



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 30 MARCH 2010

BETTER INTEGRATION POLICIES ARE NEEDED FOR NEW MIGRANTS

New migrants are unlikely to integrate successfully in the UK unless they are helped into work and assisted in learning English according to research by Runnymede - the UK's leading race equality thinktank.

The report, written by Dr Zubaida Haque, shows that it is not the number of new migrants or the greater ethnic diversity of neighbourhoods that is causing tensions between new migrants and settled communities, but the lack of adequate policies to manage their integration.

Drawing on global examples of best practice, the report explores what meaningful integration might look like, reviews international labour market, political, social and cultural integration strategies, and discusses ways of benchmarking successful integration.

Key findings include:

- The two key drivers of integration are employment and fluency in the host language
- Minor provisions in these areas would benefit the integration of new migrants across all aspects of life.
- Integration is a two-way process and in order for it to be sustained in the long term there needs to be more “meaningful” social interactions between existing settled communities and new migrants.
- Government and local agencies need to do more to share accurate and succinct information about new migrants.
- Integration interventions will not be successful without taking into account issues around disadvantage, discrimination and social exclusion in deprived inner-city and rural areas (where most migrants settle).

Dr Zubaida Haque, author of the report, said: “This review of international evidence shows that the key drivers to integration are employment and learning the language of the new country. Yet, there are very few provisions for new migrants to find work and to learn English in this country. Supply in ESOL courses in areas of high migration, for instance, is very poor. In addition, public

opinion surveys continue to show huge misperceptions of new migrants. If the government wants better “community cohesion” in this country, then more needs to be done to improve the social relations between new migrants and settled black, Asian and white communities”.

Commenting on the report, Runnymede Deputy Director Sarah Isal said: “The successful integration of migrants is a key determinant in creating successful multi-ethnic communities, as well as a key factor in alleviating tensions between new migrants and settled communities. The government must work to improve its policies on integration if it is to achieve its aim of more “cohesive communities” in the UK”.

Notes to Editors:

- 1) The full report is available here:
<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/135/32.html>
- 2) For more information about the report or to request an interview with Dr Haque or Runnymede deputy director Sarah Isal call the Runnymede office on 020 7377 9222 or email info@runnymedetrust.org
- 3) Runnymede is a social policy research organisation focused on race equality and race relations. We work by;
 - Investigating challenges to race equality and good race relations
 - Enabling effective action for social change
 - Influencing policy at all levels through providing thought leadership and robust evidence

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- 4) Today's report is part of Runnymede's Perspective series, which aims to engage with government through exploring the development of concepts in policy making and analysing their potential contribution to a successful multi-ethnic Britain.