

**From:** CEO **On Behalf Of** Theo Gavrielides  
**Sent:** 26 March 2010 11:34  
**To:** Theo Gavrielides  
**Subject:** March update from the ROTA-led Winning the Race Coalition

Dear coalition members and colleagues,

### **Equality Bill passes its Third Reading in the House of Lords**

The Equality Bill successfully passed its third reading stage in the House of Lords on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009. The House of Commons will consider amendments to the Bill on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010. There were several amendments agreed in the House of Lords, but the Government has stated it is not planning to oppose any of these amendments.

With the expected upcoming election, the parliament is expected to be dissolved around the 6<sup>th</sup> April for an election in early May. If the government is unsuccessful and the House of Commons doesn't agree the bill in its present form before parliament is dissolved, then the bill will go into "wash up". This is a process whereby the two main parties negotiate which bills will be passed and how they will be amended to do so.

As the government is expected not to oppose any of the amendments, and the opposition front benches have expressed support for the bill, we expect the bill will pass into law by the time of the election.

Relevant amendments of interest for race equality issues:

- Proportionality was added to regulate the 'tiebreaker' positive action clause 159;
- Power for a Minister to add 'caste' as an aspect of race was agreed;
- The publication of information on the diversity of candidates for registered political parties was agreed;
- Discrimination Law Association amendment to add 'take reasonable steps' to public sector equality duty in clause 148 was defeated.

After this it is important that the entire Bill is commenced and brought into force sooner rather than later. After the election, it will be important for the coalition, our partners and stakeholder to ensure that the government brings the powers in the Equality Bill into force as soon as possible. The Coalition will be working on this over the coming months.

### **ROTA Training on Race Equality legislation and the proposed Equality Act**

ROTA piloted the training it has developed on the equality bill and present race equality legislation on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009. A selection of third sector BAME led organisations and statutory organisations attended the event and gave excellent feedback. The participants found the training very useful.

ROTA will be conducting further training sessions around the country over the coming year. Once these are decided upon the Coalition will be given early notice to be able to attend. To register your interest please contact [Saifur@rota.org.uk](mailto:Saifur@rota.org.uk)

*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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