



**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 24 February 2009**

‘WINNING THE RACE’ COALITION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Within 3 weeks the third sector coalition that was set up by Race on the Agenda (ROTA) to bring changes to the Single Equality Bill has attracted wide spread support from across the third sector.

Dr Theo Gavrielides Chief Executive of ROTA said: “I am hugely encouraged by all the support we are receiving for the Winning the Race Coalition and I am confident that together our strong voice will reach those drafting and passing the Bill. We have had an initial positive reaction from Government and are waiting to hear from the Equality and Human Rights Commission”.

The coalition is concerned with 4 key areas of the proposed legislation focusing primarily on race equality: the implementation of the public sector duty, positive action measures, remedying discrimination in the private sector and enforcement. The coalition was formed with the support of Voice4Change England, and includes members such as NCVO, ACEVO, BTEG, LVSC and the Fawcett Society.

For further information, contact ROTA’s Chief Executive Dr Theo Gavrielides on 0207-729-1310 or 07850523336 or alternatively, email theo@rota.org.uk

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

ROTA is a social policy think tank working on Third Sector organisations on issues that have an impact on race equality in the UK. www.rota.org.uk

Voice4Change England provides a national voice for the Black and minority ethnic third sector

The Equality Bill was included in the Prime Minister’s Draft Queen’s Speech in May 2008. The Government has currently responded to a consultation on their proposals and it is likely that this response will form the basis of the Bill. We expect it to come before Parliament in Spring 2009. This Bill will consolidate the numerous pieces of existing discrimination legislation into one Act (There are currently nine major pieces of discrimination legislation, around 100 statutory instruments setting out connected rules and regulations and more than 2,500 pages of guidance and statutory codes of practice.) and to introduce further responsibilities in a bid to outlaw all forms of discrimination. It will apply throughout the United Kingdom.

Race on the Agenda

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