

UK Race & Europe NETWORK

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Briefing Note n° 6

Follow up plan for the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) Drafting and Implementing a National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR)

INTRODUCTION

UKREN has been involved in preparations for the WCAR for the past two years. Part of these preparations consisted of a national consultation for UK NGOs, involving over 400 organisations. This consultation resulted in a report compiling the demands and recommendations of UK NGOs in relation to the WCAR which was then submitted to the government. Throughout the process, UKREN emphasised three key points:

- ✍ The importance of such an event where NGO participation would be unprecedented,
- ✍ The crucial role that NGOs could play and therefore the importance for NGOs to be informed and involved in the process at various levels,
- ✍ **The importance of follow-up. The conference is now over, but the momentum needs to be kept up. We, as NGOs need to think about the follow-up action that needs to be taken at international, European and national level.**

This briefing note focuses on the latter point, namely the plan for a follow up strategy to ensure that the results of the WCAR and all the work which led to it is carried forward in a concrete way in the next couple of years. This will be done through the elaboration and implementation of a National Action Plan against Racism (NAPAR) to filter the WCAR recommendations down from the International level through to the local level, with the help of government representatives, Non Governmental Organisations, Equality Institutions and social partners. This briefing note is designed to provide clarification on the latest developments at national level in the development of the NAPAR.

This Briefing aims to answer the following questions:

- **What has been done so far since the end of the WCAR?**
- **What is the UK Government doing to follow-up on the WCAR?**
- **What can be found in the NAPAR?**
- **How is the government drafting the NAPAR?**
- **Is it possible to get a copy of the draft NAPAR?**
- **What is the role of NGOs and community organisations in this process?**
- **How will the consultation input in the drafting of the NAPAR**
- **What will happen after the consultation?**

What has been done so far since the end of the WCAR?

The final governmental documents (Declaration and Programme of Action) were officially published by the United Nations only in January 2002, therefore explaining the slow start to the follow-up process.

What is the Government doing to follow-up the WCAR?

The Race Equality Unit at the Home Office has put together a Steering Committee made up of representatives of civil society, social partners, equality bodies (CRE and Northern Ireland Equality Commission) and representatives of devolved administrations. The Steering Committee's role is to work with the Home Office in order to draft the NAPAR and ensure maximum participation of civil society in this process.

official WCAR documents can be found on the following websites:

Government Declaration & Programme of Action:

www.unhchr.ch/html/racism

NGO Declaration & Programme of Action:

www.racism.org.za

In the WCAR Programme of Action, paragraph 191 a):

Calls upon States to elaborate action plans in consultation with national human rights institutions, other institutions created by law to combat racism, and civil society and to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with such action plans and other relevant materials on the measures undertaken in order to implement provisions of the present Declaration and the Programme of Action

The UK Government has agreed to draft a National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) for the UK in order for the recommendations of the WCAR to be implemented effectively at national and local level.

What can be found in the NAPAR?

The WCAR produced a set of documents (Declaration & Programme of Action) committing governments who signed up to them to implement their recommendations in their respective countries. Furthermore, the NGOs were very active before and during the WCAR and produced a number of documents themselves. All these documents will be used to input into the National Action Plan, drafted by the Home Office.

How is the government drafting the NAPAR?

The Race Equality Unit at the Home Office has produced a document compiling all the recommendations from the WCAR, the European Conference Against Racism, the UKREN report arising from the consultation conducted with UK NGOs last year in preparation for the WCAR, and the European Caucus guidelines. These recommendations were divided up by government departments. The Race Equality Unit has circulated this document to these departments and has requested them to look at which recommendations are already being implemented and which are not in order to identify the gaps. Following this exercise, the Race Equality Unit will draft a NAPAR which will then be implemented in 2003.

Is it possible to get a copy of the draft NAPAR?

The document is available from the UKREN Secretariat in electronic version only (quite a large document). Please email UKREN at s.isal@runnymedetrust.org for a copy of the document.

What is the role of NGOs in the process?

UKREN is preparing a new consultation process across the UK. As with the previous consultation held in March-April 2001, the aim will be to:

- 1- Inform NGOs of the follow-up process to the WCAR and the government's plans to implement the WCAR
- 2- Consult with NGOs on the draft NAPAR to ensure that it is comprehensive and includes as many issues that NGOs wish to see in the NAPAR

How will the Consultation input in the drafting of the NAPAR?

As the NAPAR covers a very wide range of issues, it would be difficult to discuss all these issues in each of the consultation meetings.

Each meeting will therefore focus on a particular issue covered by the NAPAR which might be particularly relevant to the region where the meeting is taking place.

UKREN will then present the Home Office with a report of all the consultation meetings.

What will happen after the consultation?

The Home Office will organise a National Follow-up Conference, with the help of the Steering Committee. This conference will be an opportunity for NGOs and community organisations to discuss further the draft NAPAR presented by the government. **The Conference will take place on 20 November 2002 in Manchester**

Cities where consultation meetings will take place:

Belfast

Birmingham

Bradford

Cardiff

Edinburgh

Glasgow

Inverness

London

Manchester

Nottingham

Stockton

If you would like to attend any of these events, please contact the UKREN Secretariat who will put you in touch with the partner organisation supporting the consultation meeting in your region.

For further information on the WCAR process, or for copies of Briefing Notes 1-5, please contact:

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