

annual report | 2004-05



London's Black and Minority Ethnic Social Policy...[Think Tank](#)

contents

3	introduction
4	chair's report
6	chief executive's report
9	work carried out
10	trustees and staff
13	independent auditor's report
14	statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2004
15	balance sheet as at 31 March 2004

photographs

page 8	Engaging Young People for Achievement Conference 6th July 2005
page 12	Engaging Young People for Achievement Conference 6th July 2005 – students from Stockwell Park High School



introduction

Race on the Agenda (ROTA) is a social policy think tank set up in April 1997, devoted to issues that affect Black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in London.

We are committed to working towards achieving social justice and the elimination of discrimination and promoting diversity, equality of opportunity and best practice.

We achieve these aims by informing London's strategic decision-makers about issues affecting the BME voluntary sector and the communities it serves and by making government policy more accessible to London's BME organisations.

ROTA is also the home of **MiNet** (Minority Network), a government funded network for networks. **MiNet** serves London's BME organisations by providing a voice in the development of regional policy.

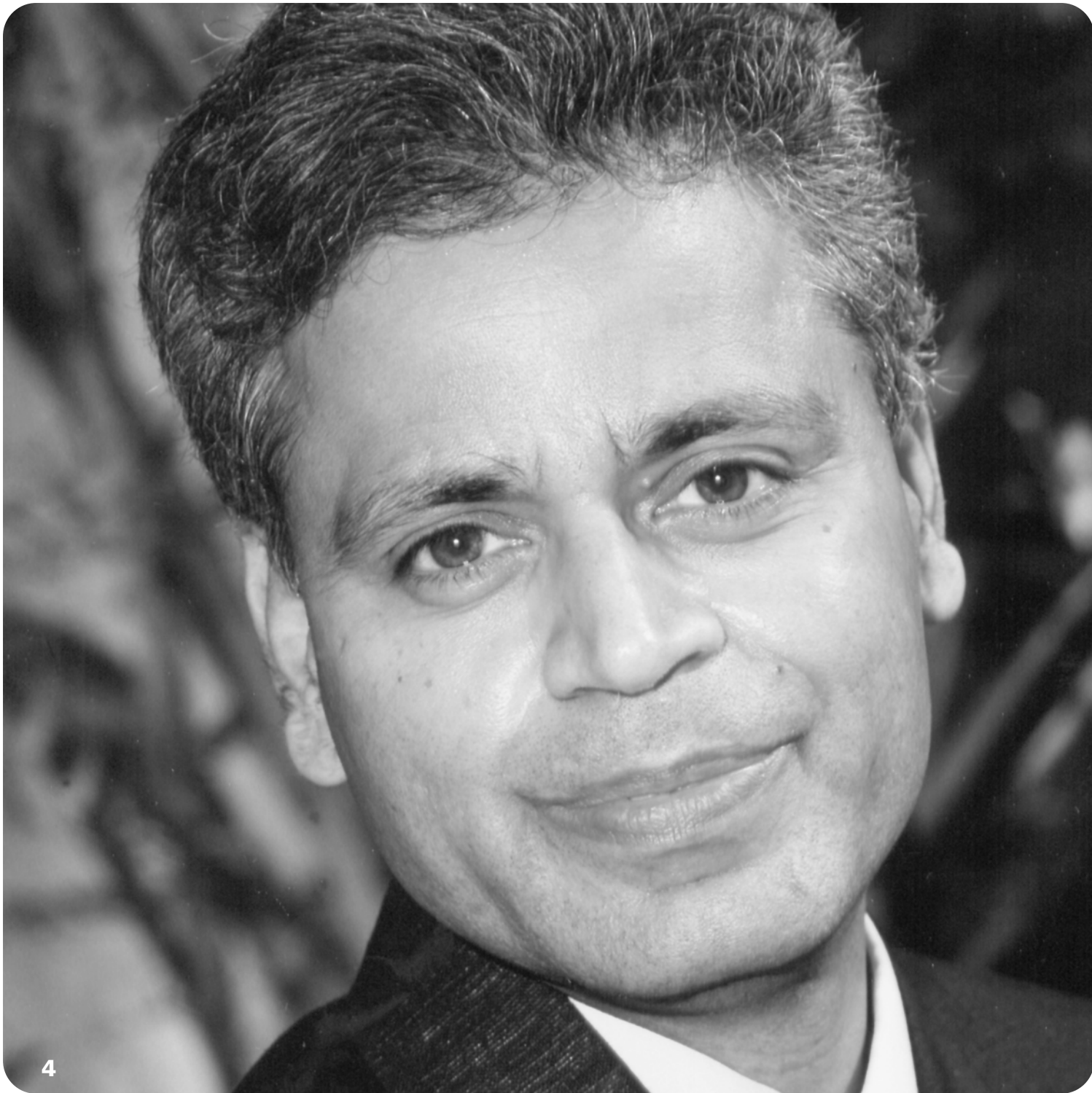
Our main priority policy areas are:

- Education
- Regeneration and Social Exclusion
- Policing/Crime and Disorder
- Health
- Regional Governance

Working with a small team of six staff, **ROTA** and **MiNet** have a strong commitment in working in partnership to achieve our aims. We work with other BME organisations in London and Britain, the mainstream voluntary and community sector, funders and both the public and private sectors.

In 2004-2005 our work benefited from funding relationships with:

- **Association of London Government** – To carry out the core functions of the organisation.
- **Big Lottery Fund** – To carry out policy work in the areas of education, social exclusion and regeneration.
- **Bridge House Trust** – To tackle discrimination against Irish and Black Communities.
- **Bridge House Trust** – To provide information to BME communities.
- **Corporation of London (City Parochial Foundation)** – To carry out policy work.
- **Esmée Fairbairn** – To carry out policy work.
- **Islington Strategic Partnership** – To support community engagement work.
- **Home Office** – To support a network of BME network organisations.
- **Lloyds TSB** – To provide IT support.



chair's report

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report for 2004-2005. We are proud of the work that **ROTA** and **MiNet** have done over the year and pleased to be part of London's diverse Black and minority ethnic voluntary sector. I thought I would take this opportunity to have a very brief look at some of the issues that relate to the services we provide.

London is home to **46.4%** of England's BME population. We make up **30.7%** of London's population. With such a large population it would be hoped that outcomes for BME people would be the same as their non BME neighbours and colleagues. However, when the Cabinet Office came to look at public service use in November 2004 they found that compared to other groups London BME communities were particularly dissatisfied with health service provision. We can also see that unemployment rates for most BME communities are higher than those for the white British population, as are levels of long-term sickness and child poverty.

The news is not all gloomy though. In the Greater London Authorities Annual London Survey 2004, respondents were asked whether they believed London had good race relations. **75%** of the sample asked thought it did (an increase of **11%** from the year 2000). **51%** also felt there was less race discrimination than three years ago. **82%** of the Londoners questioned enjoyed the cultural diversity of the city.

We know that the work of organisations such as **ROTA** and **MiNet** contribute to the perceived and real changes within London and will continue to promote a strong voice and role for London's BME voluntary and community sector. We look forward to sharing our successes in the future. But finally I would like to say that the role of the board in setting the direction and supporting staff is an important one at **ROTA** and **MiNet** and I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to one of our members who has provided a great deal of support over recent years. Dave Hastings, who was Treasurer from 2000 until March 2004, will be greatly missed.

Khurshid Alam
Chair

chief executive's report

The first day of this financial year was also my first day as Chief Executive of **ROTA**, so it has been an exciting and eventful year for me and I hope for the organisation as a whole.

A lot has gone on, as can be seen from the publications, events and steering groups listed in the section Work Carried Out. We have also spoken at numerous events and contributed articles to other organisations' publications. Our focus has been on the policy areas of Education, Health and Social Care, Regeneration and Social Exclusion, and Crime and Policing.

I am proud of the work that the staff have contributed to ensuring that race is on the agenda for those making policy in London. One of the key points I would like to highlight in relation to this, is the increase in the number of bodies we sit on. This has led to an increase in our contribution to the development of public policy at the earliest stages of development.

For instance **ROTA**'s Head of Policy, Leroy Richards took the lead on Crime and Policing. Over the year he fed in to the development of Race Equality Strategies for the Crown Prosecution Service, the Metropolitan Police Authority/ Metropolitan Police Service and the Prison Service. Outcomes for our communities can improve over time especially with the engagement of BME voluntary and community organisations in shaping policy and services. However, with the continuing inequalities within the system (such as the higher level of stop and searches of non-white people and the under-representation of BME staff in senior posts in all the criminal justice agencies), one can see why there is a continued need for the work we do.

MiNet has blossomed during this period due to the development of a dedicated steering group to drive the work forward, in particular Kristine Wellington (BTEG), Waqar Ali (Hillingdon Council), Ibukun Olashore (OBAC). Its role in ensuring that its member's voices are heard was very evident in July 2004 when two events were held looking at the Commission for Equality and Human Rights and at Futurebuilders grant procedures. Rafiu Williams, **MiNet** Project Manager has shown how bringing members together can inform the direction of work and inform policy makers of our communities needs.

ROTA and **MiNet** intend to continue working hard in the coming years in partnership with others to reduce inequality and promote diversity.

Dinah Cox

Dinah Cox
Chief Executive





work carried out

Publications

- 3 Editions of the newsletter Agenda
- Supplement on the Government Agenda on Equalities
- Supplement on Addiction
- Supplement on Educational Attainment
- Policy briefing on the Queen's Speech
- Policy briefing on the Government Spending Review
- Policy briefing on the Mental Health Capacity Bill
- A report on community participation in Islington
- A consultation response report on London's Housing Strategy
- A consultation response report on the Commission for Equalities and Human Rights
- A consultation response report on the Supporting People Strategy
- A consultation response report on Policing Priorities
- A consultation response report on education for 14-19 year olds

Events

- An event on Commission for Equalities and Human Rights
- An event on Raising BME Educational Achievement
- An event on ChangeUp
- An event on Futurebuilders
- An event on Cross Cutting Review
- An event on ChangeUp performance measures
- An event on Health Inequalities

Advisory Groups/Steering Groups and Boards

- 3rd Sector Alliance
- Adventure Capital Fund Round 2 Grant Panel
- ALG/London Voluntary Sector Steering Group
- Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network
- BME Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young peoples project
- BURA Community Regeneration Awards

- ChangeUp London Regional Consortium and sub groups
- Compact BME Sub Group
- Crown Prosecution Service Race Equality Strategy Project Board
- Environmental Justice in London Advisory Group
- Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action
- London Challenge, African and Caribbean Programme
- London Governance Steering Group
- London Health Alliance
- London Health Commission BME Health Forum
- London Health Observatory Expert Advisory Council
- London Sustainable Development Commission
- Metropolitan Police Authority/Metropolitan Police Service Race Equality Strategy External Reference Group
- Prison Service Race Advisory Group
- Race Hate Crime Forum
- Revolving Doors Agency
- Safer London Foundation

Partnerships

- Action Group on Irish Youth – Academic performances of Irish and African Caribbean students
- Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) – ChangeUp performance measurement event
- Equal TMD (Tackling Multiple Disadvantage) London – Homelessness and employment project led by Off the Streets and into Work
- NCVO – Cross Cutting Review event
- Olmec and London Accord – work on educational achievement
- PATH National Ltd and BTEG – shared IT worker
- Third Sector Alliance – Futurebuilders event

staff and trustees

Board of Trustees – 2004-2005

Chair

Khurshid Alam

Vice Chair

Gurdial Bhamra

Treasurer

Golam Morshed – From April 2004

Dave Hastings – Until March 2004

Board Members

Dave Hastings

Dawn McBean

Imitiaz Aziz

Shelly Choudury

Yemi Ipaye-Sowunmi

Molly Mosime

Linda Appiah – Until January 2005

Nicholas Sharman – From February 2005

Jagroop Kaur Dhillon – From February 2005

Kamila Zahno – From February 2005

Paul Gray

Staff and Trustees

Chief Executive

Dinah Cox

MiNet Project Manager

Rafiu Williams

Head of Policy

Leroy Richards

Information and Communications Officer

Lloyd Evering – Until March 2005

Regeneration and Social Exclusion Policy Officer

Lydia Thomas – Until August 2004

Baljinder Virk – From January 2005

Education Policy Officer

Richard Reddie – Until March 2005

Office Administrator

Tracy Ellison – Until September 2004

David Robinson (Temp) – June 2004-January 2005

Ramoke Afolabi – From January 2005

we are committed
to working towards
achieving social justice
and the elimination
of discrimination





independent auditor's report

We have audited the financial statements of Race on the Agenda Limited for the year ended 31st March 2005 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This Report is made solely to the company's members, as a body in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors & auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Directors' Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Directors' Report. We consider the implication for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st March 2005 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31st March 2005
(incorporating a summarised income and expenditure account)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2005 Total £	2004 Total £
Incoming Resources – Grants received:				
Association of London Government	126,250	0	126,250	75,733
Big Lottery Fund	0	67,655	67,655	65,685
Corporation of London	0	55,000	55,000	30,000
Other Incomes	400	92,649	93,049	144,750
Membership Fees	85	0	85	50
Bank Interest	2,183	0	2,183	1,140
Sundry items	16,792	1,001	17,793	12,319
	145,710	216,305	362,015	329,677
Resources explained				
Publicity	2,890	2,929	5,819	6,250
Charitable Expenditure	56,786	210,553	267,339	276,533
Management & Administration	43,475	0	43,475	39,656
Total Expenditure	103,151	213,482	316,633	322,439
Net movement for the year	42,559	2,823	45,382	7,238
Transfer	-4,233	4,233	0	0
Brought forward	28,318	4,752	33,070	25,832
Carried forward 31/3/05	66,644	11,808	78,452	33,070

All activities were continuing.
There were no gains/losses other than as recorded above.

balance sheet

as at 31st March 2005

	2005 £	2004 £
Current Assets		
Bank Current Account	111,790	79,332
Cash in Hand	91	40
Sundry Debtors	16,990	2,490
	128,871	81,862
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year		
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	50,419	48,792
	78,452	33,070
Net Current Assets		
Reserves		
Restricted Funds	11,808	4,752
Unrestricted Funds	66,644	28,318
	78,452	33,070

Approved by the Board of Directors on the 20th January 2006, and signed on its behalf.

The directors have relied on the special exemptions available to small companies (conferred by Part 1 of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985) on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company by virtue of Section 247 of the Companies Act 1985.



Race on the Agenda (ROTA)

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ROTA is funded by:

Supported by



Bridge House Trust



islington strategic partnership

