



Race for Justice

Campaign Overview

Race for Justice – what’s it all about?

Race for Justice is a campaign to raise awareness of the inequalities faced by black and minority ethnic (BME) men, women and young people within the criminal justice system (CJS) – and take steps to tackle these. A key element of the campaign is to promote the positive role to be played by the voluntary and community sector within the CJS.

The campaign will formally launch on 17 November 2008.

Who is behind the campaign?

Race for Justice was set up by **Clinks** and the **National Body of Black Prisoner Support Groups (NBBPSG)**, with support from **Nacro** and a coalition of voluntary sector organisations. It is funded by the **Baring Foundation**.

Aims and objectives

The campaign aims to put the issue of racial inequality and disproportionality in the CJS onto the national agenda, with politicians, civil servants, the media and others with influence.

The overall aim of the campaign is to end the inequalities faced by BME communities within the CJS.

This is a very big aim, which needs to be broken down into a number of smaller objectives. In order to end inequalities, we must first raise awareness of these inequalities; key to the campaign is the role of voluntary and community-based organisations, which contribute to the delivery of CJS services as well as the prevention of crime and rehabilitation. Other voluntary organisations also have a part to play through the delivery of health, housing, education and employment services to BME communities.

Campaign objectives related to the voluntary and community sector include:

- To build a coalition of more than 100 voluntary groups that support 10,000 BME offenders and make a difference in local communities
- To support and promote local voluntary groups campaigning for change
- To highlight initiatives that can and are making a difference.

Other campaign objectives include:

- To distribute a report, which highlights the problem, identifies what need to happen and shows how the voluntary and community sector can make a positive difference
- To publish a manifesto for action, outlining steps that can be taken to reduce the disproportionality in the CJS
- To conduct and publish research highlighting the first hand experience of the CJS among BME groups.

What is the campaign doing?

We need to reach out to people who can help to bring about greater equality within the criminal justice system. To do this, we are contacting and meeting with:

- Policy makers and politicians
- Those who commission and fund criminal justice services, locally, regionally and nationally
- Organisations and individuals with responsibility and influence within the criminal justice system
- BME community groups and individuals
- The media.

Among the activities taking place to support this work are:

- Development of a website encouraging organisations to sign up and support the campaign – www.raceforjustice.net
- A regular e-newsletter for campaign supporters
- A report, which will highlight the reality behind the statistics
- A manifesto for action
- Research, which will highlight the real life experiences of BME men, women and young people within the CJS.

What can I do?

This campaign pack is designed to support voluntary and community groups in setting up local activity to highlight the issues raised by the campaign. Take some time to look through the fact sheets, which suggest a number of ideas and possibilities for you to promote the campaign in your community. Use what is useful and work with your own contacts and networks to help raise the issues at a local and regional level.