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Sent: 28 January 2010 20:11
To: Theo Gavrielides
Subject: 2nd January update from the ROTA-led Winning the Race coalition

Dear coalition members and colleagues

It has been a busy January with the committee stage of the Single Equality Bill in the House of Lords and the release of the Specific Duties policy statement by the Government Equalities Office (GEO). We are writing with a few key updates on the Bill and other race equality and equality legislative/ policy developments:

1. Single Equality Bill

During January 2010, there were 5 days of debate within the committee stage of the Single Equality Bill. Most of the amendments and clauses were covered but there are still around 20-30 Amendments to discuss including positive action and age discrimination in access to good and services. I have attached a list of the amendments covered by the debate so far, for which I extend thanks to Gay Moon at the Equality and Diversity Forum for putting together summaries. There is another timetabled day for debate on the 9th February 2010.

The government ideally wanted the bill to have passed committee by the end of January. The length of debate, although substantive in content, has pushed back the agreement on the Bill. There has to be two weeks between the final day of the committee stage and the Report stage of the Bill in the lords. This will therefore push the final agreement of the Bill to the end of February or beginning of March.

ROTA will continue to update the coalition as the debate progresses on the 9th February 2010.

2. GEO Specific Duties Consultation

The GEO has released the results of their consultation on the proposed specific duties in the policy statement [Equality Bill: Making it work: Policy proposals for specific duties](#). This policy will shape the regulations that help public authorities meet the public sector equality duty of the Single Equality Bill that is presently going through the parliament.

ROTA is please to have been referenced by GEO, but is disappointed **as** the policy statement fails to fully meet the concerns raised by the Winning the Race Coalition response. We are concerned that the proposals undermine the consistency, transparency and accountability of public authorities when assessing the impact of their functions on BAME communities and race equality. For example, by removing obligations to create equality schemes and a lack of clarity on impact assessment or monitoring will increase the level of discretion available to public authorities to determine due regard. We believe these regulations will create confusion and difficulty in implementing the public sector equality duty. The main changes outlined are

- **There will no longer be a requirement for public authorities to produce Equality Schemes.** Public authorities will be required to lay out equality

objectives, and to determine these they will have to assess the relevance of equality to their functions.

- **The regulations will focus on demonstrating outcomes, but the regulations will not prescribe how this will be done**, This will be considered for guidance produced by the EHRC.
- **Public authorities will only be specifically required by the regulations to monitor ethnic minority employment rates**. Although expected to monitor to assess impact, how this will be done will not be specified in the regulations.
- **Equality related requirements in contracts will only apply to contracts where equality is relevant to the subject matter of the contract**. There won't be regulations to deal with suppliers who breach discrimination law.
- It will not extend the Secretary of State reporting duty of the Disability Equality Duty to the other eight protected characteristics.

The GEO intend to consult on the draft regulations to be placed before parliament after the Single Equality Bill becomes law. This will now be after the next election.

ROTA will be expressing our concerns to the GEO and will ask that further consideration is given to these in the drafting of the regulations. If you would like to receive or provide any further information please contact Ewan Kennedy on Ewan@rota.org.uk.

3. National Equality Panel report

ROTA welcomes the National Equality Panel report 'An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK' and calls for all political parties and society to act now. For a copy of ROTA's press release <http://www.rota.org.uk/pages/WhatsNew.aspx?#H1>
For a copy of the report
http://www.equalities.gov.uk/national_equality_panel/publications.aspx

4. Single Equality Bill and Race Equality Legislation ROTA training

We are pleased to announce that our training is now almost complete and will be presented for sign off to the Coalition Action group in February. ROTA would like to outsource the delivery of the training but keep material development, monitoring, evaluation and administration in-house. If any member is interested in delivering the training please get in touch with me or Ewan to discuss costs and details.

You have received this email either because your organisation has signed up to the ROTA-led Winning the Race Coalition, or because you have asked us to add you to the coalition email list. For previous updates and information on the coalition please visit <http://www.rota.org.uk/pages/WTRC.aspx> If you no longer wish to receive updates from ROTA please email me. If you have received this email by mistake please accept my sincere apologies and inform us immediately so that we can remove you from the email list. If you have any negative or positive feedback on our updates, then we would love to hear from you. Members are requested to forward coalition updates to their own

members and increase awareness around the coalition and ROTA's work on the Single Equality Bill and Race Equality Legislation.



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