

Update on race & refugee work for COSLA  
13 May 2008

### Funding

Funding of around £2 million per year will be made available through the Race, Religion and Refugee integration funding stream covering the period 2008-11. This Scottish Government programme is designed to improve the lives of minority ethnic and faith communities in Scotland, including refugees and asylum seekers as well as migrant workers and Gypsies/Travellers.

Expect the successful projects to be announced at the beginning of June.

### Policy

We are committed to driving forward work on race equality and to tackling racism. We will be outlining our priorities, plans and funding decisions for race equality, refugee integration and religion/faith within the next two months.

Our future work will be informed by the extensive considerations given to the issues raised by;

- the four strategic groups – the Refugee Integration Forum, the Ethnic Minority and the Labour Market group, rural areas, group and the Gypsy/Traveller group;
- ongoing dialogue with stakeholders; and
- the findings of the Equal Opportunities Committee inquiry on Gypsy/Travellers.

However our plans will also reflect the new and emerging issues which provide a different context for our work.

### Refugees

Since the end of 2006, when the Scottish Refugee Integration Forum action plan was signed off by the members of the forum, the position regarding asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland has moved on and several of the key issues identified have already been progressed. The Action plan will be updated to reflect this and will be made publicly available.

## Ethnicity classification

Scotland's ethnic groups will be better understood and supported by a new way of recording ethnicity in Scottish official statistics. If Parliament agrees, this will also be used in the next Census in 2011.

Scotland's Chief Statistician and the Registrar General for Scotland will very shortly be publishing a report on Scotland's new official ethnicity classification.

The new classification will build a more accurate picture of Scotland's population and identify discrimination when used with other Census and survey questions.

## One Scotland

**One Scotland** campaign first launched in September 2002. The campaign is researched after each wave of advertising to evaluate awareness, recall, reaction, and to provide an indication of attitudinal and behavioural change.

The campaign is just one part of the Scottish Government's strategy to tackle racism. Underpinning the advertising and media presentations, are a range of activities across policy areas of direct relevance to people's daily lives – health, justice, education, housing, and regeneration

SNP manifesto commitment to continue with and develop Campaign. There was some One Scotland TV, radio, and outdoor advertising activity in the run up to, and for a short while after, St Andrew's Day in support of national celebrations. In addition, there was supporting editorial features including in the Daily Record, the Big Issue, and the Sunday Herald's Fresh supplement for young people. Also some activity around Burns' Night.

This is a natural point in time to consider changing issues in Scottish society and how the campaign can best reflect these. Development work has now begun on the next phase of the campaign.

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