Inclusion: the key to prosperity

The dynamics of migration, poverty and social exclusion

A major conference during the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion held jointly by the European Commission, Praxis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Wednesday 17th November 2010
The Commonwealth Club
25 Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5AP

What is this conference about?
2010 is the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. There is a strong interaction between the issues of poverty and migration. Poverty is frequently, but by no means always, a cause of migration. However, there is no single pattern of development for migrant communities. For some there is an entrenchment of poverty which is transmitted between generations. At the same time migrants capitalise on entrepreneurial skills, strong values and psychological drivers which inspire wealth creation and positive routes out of poverty.

One typical pattern of migrant settlement is a movement into areas of accessible and affordable housing or areas of plentiful, frequently low paid, employment. The presence of new migrant communities within the mix of communities may have an impact on the overall cohesion and economy of neighbourhoods. However, this is too simplistic a picture as neighbourhoods also profit from the leadership which emerges within migrant communities and the new opportunities for micro-trading and enterprise. There are perceptions, some real and some not, that increasing demands on limited public services and housing are the cause of community tension. However, public services would also suffer were it not for the contribution of migrants.

The conference aims to identify the mechanisms which can be employed to facilitate a positive experience of migration within communities and societies at large. It focuses on the dynamics and leadership within communities as they are experienced today and moves away from such issues as immigration controls and optimum numbers. It is timely as public expenditure cuts and a tightening of immigration controls impact upon our poorest and most excluded neighbourhoods. The conference will seek to discover the sources of resilience in communities and the appropriate responses of public services to the changing demography of neighbourhoods. It will also examine the crucial question for all policy makers – how to balance the demands of commerce and communities.

The partnership which is calling this conference consists of: the EU Commission which brings a wider European economic and political perspective driven by the commitments of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion; the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the leading independent social policy research charity and Praxis, a community based agency working with vulnerable migrants from both a human rights and community development perspective.

Who is this conference for?
This conference is for all who are concerned to ensure new migrant communities and the communities within which they settle are empowered to combat the poverty and exclusion for which migration has been a significant contributing factor.

This will include community leaders, practitioners, NGOs, health trusts, local authorities, central government agencies and departments along with politicians and academics.
Programme

9.00  Registration

9.30  Welcome and overview of the conference aim
      Nancy Kelley, Assistant Director of Research and Policy, Joseph Rowntree
      Foundation

9.40  Testimonies from migrant communities – Theatre company

10.00 Migration and the outward journey to integration and community development
      Professor Michael Keith, Oxford University

10.30 Migration and the inward journey into poverty and exclusion
      Professor Mary Hickman, London Metropolitan University

11.00 Coffee

11.20 Testimonies from migrant communities – Theatre Company

11.30 Europe’s changing demography and the role of the EU in preventing and
      combating poverty and social exclusion among new residents
      Lenia Samuel, Deputy Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal
      Opportunities, European Commission

12.00 Governmental approaches to overcoming the barriers faced by new
      communities in overcoming poverty
      Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Minister of State for Employment

12.30 Roundtable discussions – audience responses

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Workshop sessions

1) What quality of leadership is needed to promote the inclusion of new
   migrants?
   Exploring the contribution of leaders from within community and faith based
   organisations alongside civic institutions. What really works in building social
   inclusion?

Facilitator:  Professor Marjorie Mayo, Goldsmiths College University of London

Contributors:  Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, journalist
              Jean Lambert MEP, Green Party
              Yeukai Taravunga, Rayne Fellow

2) How do we build a positive dynamic within neighbourhoods?
   Exploring how the resources both financial and human available at neighbourhood
   level can create the resilience to overcome poverty and prevent exclusion.

Facilitator:  Ben Hughes, British Association of Settlements and Social Action
              Centres (BASSAC)

Contributors:  David Carrigan, Equalities Policy Director, Homes and Communities
               Agency
               Professor Deborah Philips, Leeds University
3) **How do public services respond better to changing demographics?**
Exploring the particular issues facing public services in relation to access to and appropriateness of public services.

Facilitator: Rose Duran, I&DeA
Contributors: Jon Lord, Bolton City Council

4) **How do we balance the needs of commerce and community?**
Exploring means of bridging the gap between the interests of commerce in attracting migrant labour and the needs of the wider workforce and community infrastructure.

Facilitator: Professor Sir Deian Hopkins, London South Bank University
Contributors: Abigail Morris, British Chambers of Commerce
Jack Dromey MP, Labour Party

3.15 Tea

3.40 **Question Time**
To respond to the key issues which emerge from the workshops.

Chair: Danny Sriskandarajah, Director, Royal Commonwealth Society, and Trustee Praxis
Panel: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, journalist
Jack Dromey MP, Labour Party
Professor Sir Deian Hopkins, London South Bank University
Jean Lambert MEP, Green Party

4.30 **Conclusions**

**Summary**
Jonathan Scheele, Head of Representation in the UK, European Commission

**London’s commitment to the inclusion of migrant communities**
Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor of London, and Chair, London Strategic Migration Partnership

**Vote of Thanks**
Arvinda Gohil, Chair of Praxis

5.00 End