

## Community Talk held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in Whitfield Activity Complex, 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;

Brian, Councillor, Dundee North, Dundee

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

Ismat Chowdhury, Centre for Study and Research (CFSR), Dundee

Romans Prosins, Centre for Study and Research (CFSR), Dundee

Guests heard speakers discuss key terms such as *equality practice, anti-discriminatory practice, anti-bias practice or curriculum, inclusion or social inclusion, race, racial equality, racism, racial discrimination, ethnic group, minority ethnic group, black and minority ethnic group, culture, cultural identity, national characteristics and culture, cultural diversity, faith / religion, anti-semitism, sectarianism, anti-sectarianism, sex / sexual differences, gender, gender stereotyping, sexism, sexual orientation, and disability*. Speakers described the duties and roles of community, voluntary, public and private organisations in promoting equal opportunities. People What we had heard from the Talk was that problems of integration and equal opportunities vary significantly from one group to the next but almost all groups have some basic problems in common:

- a. Language difficulties
- b. Financial difficulties
- c. Housing problems
- d. Feeling like they don't belong

What we have learnt is that problems of the above nature could be solved by

- understanding and accepting people's differences
- working together to build a community based on mutual acceptance understanding, responsibility and co-operation. It is this that gives people a sense of 'belonging', no matter where they might originate from.
- truly caring about each other as fellow human beings!
- developing a strong sense of equality and fairness
- Developing Language Skills and sensitivity
- Increased participation and representation
- building bridges
- Observing Gender Equality Duty (GED)
- Maintaining community



\* 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