

Special Initiative:

Preventing Racist Violence

Introduction

We are a charitable foundation which aims to tackle poverty and its root causes in London. We have a long history of funding work to tackle racism. However, most of this work has focused on providing support to black and minority ethnic communities at the receiving end of racism, with far fewer approaches being made by organisations wanting to undertake prevention work, particularly on race hate crime. This special initiative aims to address this issue by providing funding for preventative work with **potential** perpetrators of race hate crime to change their attitudes and reduce the level of racial incidents.

We are particularly keen to support work which offers new and creative approaches to dealing with this issue.

Background

This initiative has been developed in response to a recent report by the Runnymede Trust *Preventing Racist Violence, Work with Actual and Potential Perpetrators - Learning from Practice to Policy Change (October 2005)*¹ which was jointly funded by the Foundation. It suggested that work to challenge racist attitudes and reduce the incidents of racial violence is scarce given the scale of the problem. It also noted that much of this work is either labelled 'crime reduction' or 'social cohesion' with little connection between the two. This is a missed opportunity as there is a need for policy makers, government agencies and practitioners to work more effectively at local, regional and national level. We believe that the community and voluntary sector has the potential to develop effective and creative ways of pulling these various initiatives together for maximum impact.

Who are the potential perpetrators?

The report draws on a range of definitions and research to suggest that:

- potential perpetrators are often perpetrators of other crimes;
- those committing the violence tend to be young and male, between the ages of 16 and 25. However, women, other young people, and older people may be involved in creating a supportive context of prejudice;
- potential perpetrators may experience deprivation and are inactive;

It is often the case that the views held by all kinds of perpetrators towards ethnic minorities are shared by the wider communities to which they belong.

¹This report can be downloaded from www.runnymedetrust.org/projects/preventingracistviolence/publications

Hollin and Palmer's (*Reducing Re-offending by Racially Motivated Offenders: A review of the Evidence, 2000*) worked with these definitions to suggest that intervention is needed at three levels to effect change

- (a) Primary - working with society at large to change racist attitudes;
- (b) Secondary - working with potential perpetrators to prevent them from offending;
- (c) Tertiary - working with those who have already offended, aiming to prevent them from re-offending.

Although the focus of this programme will be work with potential perpetrators, we recognise that this cannot be undertaken in isolation from work with the wider community that may influence the potential perpetrator's attitudes and behaviour. We therefore want to fund work which combines work at both the secondary and primary levels.

Is it still a white versus black issue?

As London is becoming more culturally diverse, it may be that tension between communities become more common. In certain areas, violence between black and minority ethnic communities or black on white violence has become a more familiar occurrence.

Inter-racial violence is a growing concern in London and therefore, if this is an issue in a particular geographical area or within a section of the community, consideration will be given to funding work to address this within this programme.

However, evidence from previous research and from the most recent British Crime Survey continues to show that black and minority ethnic people are still more likely to be the victims of racist attacks and racially motivated crime than white people. We would therefore expect most of the projects we will fund would be addressing this kind of racist violence.

Black and minority ethnic refers to all groups who are discriminated against on the grounds of their race, culture, colour, nationality or religious practice. This definition includes but is not exclusive to those people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Irish, Jewish, Roma and South East Asian heritage.

Programme aim

To develop and/or strengthen preventive work with potential perpetrators to help reduce the level of racial incidents and race hate crime in specific geographical areas in London.

Programme objectives

- 1) To change the attitudes and behaviour of potential perpetrators of racist violence
- 2) To work with the wider community to change racist attitudes that have an influence on the attitudes and behaviour of the potential perpetrators
- 3) To evaluate the merits of the different approaches to this work
- 4) To share and learn from the work, and to influence other agencies including voluntary and community organisations, youth groups, other funders, local authorities, statutory agencies and government.

Additional criteria

We believe that voluntary and community organisations are in a good position to develop creative responses to these difficult problems. We also know that this work should be handled sensitively.

You will need to demonstrate the following when submitting your proposal:

- a) Who are the potential perpetrators you intend to work with and the reasons why they have been prioritised;
- b) That you have a strong anti-racist component to the work;
- c) What you are going to do and the methods you will use. This could include: art, mediation, sport, music, conflict resolution, one-to-one work etc;
- d) How the work is a new and creative way of addressing this issue;
- e) The geographical area in which you will focus your work, why the work is needed and how it will make a difference;
- f) How you will link up local strategies on crime reduction and community cohesion;
- g) That you have the experience, skills and capacity to deliver and manage this work;
- h) Who you have consulted in developing your proposal and how you will involve organisations that work with the communities you intend to work with (both victims and perpetrators) throughout the project;
- i) Identify potential outcomes;
- j) Your ability to deal with this issue sensitively;
- k) Your willingness to participate in an external evaluation and to share and learn from the work;
- l) You are a registered charity, Industrial and Provident Society or Friendly Society and working in London.

Collaborative projects will also be considered.

The programme will be externally evaluated to draw out the lessons learned and best practice so that these can be disseminated widely with the aim of influencing others and raise the profile of preventative work.

Funding available

Up to £400,000 is available for this special initiative over three years and we anticipate that a maximum of four or five projects will be funded as well as the external evaluation. Priority will be given to geographical areas in London with a high level of recorded racist incidents and where racial tensions are high.

Application Process

There is no application form. Please submit a proposal outlining:

- How your work will meet the programme's aims and objectives;
- Evidence of how the work will meet the additional criteria;
- Background information about your organisation;
- A budget for the work;
- Job descriptions;
- A copy of your constitution, most recent audited accounts and annual report.

Timetable

16 June	2006	Information meeting with interested applicants (see below)
7 August	2006	Closing date for applications
August/Sept	2006	Assessment visits for short-listed applicants
October	2006	Grants Committee meets to consider applications
November	2006	Successful applicants announced

Please send your application to:

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City Parochial Foundation
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London EC1A 7PH
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If you would like to discuss this special initiative in more detail please contact Sioned Churchill or Helal Abbas at the number above.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 7 AUGUST 2006

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