

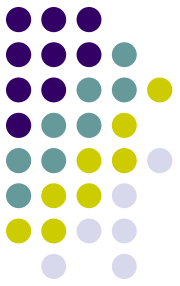


**Civil Rights – Mc Cluskey Summer School
23 August 2008**

Chinese Welfare Association, N.I
Eileen Chan-Hu,
Chief Executive



Historical Overview of BME Communities in NI

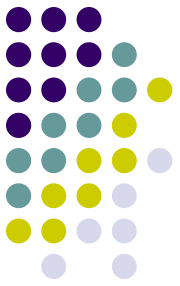


- The Government of Ireland Act 1920
- The Jewish and Traveller communities.
- The 1950s to the 1970s migration of other communities
- 2001 census indicated that is 14 279 out of the total population of 1.68 million people living in NI. Since 2001, key NGOs believe that these figures are underestimated and the non indigenous population is closer to 45 000 people which would represent 2.5% of the population.
- Over a 3 year period 03 to 06 totally 45 560 applications.
- In June 2005, 141 asylum seekers were in NI, however one NGO estimates that there as many as 2000 refugees in NI.
- Pre A8 Enlargement on 1 May 2004
- The main minority ethnic and faith communities pre the A8 Accession were the Irish Traveller, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Latin American, Portuguese, Jewish and Black African with the Chinese community being the largest minority ethnic community then with over 8000 in population.



‘The voice and ears of the community’

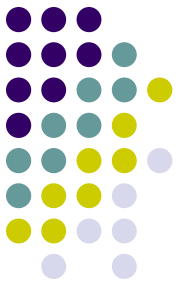
Race Relations Order 1997



- A number of key minority ethnic support NGOs were established between the mid 80s and early 90s, including Chinese Welfare Association, NICEM, the Indian Community Centre and along with others lobbied to government for the Race Relations Order to be introduced in NI.
- In 1995, the Secretary of State announced Government's intention to introduce this legislation, following the Race Relations Order Act 1976 in the Mainland, 32 years after the 1965 Race Relation Act in GB.
- The announcement of the ceasefire in 1994, NI had a sense of renewal for peace since the Troubles of the 70s between the two main communities of the Protestant and Catholic communities.
- Minority ethnic communities had lived through the unsettling period and for a long time forgotten as integral citizens in NI.
- After the ceasefires, the number of racial incidents rose.
- The Race Relations came into effect in 1997.
- This piece of legislation was historical in marking the presence of the BME communities in NI and there needs and impacted NI by establishing the Commission of Race Equality, now known as the Equality Commission of NI. 67 placed a duty on district councils to ensure their functions were carried out in due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations and funding to support discrimination cases.



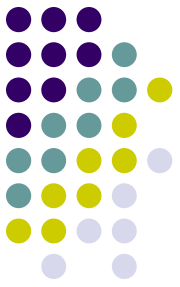
Good Friday Agreement 1998



- The Agreement was signed on 10 April 1998.
- Section 75 of the NI Agreement 1998
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) requires designated public bodies to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. It states:-
“75 (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:-
 - a) *between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;*
 - b) *between men and women generally;*
 - c) *between persons with a disability and persons without; and*
 - d) *between persons with dependants and persons without.*



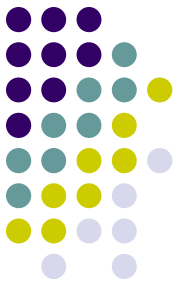
Community Relations and Good Relations



- **Community Relations in Northern Ireland**
- **A Concept**
- **A Policy**
- **A Practice**
- **Why does Community Relations Matter?**
- **How will Community Relations be in the future?**



A Shared Future and the Racial Equality Strategy



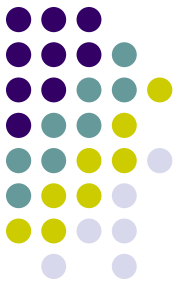
'A society in which racial diversity is supported, understood, valued and respected, where racism in any of its forms is not tolerated and where we live together as a society and enjoy equality of opportunity and equal protection.'

SIX SHARED AIMS

- ***Elimination Of Racial Inequality.***
- ***Equal Protection***
- ***Equality Of Service Provision***
- ***Participation***
- ***Dialogue***
- ***Capacity Building***



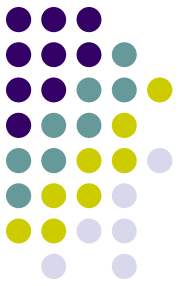
Review of Public Administration (RPA)



- The government's Review of Public Administration (RPA) offers a unique and historic opportunity for restructuring governance within Northern Ireland. (Collins, 2006; Hinds et al, 2005; Palley, 1972).
- The duty to promote good relations between those of different political opinion, religious belief and racial group is inextricably linked to the equality agenda. As such, it is articulated in the strategic government policy *A Shared Future* and is one of the core strands running through the RPA.



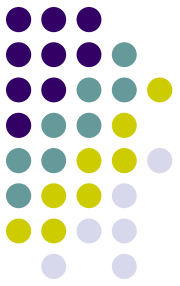
Post A8/ Increased Migration



Challenges

- Leadership
- Political participation
- Employment
- Media
- Language barrier
- Capacity building
- Geographical spread
- Racism and Sectarism
- Key inequalities in education, employment, health and social care, housing, participation in civic and public life, prejudice
- Integration
- Interculturalism – intercultural dialogue
- Marginalisation
- Multiple identities; multiple discrimination

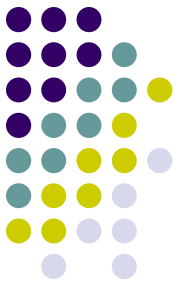




Opportunities

- 8 May 2007: Devolution and the New Assembly
- 2008 – 2011: Programme for Government
- Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy
- Community Engagement



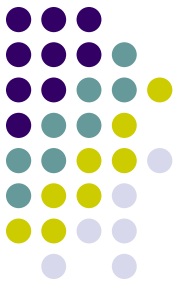


After 20 years.....

- Definition of migrant and new communities
- Charities Commission and Good Governance
- Capacity building of BME sector
- Interagency Approach/ Joint-up thinking
- Review of Public Administration
- Funding
- Living in an accepted pluralistic society



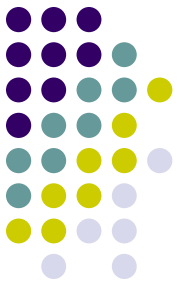
Opportunities



- Richness of diversity
- Visible Ethnic Minorities
- Linguistic developments
- Global Competition
- Economic growth



22 years on, CWA needs a place:



For mothers and toddlers



For Staff



For Management
and partnerships



For colleagues, friends and
other groups.....





VIEW FROM ORMEAU ROAD

The future for 2009.....

CWA Chinese Community Resource Centre

