

## SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (SHRG) UK

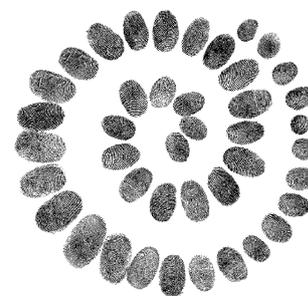
2 Chignell Place, London W13 OTJ, United Kingdom

Tel: 0208 840 3222 Fax: 0208 579 7439

E-mail: [shrg@shrg.net](mailto:shrg@shrg.net) web site: [www.shrg.org](http://www.shrg.org)

Promoting pluralism and human rights around the world  
irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, gender or any other  
distinction.

RUNNYMEDE



## Conference on Cultural Diversity and Community Cohesion Following the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR)

**Saturday 22 March – 10:00am First Floor, St. Pancras Church House, Lancing Street,  
Euston NW1 (off Eversholt Street, alongside Euston Station)**

SHRG and Runnymede are organising a joint event on 22 March on the issue of cultural diversity and community cohesion. This conference will bring together various experts in different fields to discuss how these issues can be better reflected in national and local policy and practice, considering the different needs and identities of the various communities in the UK. It will also examine these crucial issues in the framework of the follow-up to the WCAR and will feed into the production of the National Action Plan Against Racism.

### **Speakers** include,

Claude Moraes MEP  
Richard Stone, Runnymede Trust  
Zaki Badawi, Sharia Council  
Manjit Gill QC, Sikh Human Rights Group  
Mohamed Aziz, British Muslim Research Centre  
Ravi Chand, National Black Police Association  
Edie Friedman, Jewish Council for Racial Equality  
Michelyn Lafleche, Runnymede Trust  
Gloria Mills, UNISON (tbc)  
Jasdev Rai, Sikh Human Rights Group  
Karen Chouhan, 1990 Trust  
Professor Gurharpal Singh, Birmingham University  
Vanillal Vaghera, Brent Hindu Council  
Rev Arlington Trotman, Churches Commission for Racial Justice

The conference will focus on the following **themes**:

### 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

### 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 within the WCAR documentation framework.

### Community Panel Sessions

Members from different communities in London. 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.

\* For registration and information please contact Elina Stamou (Sikh Human Rights Group) at [elina@shrg.net](mailto:elina@shrg.net) or [elina\\_stamou@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elina_stamou@yahoo.co.uk)  
Limited number of places.