

21 September 2006

CPF and TfL launch new funding guidelines

Natural justice and social justice part of the whole – Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, stresses at launch

Our new funding priorities for 2007-11 were launched on Thursday 21 September 2006 at an event at Toynbee Hall.

Natural justice and social justice are two halves of a whole, keynote speaker Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, told guests at the launch.

‘Even many progressive politicians do not see the relationship,’ she continued.

She informed the audience that there were different types of poverty and human rights was an important issue – if the poorest and most vulnerable in society did not have access to legal advice it amounted to social exclusion.

‘The idea of human rights is thought of as odd in Britain – it is something for people abroad,’ she stressed. ‘It is because we have become complacent after a long period of stability: campaigners tend to concentrate on poverty rather than looking also to human rights as part of the issue.’

There was a contradiction in policy which demonised people. Families were either regarded as good or bad guys - with natural justice appearing to be thrown away. They were treated as either decent, hardworking families or the neighbours from hell, with criminal justice solutions to deal with them.

‘We can’t have these hermetically sealed categories,’ she argued. Too much money was being put into dealing with handing out ASBOs – which was turning children into offenders rather than tackling the issues that led to the problems.

She praised CPF and TfL for highlighting social justice as an issue in their new funding priorities, and for having the imagination to plan five-year programmes.

“A significant development will see us focusing on campaigning and policy change to achieve social justice,” Maggie Baxter, Chair of CPF and TfL, commented on the new priorities.

She added: "Often our funding goes to causes that are not always 'popular' but that does not deter us from taking up the challenge and taking risks: we believe this approach means we meet our objective of reaching those who need the most help."

CPF's priorities for 2007-11 are to improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged people; promoting the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK; promoting social justice; and strengthening the voluntary and community sector. A significant development will see the Foundation focusing on campaigning and policy change to achieve social justice.

For CPF's sister fund, Trust for London, the emphasis over the next five years will be on challenging discrimination faced by disabled people; promoting the inclusion and integration of recently established communities; strengthening mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities; and addressing new and emerging needs.

Both CPF and TfL have decided to make fewer but larger grants and to enhance the 'funding plus' approach both have developed over the years. Grants are not given in isolation, but additional support and training is offered to help organisations grow and develop, achieve additional benefits through creative approaches, and learn from their work.

Click here for more information on the 2007-11 guidelines and how to obtain copies.

<http://www.cityparochial.org.uk/cpf/grants/>