



Race Equality,

The **Drug Strategy** 10 years later...

Arsenal Emirates Stadium, Highbury London
Thursday 6th March 2008, 9.30 - 4.30pm



NATIONAL
DRUGS & RACE
EQUALITY
COALITION





Welcome

The National Drugs and Race Equality Coalition is a group whose membership is derived from national, regional and local organisations with a special interest in promoting race equality within the drug, alcohol and related fields. As a collective, we seek to use our influence to ensure that UK drugs policy and strategy appropriately reflects and responds to the needs and aspirations of Black and minority ethnic (BME) drug users, their families, carers, communities and professionals.

It is our pleasure to invite you to...

Race Equality, The **Drug Strategy** 10 years later...

To be held at the...

Arsenal Emirates Stadium, Highbury London, N5 1BU

Date and time of the event...

Thursday 6th March 2008, 9.30 - 4.30pm

The conference will be chaired by...

Professor Lord Patel of Bradford OBE

Background

In 1998 the UK Government launched its 10-year drug strategy 'Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain', which offered a framework for delivering anti-drug related activity across the UK. The strategy arrived against a promise from government of more money, better co-ordination, and a focus on action targeting prevention, treatment and reducing the supply of drugs.

March 2008 will mark the end of the current drug strategy and work is already underway on producing a new strategy that will seek to build on

the progress made to date and shape the future direction.



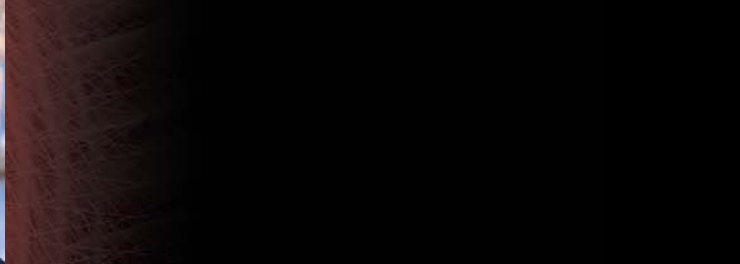
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As policy makers, commissioners, service providers, practitioners, users and carers enter this critical period of self-reflection and as important questions are asked of all aspects of past, present and future strategy, this conference will explore issues of drugs and race equality, and seek answers to the fundamental question **'what has the 10-years Drug Strategy done for us?' ...and what are the priorities for the future?'**

All elements of Diversity and Equality must be addressed to ensure an effective drug strategy beyond April 2008. This conference focuses on 'Race Equality'.

Conference Aims

- To take a retrospective and honest look at the past 10 years and assess the impact the drug strategy has had on reducing BME drug misuse, related harm and crime
- To bring together stakeholders (service users, families and carers, community activists, practitioners, commissioners and policy makers and shapers) from the drugs, criminal justice and related fields in order to identify priorities for the future and agree how we can better co-ordinate our work
- To showcase current approaches proven to be effective in supporting BME drug users, young people, families, carers, communities and professionals
- To shape the agenda for the National Drugs and Race Equality Coalition to inform the strategic function and advocacy role in relation to BME communities and professionals



Conference Objectives

- Begin to build a body of evidence that will inform the development of future strategies for tackling drug misuse within BME communities
- Encourage networking as a means of developing effective race equality by sharing good practice
- Develop a sense of where the strategy has or has not worked in order to formulate the basis of a set of priorities that can be taken forward by Coalition members and its emerging partners

Speakers Include

- **Vernon Coaker** - Minister for Drugs and Crime Reduction
- **Baroness Doreen Massey of Darwen** - Chair National Treatment Agency (NTA)
- **Beverley Thompson** - Race Equality Advisor; Head of Race Equality Action Group (REAG), HM Prison Service
- **Viv Ahmun** - CEO In-volve
- **Grantley Haynes** - Managing Director of the Wheeler Street Corporation Ltd
- **Kate Davies** - UCLan Director of the Community Engagement Project
- **Speakers from BME, users, families and carers and provider services**

Including Interactive Breakout

- **Families and carers**
- **Service user involvement**
- **Crack Cocaine**
- **Women and drugs**
- **The BME Professional**
- **Young People**
- **Black Prisoners Support**
- **KHAT use**
- **Drama/music/arts and poetry**

Conference includes **Breakout Sessions, Music, Art and Drama**



Supporting Organisations



For further information on the National Drugs & Race Equality Conference please contact Liz Kelly on **01772 893809** or email **ejkelly@uclan.ac.uk**



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National Drugs & Race Equality Conference 2008

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