

## Community Talk held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 in Douglas Community Centre, Dundee



### Aims:

- To find out all sorts of discrimination and inequalities in accessing services and better ways to implement integration and equal opportunities ideas?
- To raise awareness of the need and aspiration of members of the wider community?

### Speakers:

Susan Gunn, Equality and Diversity Team Leader, Communities Department, Dundee City Council;

Ina Paton, Chairperson, Kidi Care, Dundee

David McRitchie, Centre for Study and Research (CFSR), Dundee

Iqbal Mostafa, Centre for Study and Research (CFSR), Dundee

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People from the local community heard speakers discuss community problems and their solutions with special reference to community cohesion and integration, and equal opportunities. The speakers and the participants have agreed.

In our communities today there are many very clear and significant indications of the inequalities, discrimination and racial disharmony that can arise out of class, gender, ethnic differences or problems relating to assimilation and integration; or for a variety of other reasons. Whatever the reason may be, there is no easy way of dealing with all these problems in our communities [society]; but one thing is certain, that these problems hinder equality of opportunity, good relations between racial groups and the future of the development of dynamic, inclusive communities.

What we have achieved through community talk is an encouragement to develop a shared vision by recognising the fact that equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination is a fundamental right. We have also recognised that fact that integration is seen as an equal opportunity.

Through the talk, we asked the employer, service provider, partnership organisations, and community activists to understand their role in promoting racial harmony and equality. This places a heavy burden on them as well as individuals everywhere to create positive relationships between communities and people of different cultures, backgrounds, and institutions. The talk suggested the following that encourages different cultural, linguistic or religious groups to accepting each other.

Harmony through Dialogue  
Strong sense of equality and fairness  
Identity  
Positive action for intrusive behaviour towards minority ethnic communities  
Freedom of speech  
Role of Media  
Observing Gender Equality Duty (GED)  
Maintaining community

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\* The outcome of this event produced hypotheses that were tested in our study and research and the results were used in our journal and the book published recently. To find out more about this report please read the CFSR Journal (Vol.1, No. 2, September - October 2007) and the book "Breaking Down the barriers - harmony, integration and equal opportunities" (enclosed herewith).



\*\* Please turn over for newspaper coverage on this trip