

From: CEO **On Behalf Of** Theo Gavrielides
Sent: 17 December 2009 19:49
To: Theo Gavrielides
Subject: New December update from the ROTA-led Winning the Race Coalition on the Single Equality Bill

Dear coalition members and colleagues,

Single Equality Bill Update:

On the 15th December, the Second Reading of the Single Equality Bill was conducted in the House of Lords. The debate was around the general points of the Bill and what concerns members of the House had about it. The debate was particularly long going from the mid afternoon to nearly 11.00 in the evening.

The leader of the Government in the House of Lords, Baroness Royall, introduced the Bill and sought to counter some of the myths that have arisen over the course of the Bill's development. Several concerns were raised across the House about the length of time given to the Bill in the Commons and seeking reassurances that there will be proper time for scrutiny in the Lords.

General issues raised by the opposition parties concerning the content of the Bill covered the following areas:

- Socio-economic duty
- Gender Pay Audits
- Positive Action
- Exemptions for religious organisations
- Religion as a protected characteristic
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Definitions of harassment

41 amendments have already been tabled for the Bill. The Committee Stage will start on the 11th January on the floor of the House of Lords. This will involve a line by line consideration of the Bill and any amendments.

Winning the Race Coalition Activities

1. ROTA has summarised the different Peers' contributions to the debate in the Excel file attached. This outlines those that are supportive of the Bill, opposing the Bill, or will be tabling amendments/after debate on the bill. It also outlines, where possible, the subjects of that peers interest. It is a quick summary and not comprehensive as it only covers those members that spoke or who have already commented on the Bill. We hope that the document will help our members' lobbying activities. We urge you to channel any amendment that you would like to see through us and the Coalition.
2. ROTA has also reproduced the Hansard reported summing up speech by Baroness Royall made in the House of Lords. Here she outlines the issues raised by different peers and the Governments response to them.

3. Next week, we will be publishing a policy briefing on everything you need to know about how laws are passed in the UK. We hope that this will help you and your members to follow the stages of the Bill.
4. Our tailored race equality/ Single Equality Bill training for BAME organisations and BAME individuals or those working with BAME communities is complete and a pilot is due to be held early in the year. More information on the content and how you can book will follow.

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 Bill and Race Equality Legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy year and all the best for the festive period. Thank you very much indeed for your support this year. I look forward to working with all of you in the new year.

Festive greetings



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