



**The Runnymede Trust and NNREC  
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“Norfolk United” – Debating Race Equality**

Former Home Secretary Charles Clarke MP, along with Conservative MP Keith Simpson, Liberal Democrat MP Norman Lamb and Green Party Councillor Samir Jeraj will take part in a “Question Time” style debate on race equality in Norwich next week.

The four local politicians will be joined at the event, to be held at **Norwich City Hall** on **11 February 2010** at 7pm, by community activist Gita Prasad. The panel will be chaired by Senior BBC reporter Clive Lewis.

The debate, organised by the **Runnymede Trust** in association with the **Norwich and Norfolk Race Equality Council**, will mark Runnymede’s ongoing work to re-launch of the Race and Community All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in parliament. The outcomes of the Norfolk discussion will be fed back to parliamentarians and national policy makers.

Runnymede is supporting the APPG, which includes MPs from each of the major political parties, in facilitating top-level debate on the issues of race, equality and community cohesion.

The debate in Norwich will be the first in a series of regional events held by Runnymede across the UK, with the aim of promoting race equality and community cohesion. It is crucial that we create spaces to discuss these issues and build collective responses to the shared challenges of equality and justice for all.

This important local event will provide a rare occasion for people in Norwich and the surrounding areas to engage with senior politicians and community activists in a single setting. Runnymede looks forward to extending a welcome to the local community.

Attendance will be open to local community groups, local secondary schools, college and university students and all interested citizens. The discussion will focus on race equality and community cohesion practices, particularly in Norfolk.

The event will be filmed by local charity C>Media and will be streamed live online, with additional footage available to download from the Runnymede website after the event: [www.runnymedetrust.org](http://www.runnymedetrust.org).



Runnymede specifically wishes to thank Anne Matin, Director of NNREC and Cllr Jeremy Hooke of Norwich City Council for their support in organising the event.

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### **Notes for Editors**

1. The Runnymede Trust is an independent policy research organisation focusing on equality and justice through the promotion of a successful multi-ethnic Britain. It provides evidence and analysis on key social policy issues to enable more informed debate and better policy making. [www.runnymedetrust.org](http://www.runnymedetrust.org)

2. Norwich and Norfolk Race Equality Council is an independent charity covering the county of Norfolk. It works in partnership with communities, local, regional and national statutory and voluntary bodies to address issues of inequality and discrimination. [www.nnrec.org.uk](http://www.nnrec.org.uk)

For further information or to attend the event please contact Runnymede's Public Affairs Officer, Vicki Butler [vicki@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:vicki@runnymedetrust.org) / 020 7377 9222

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