it was consulting widely on how equality impact assessments should be conducted in the future, as part of the SEB.

This whole exercise has now been condemned as an expensive and useless farce. Despite almost unanimous views that the proposals were inadequate and over 100 submissions contrary to its view, the GEO gave a two paragraph response, confirming that its own views should stand!!.

The dismissive way in which the Government have conducted the consultations, has meant a number of BME organisations initiating a campaign to oppose what has been done. PREC forwarded a detailed response to the consultation and are in support of the opposition.

FESTIVAL DATES

FEBRUARY 2010

2nd	Candlemas, Christian
3rd	Setsubun/Bean Scattering, Japanese
8th	Parinirvana, Buddhist
12th	Mahashivratri, Hindu
14th	Yuan Tan, Chinese Losar, Buddhist
16th	Shrove Tuesday, Christian
17th	Ash Wednesday, Christian First Day of Lent, Christian
19th	Vasant Panchami/Saraswati Puja, Hindu
26th	The Prophet Muhammed's Birthday, Sunni Muslim
28th	Purim, Jewish Teng Chieh, Chinese Magha Puja, Buddhist

MARCH 2010

1st	St David's Day, Wales Holi, Hindu
2nd	Hola Mahalla/Mohalla, Sikh
3rd	The Prophet Muhammed's Brithday, Shi'a Muslim
5th	Women's World Day of Prayer, Christian
14th	Mothering Sunday, UK
17th	St Patrick's Day, Ireland
21st	Naw-Ruz, Baha'i Jamshedi Noruz, Zoroastrian Shunbun No Hi, Japanese
24th	Rama Navami, Hindu
25th	The Annunciation of the Lord/Blessed Virgin, Christian
26th	Khordad Zal, Zoroastrian
28th	Palm Sunday (Start of Holy Week), Christian
28-29th	Mahavira Jayanti, Jain
29-30th	Hanuman Jayanti, Hindu
30th	April Passover/Pesach, Jewish

IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER (APRIL 2010), PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE BY 28.03.10 WITH DETAILS