



“CHALLENGING RACISM”

NETWORK NEWS

MAY 2005

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www.nwren.org will take you to:

- Housing Associations
- Legal help and support
- Commission for Racial Equality
- Local Health support
- Education services
- Information on population
- Language support
- Employment information
- Et. Etc. etc.

We're on The Web

www.nwren.org.uk

Put this address on your list of places to visit when you are next on the web. If you have no computer or don't feel confident about "surfing" the web, ask a friend or relative (the younger the better) to help you find it.

You won't be disappointed; there is a fund of useful information and contacts just waiting for you there.

Most importantly the information and connections are designed to help you, access sources of help independently and anonymously if you need to. It will also help you if you or your family have been subject to abuse, discrimination or harassment.



It will direct you to sites for the Legal Services Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality; it will also allow you to report your incident on-line and in the safety of your own home. We hope that you will find the site useful and will be grateful if you can tell us how "friendly" the site is. It's our first attempt at such a major information service and we need to continue to develop it to suite your needs.

"Happy Surfing".

Working with Partners

NWREN is a small organisation, the things we would like to achieve cannot happen without partners. We have been fortunate enough to establish good working relationships with the NHS Trusts, the Local Health Boards and most of the Local Authorities in north Wales.

in addition, we are involved in a North Wales workers Network where we share all our expertise and research, avoiding duplication and increasing all our resources. If you are interested in working with us or becoming members please contact us

(see Column 1 page 4)

Letter to the Editor

For the past year, I have been working at The Equality Centre in Penmaenmawr on the Communities and Advice Services project (a project to use the advice services amongst ethnic minorities in Wales).

My contract came to an end earlier this month and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank NWREN for their hospitality in hosting the north Wales strand of the project at their premises. Organisations working to support ethnic minorities in Wales are few and far-between. The rural setting and vast

distances contribute to BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) workers often feeling isolated in their role, having few opportunities to share experiences and ideas with other similar organisations and workers.

Being based with organisations such as NWREN, CRE and BVSNW, has been very inspiring. Having people who work with the same communities 'right there' to share observations, approaches, frustrations and successes with has encouraged me as has benefited the development of the project.



I feel that The Equality Centre has become a 'hub' for BME workers in north Wales. No wonder people have been talking about the 'buzz' here! Many thanks for all your support!

Efa Ralvik

Editors note: The MEWN information booklet can be ordered from Noleen at MEWN Cymru, Cardiff

Talking Your Language Dr Saija Turunun

Important issues raised in a recent report (see "Best Information" page 3) highlighting lack of informal translation facilities as a barrier for those with limited skills in English has prompted a survey.

Darren Johnson from North East Wales Youth Offending Team commented: "The issue of Translation tends to come into sharp focus in relation to criminal justice and the legal advice arena. In both of these situations the Police, legal services and the CAB have access to translation services, but what is required is a general language translation service that is easily accessible and

widely known to individuals and agencies. What's needed is both a translation and Interpretation service that is available upon demand / request".

Shirley Berry an ESOL teacher and co-ordinator in Wrexham stated "There are around 20 languages spoken in Wrexham area, there is a vast increase in Polish and Portuguese families moving to the areas. Language line is used, but often a personal, face to face contact would be better, we have links with translators in Manchester and Bradford but would prefer local support. A north Wales network is good idea and we would like to participate in any

further work and research."

Amongst NWREN members there are some 18 languages currently spoken. Those languages include: English, Welsh, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagaloh, Bengali, Urdu, Vadu, Hindi, Kashmiri, Farsi, Turkish, Arabic, Swedish, Polish, Finnish, German, French and Punjabi.

The response to the possibility to the establishment of an informal interpretation or translation network was very positive.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us (see back panel).

Giving Youth a Chance Susheela Lourie MBE

Following the successful conference focusing on Race Equality, the 2nd Local Criminal Justice Board Conference was held on February 17th at the Llandudno Conference centre.

Over 80 delegates attended and there were 24 different organisations represented, including a group of NWREN members, Local AMs and MPs .

The main speakers were Welsh Assembly Minister, Edwina Hart and Chair of the Youth Justice Board Professor Rod Morgan.

The themes this year were Youth Offenders



and Prolific Priority Offenders. A new video was premiered "Give Youth a Chance" which will be used in schools with youth groups and at this year's national Eisteddfod.

Two young people from north Wales gave a moving and courageous testimony to the help

they had received from the Youth Offenders Team.

NWREN's Chairperson had once again been part of the conference planning team and had enjoyed her experience on the Consultative Group of the LCJB.

"Best" Information Clifton Robinson

A report to identify the support needs of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) individuals and communities living in North Wales has been commissioned by B.E.S.T. the Black and Ethnic Minority Support Team.

The team is a partnership between, the All Wales Ethnic Minority Association (AWEMA), the Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales (BVSNW), the Minority Ethnic Women's Network Wales (MEWN Cymru) and the Scarman Trust.

NWREN in association with Bangor University undertook the research and the resulting report was launched on 24 February 2005 at the St George's Hotel, Llandudno.

Over 80 people from various organisations attended (including health, education, local government and "Communities First" coordinators.)

Dr. Charlotte Williams from Bangor University and a NWREN committee member introduced the report

and the Leader of Plaid Cymru, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, gave a very warm welcoming response to the Report's content.

NWREN has received many comments on the value and uniqueness of this report from all quarters. Please contact 02920 664213 (AWEMA) if you want to find out more about how to get a summary of the Report.

Website Launch

www.nwren.org.uk

June 2005

Unique and groundbreaking research on BME communities in North Wales now available. (see "Best Information")

Race Equality Schemes

If you are a corporate member of NWREN we would like to offer you the opportunity to

publish your Race Equality Schemes on our new website at www.nwren.org.uk

Follow the Membership link and you will find instructions on how to enter your scheme.

Positive Images

West and South Rhyl Community Strategy Partnership has just started a project delivering Anti racism training in schools, youth organisations and communities. Feedback from the first session is very encouraging; thought provoking posters designed by the children are on display at the NWREN offices. Work is also being done on a resource centre here. Look out for more developments in our next issue.

“Challenging Racism”

The North Wales Race Equality Network (NWREN) was established in 2000. We aim to challenge racial discrimination, promote racial harmony and to work towards equality for all members of our communities.

We work with individuals and groups who live and work in north of Wales and are from Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) backgrounds, regardless of race, faith and culture.

We inform and support statutory and voluntary agencies to challenge discrimination. We encourage all members to contribute their skills and take a role in furthering the aims of NWREN.

Increasing awareness of the impact of racism and prejudice on people's lives in the north of Wales

Promoting opportunities for race equality education, training and development among the public, voluntary and private sectors

Increasing the awareness of the benefits of a diverse community within the north of Wales

Are you thinking of becoming a member?

By becoming a member of North Wales Race Equality Network, you are taking a positive step towards challenging inequalities that are based on discrimination, prejudice, and racism.

If you would like further information about NWREN or would like to find out about becoming a member, please contact us at:

NWREN, The Equality Centre, Bangor Road, Penmaenmawr, Conwy LL34 6LF.

Tel: 01492 622233

Fax: 01492 623707

E.mail: nwren@tiscali.co.uk

Or visit us on our website at: www.nwren.org.uk

Volunteering to Support your Communities

Cruse Bereavement Care exists to promote the well-being of bereaved people and to enable anyone suffering a bereavement caused by death to understand their grief and cope with their loss.

We would very much like to work with ethnic and minority groups to help enhance your bereavement care provision and we would welcome enquiries from potential volunteers who would like to train to offer bereavement support to their communities.

We provide:

- free, confidential one to one bereavement counselling for both adults and children.
- bereavement support to couples and families.
- we also provide bereavement social groups.
- we provide training on

understanding grief and loss and how to identify abnormal grief, to medical students and nurses and to the statutory and voluntary sectors.

- we provide at least two 60hr. bereavement counselling courses each year to enable volunteers or professionals to have in depth training on counselling bereaved people with further training available for Crisis Support work or counselling children.
- we can provide in- house training by arrangement.

For further information please call: Our Administrator, Trish Phillips on 08702 402758 or email her at:

nwcruse@abbeyroadcentre.com