



EQUALITIES

**The National Council of Disabled People and Carers
From Black & Minority Ethnic Communities**

**F.A.O.
Ian Coates
Prime Ministers Strategy Unit**

Regarding the Analytical Report – Improving The Life Chances of Disabled People

Dear Ian

Firstly, I am writing to introduce myself to you, and the Strategy Unit. I am the Chief Executive of EQUALITIES, and am also an Advisor on the DEAC BMEC Capacity Building Project.

Through my position, as Advisor I was fortunate enough to have had an insight into the above report.

As the Chief Executive of the Only National Council of Disabled People and Carers from BME Communities, I did not receive a copy and therefore was unable to respond. I do so now in that role.

I am first and foremost concerned that the document may not have been circulated wide enough in order to consult BME Disabled People/Peoples Organisation, to enable the Strategy Units report to reflect the REAL ISSUES AND BARRIERS faced by those communities.

As the National Council, we were certainly never consulted on, and I am not aware of feedback from other BME Disabled Peoples organisations which has been included, and what processes were used to inform them of this massive piece of work, which will directly affect their lives in some way or another.

I notice that the organisations who were consulted on are, the usual suspects, Larger White led Disabled Peoples organisations, who so so very often, speak on our behalf. Many BME Organisations do not seem to attain the same kind of contact, communication and partnership circles, as these larger organisations. This in itself, at the onset, serves as a barrier to Bme Disabled People.

EQUALITIES has been working with, and continues to have close and developing partnerships with the DOH, SCOPE, DRC, NCIL and the CRE, however none have liased or consulted us, directly on the Report. This is quite a common feature for bme organisations, however as we work so closely with these partners, we would have expected to be consulted upon. It is therefore imperative that the SU does not rely solely on larger more established organisations to feedback, and be consulted on, upon

issues pertaining to Disabled People from BME Communities, and expect to gain more of an insight, reflecting the broader views and barriers.

We are currently working with the DRC on various areas of work pertaining to bme disabled people, and they too recognise that they also have a long way to go, in getting it right. They as well as our other named partners, do accept that we (EQUALITIES) are key stakeholders and therefore need to be accepted as such. The work continues to develop in this area.

What is missing in the report is the sense of action planning and clear developmental areas of legislation, which incorporates, CLEARLY Race and Disability Discrimination, and the governments commitment to carrying this through..... It would be fantastic if there were a Race and Disability Discrimination Act 2005!!

The Quality of Life, Well Being and Equality of Opportunity for BME Disabled People is questionable. All areas of their lives Health, Housing, employment, Social Well being, academic attainment, suffer from the inequalities of equal service provision and an understanding of culturally aware/sensitive service delivery, across the country.

I believe the Government is trying very hard to pull together the broad level of issues faced by disabled people, however I do believe a lot more strategic and specific work needs to be had surrounding the areas, you know less about (p.19), and therefore a program needs to be put in place to carry this forward.

I would very much value the opportunity to meet with you to discuss all areas of the report I believe need to be revisited in order to firm up on areas which seem to exclude bme disabled people, instead of what it is striving to do.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Many Kind Regards

Julie-Jaye Charles
Chief Executive