

"CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COHESION: THE BIRMINGHAM EXPERIENCE"

- 10.00 a.m. Welcome Remarks by Bhai Mohinder Singh Ji
- 10.05 a.m. Introduction: Key points on SHRG Views
about Cultural Diversity and Community Cohesion
- 10.20 – 11.40 **Community Panel: What are the Issues?**
Chair
Representative from Sikh community Bhai Mohinder Singh
Representative from muslim community Tahir Alam
Representative from Hindu community Mr Sharma
Representative from afro-carribean community to be announced
- 11:40 – 11:50 Tea Break
- 11.50 – 12.50 **Law, Public Policy and Cultural Diversity**
A Critical View of Government's Community Cohesion Initiative
Aftab Ahmad, Community Cohesion Unit, The Home Office
Faraz Yusufzai young citizens
Jasdev S Rai SHRG
- 12.50 – 13.50 Lunch Break
- 13.50 – 14:50 **Participation, Consultation and Decision-Making:**
Link Between Government and Local Communities
MP from Midlands
Councillor Joshan
Derek Campbell , Sandwell Race Equality Unit
- 14.50 – 15.00 Tea Break
- 15.00 – 16.00 **Institutions and Diversity: Police, Media and Education**
Policing in Birmingham
Chief Inspector Roger Patrick

Education
Chris Palmer Director Education Strategy Birmingham

Media`
Gurdeep Kaur Sikh Times
- 16.00 – 16.30 Community Panel Discussion
- 16.30 - 16.45 Closing Remarks Bhai Mohinder Singh

Community Panel Sessions

Members from different communities in Birmingham. In the beginning of the conference the community panel will raise and discuss key issues that arise in various communities in relation to cultural diversity – Is it reflected in public policy? What can we do to make sure that it is respected and promoted? Are communities aware of the Home Office's community cohesion policy? At the end of the conference, the conference will invite panel members to discuss the proceedings of the day in relation to the issues raised in the first session and identify action points. Members from black and ethnic minority communities and young people who represent or promote their communities in some way, have been invited to these sessions. The second session will invite panel members to discuss the proceedings of the day in relation to the issues raised in the first session and identify action points.

Law, Public Policy and Cultural Diversity

This session will discuss the importance of law and public policy to address racial discrimination and to promote cultural diversity. It will explore the notions of cultural diversity in public policy and examine to what extent these are based on equality. The successes and failures and the impact of public policy on the lives of those affected by racial discrimination will be discussed. It will examine analytically the policies of the government.

Participation, Consultation and Decision-Making: Link between Government and local communities

The current Labour Government emphasises the importance of community consultation in local and national governmental decision making processes and to promote community cohesion. This session will examine the Government's policy approach and methods of consultation with 'ethnic minority' communities and the impact. It will discuss the nature of contribution this has made on promoting cultural diversity.

Institutions and Diversity: Police and Security, Media and Education

'Promoting diversity' is now a commonly applied phrase by public institutions. But how is diversity understood in major public institutions? Are institutions involved in promoting cultural diversity making any impact? By looking at institutions in three key service areas, this session will examine institutional response to diversity.