

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY S. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2006

Question

Would the Minister inform members, what work, if any, has been undertaken in conjunction with the Education, Sport and Culture Department in tackling discrimination in Jersey (and particularly racial discrimination) within the last five years? What future plans, if any, are there to work with the Education, Sport and Culture Department on the issue of racial discrimination?

Answer

A number of States initiatives have been followed over the last few years which have directly involved discussion about anti-discrimination legislation, and in some cases widespread consultation. In particular, the States adopted Employment Legislation (P.99/2000) which advocated that issues surrounding discrimination in the workplace should be dealt with through a separate all-encompassing discrimination law to be championed by the then Policy and Resources Committee. The matter is clearly a cross-departmental one, and therefore, with the change of the machinery of government this responsibility was transferred to the Chief Minister's Department.

Although the Chief Minister's Department provides the resources to support this initiative, I was asked by the Council of Ministers to promote the Law, having previously chaired the Race Relations Working Party, and been President of the Legislation Committee, which took to the States the proposal for the preparation of a Race Discrimination Law (Projet 32/2002).

The Education Sport and Culture Department has been at liberty to respond to the recent consultation on the Law, and there will be further opportunities for consultation on each of the sets of Regulations to the Law as the Law is rolled out to include other aspects of discrimination.

If the Race Regulations are adopted by the States, all States departments will have responsibilities under the Law. If acts of discrimination occur in educational establishments either the Minister for Education Sport and Culture (if the school is a provided school) or the proprietor of the school, in any other case, will be potentially liable if a case of racial discrimination is brought.

The Education Sport and Culture Department has, like all States departments, signed up to the Anti-Discrimination promise of the Community Relations Trust, which reads as follows –

1. We welcome and celebrate the rich and diverse nature of our island's community. We promise to treat everyone with dignity and respect.
2. In support of this commitment we have put into practice effective measures designed to prevent discrimination or harassment on grounds of ethnic origin, nationality, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or age, both in our recruitment and during the course of employment.
3. We promise to draw on the talents, skills, experience, networks and different cultural perspectives of a diverse workforce.
4. We are committed to the creation of a working environment where people feel they are respected and valued.
5. We promise to treat all of our customers and the wider community with respect. No member of staff or member of the community will be knowingly discriminated against because of who they are or where they come from.

6. We invite our staff and our customers to hold us to these commitments.

The re-awarding of the Community Relations Trust anti-discrimination certificate will be dependent upon adherence to the principles set out above.