



HARROGATE & DISTRICT MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM Newsletter – Summer 2008

Exploitation of Migrant Workers

At the last Forum meeting, Ray Jones of Unite the Union highlighted the systematic exploitation of migrant workers in the UK.

The facts presented by Ray reflect the findings of a report commissioned by the TUC and published in September 2007.

The report states that....

'Since 2004 when 10 new states joined the EU, more than 475,000 Polish and Lithuanian workers have come to work in the UK. This study by Compas, a research unit based at Oxford University, shows that most had found insecure and poorly paid employment, with more than half of those surveyed encountering problems at work.

A quarter of the workers in the study reported having no written contract (a figure which rose to nearly a third amongst agency workers) and over a quarter had faced problems with payment - including not being paid for hours worked, discrepancies between pay and payslips, unauthorised deductions and errors in pay calculation. Ten times as many migrants as indigenous workers were paid less than the minimum wage.

The study also uncovers that migration has re-introduced the 'tied cottage' - where employers provide accommodation (at a cost) and use it to increase their control over migrant workers. Nearly a third of the workers in the report were living in accommodation provided by their employer, and as a result described excessive hours (due to their employment being linked to where they lived) and poor living conditions.'

Unions are working hard to recruit migrant workers to protect them from rogue employers who seek to deny their workers a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. To tie in with the research, the TUC has also published 'Living and working in the UK: Your rights', a guide written with the Citizens Advice service, with migrants from Eastern Europe in mind. Half the guide gives useful advice and tips for new arrivals on living in the UK, the remainder concentrates on issues that might cause problems at work.

To download the guide, visit the website:

www.tuc.org.uk/extras/workingintheuk.pdf

For further information on the Forum or to join the mailing list contact Anne Alblas at Harrogate CVS.

Tel: 01423 504074 Email: anne@harrogate.org.

For further information about the Minority Ethnic Development Project, contact Louise Cousins at Harrogate CVS Tel: 01423 504074

Email: Louise@harrogate.org

The following people attended the Forum meeting on 1 July

Anne Alblas—Harrogate CVS
Rachel Allen—North Yorkshire Youth
Carol Barber—Harrogate CAB
Lynette Barnes—Ripon CVS
Margaret Burton—Children & Y P's Service
Joanna Cawska—Researcher
Chrissie Colman—Adult Learning Service
Louise Cousins—Harrogate CVS
Geoff Crocker—NY Police
Angela Darlington—HBC Housing
Ann Duncan—Harrogate Borough Council
Stuart Hanson—English Management Direct
Eve Hartley—Stonham Tenancy Support
Samantha Hartley—NYCC
Mark Hopley—Harrogate CVS
Deborah Hugill—NYCC
Nick Hunter—North Yorkshire Police
Magda Ions—Polish Centre, Leeds
Ray Jones—Unite the Union
Caroline King—Adult Learning Service
Charlotte Kruger—The Hope Centre
Greg Kubas—Library Services
Linda Marsden—Ripon CAB
Hazel McGrath—Harrogate CVS
Mark Metcalf—Freelance Reporter
David Mitchell—Unite the Union
Ishtiaq Mohammed—NYCC
Nigel Phillips—NY Fire & Rescue Service
Gerard Prior—Harrogate Borough Council
Rosie Qureshi—North Yorkshire Police
Tom Reardon—Social Inclusion Adviser
Jenny Sengel—Carers' Resource
Pete Sitch—Office for National Statistics
Angela Skeels—HDFT
Keri Standen—Children & Y P's Service
Penny Taylor—North Yorkshire Police
Fiona Tetley—North Yorkshire Police
Karen Thornton—Ripon Library Services
Eryl Welton—NYY PCT



HARROGATE DISTRICT STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP

Third Party Hate Crime/Incident Reporting Centres in the Harrogate District

Adapted from a report by Gerard Prior, Harrogate Borough Council

One of the recommendations of the 'Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report' stated that all possible steps should be taken by police services at a local level in consultation to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. These steps should include giving the public the ability to report at locations other than police stations. This is known as **Third Party Reporting**, and has been extended to include crimes and incidents relating to homophobia, domestic violence, sexual offences, faith and disability. These crimes are known as "**Hate crimes**".

There are numerous benefits associated with the improvement of hate crime reporting facilities, including:

- ◆ Support for victims of hate crime (agencies can identify appropriate support organisations to best help victims.)
- ◆ Protection of vulnerable people.
- ◆ Prevention/reduction of future hate crimes.
- ◆ Improved community cohesion and integration of minority groups through prevention of feelings of isolation.
- ◆ Improved monitoring and recording of instances of hate crime draws a more accurate picture of Hate Crime, thus enabling police and other partners to respond more effectively through intelligence-led proactive targeting.
- ◆ Intelligence gathering (victims will gain confidence and be encouraged to report crime)

It has been agreed through the Safer Communities Executive that an initial 5 reporting centres will be set up within the Harrogate District. These will ideally be spread across Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough. Key sites have been identified and approached including Harrogate CAB, Ripon CAB, Harrogate CVS, Ripon CVS, HBC Housing Aid and Advice and NYCC Libraries.

The Next Steps

North Yorkshire Police will arrange and carry out training for staff at participating sites, incorporating ideas for good practice and input from all involved. "True Vision" packs will be distributed to participating sites. Procedures and recording systems will be developed to help staff to provide the best possible advice and support for victims of hate crimes. The purpose and location of third party reporting centres will be publicised. There will be ongoing monitoring of the usage of third party reporting facilities so that further needs can be identified by gaining a better idea about hate crime in the Harrogate district.

Future Forum Topics

Many thanks to everyone who completed their feedback form at the last Forum meeting.

The following topics for future discussion have been requested and we would be pleased to hear from you if you and your organisation would be prepared to lead a discussion on any of them at a future meeting.

- ◆ Education and training
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Supporting children and young people in BME families, support in schools
- ◆ Other BME groups (not only E. Europeans)
- ◆ Benefits, health services etc
- ◆ NYSP feedback
- ◆ Community engagement
- ◆ Evaluation of existing provision to help plan for the future
- ◆ Recourse to public funds
- ◆ Immigration advice
- ◆ Hate crime issues

We look forward to hearing from you!

Some dates for your Diary

Polish mass at St Robert's Church, Harrogate



The next two dates are...

7 September

5 October

Mass in Polish at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments and get-together.

All Welcome!

Harrogate Minority Ethnic Forum Meetings 2008/9

Wednesday 8 October, 10.00am—1.00pm

Wednesday 14 January 2009, 10.00am—1.00pm

Venues to be confirmed shortly

Please reserve your place, as lunch will be provided.

