



**Ethnic Minority
Employment Task Force**

Newsletter 1

January 2



Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force newsletter. Its aim is to keep members informed on the activities of the Task Force between meetings, and raise issues of interest. I am also pleased to welcome Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Olympics and London, Barbara Follett MP and Sir Michael Rake, Chair of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to the Task Force membership.

Key Statistics

The latest Labour Force Survey analysis (3rd Quarter, 2007) shows that, since the 2005 base line,

- The ethnic minority employment rate is 61.6%, up by 3.0 percentage points. This represents around 118,000 more people from ethnic minorities in work.
- The ethnic minority employment rate gap against the Great Britain rate is 13.2 percentage points, a decrease of 2.8 percentage points. This makes it the smallest employment rate gap for nearly twenty years.
- The inactivity rate for ethnic minorities has fallen by 3.9 percentage points, to 31.0%.
- London has seen the largest increase in EM employment at 4.2% points and the Muslim employment rate has also increased by 3.6% points.

New Initiatives and Publications

- The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) document was published on the 30th November. WNF is a £1.5 billion fund, resourced jointly by DWP and DCLG, and will be allocated over three years. A central aim of the fund is to tackle worklessness: it will cover over half of all workless ethnic minorities.
- The Command Paper, 'Ready for Work: Full Employment in Our Generation', was published on the 13th December. As well as WNF, we have announced the extension of the Partners' Outreach for Ethnic Minorities (POEM) fund by another year.
- Two DVDs were launched jointly by DWP and King's College, London, on the 26th November, following the report, **Talk on trial: Job interviews, language and ethnicity**. The study established that ethnic minority candidates are systematically disadvantaged in interviews. The DVDs respond to some of its findings, and serve as a learning/teaching resource to help jobseekers and interviews get the most out of job interviews. The report can be accessed at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep344.pdf>.
- The Scottish Centre for Social Research has produced an interesting report investigating the kinds of discriminatory attitudes held against different social groups. Strikingly, the majority of people (65%) said that Scotland should, "do everything it can to get rid of all kinds of prejudice". The report can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/205755/0054714.pdf>.

Forward Look

- The DWP research report, the Business Case for Diversity and Econometric Approach will be published in the Spring.
- A follow-up to 'Talk on Trial', '**Talk Like a Manager': Examining Promotion Interview Practices**' is due in early 2008.