

Institute of Equality & Diversity Practitioners

2 Old College Court,
29 Priory Street,
Ware,
Hertfordshire
SG12 0DE
Tel: 0844 482 7263
Fax: 0845 612 2061
Email: info@iedp.org.uk
Web: www.iedp.org.uk

Dear Editor

Lord Ouseley is partly right when he says that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has failed vulnerable communities. We have tried over the last 4 years to get the Commission to make public the work it has done to encourage public authorities to deliver equality outcomes, especially in the provision of goods and services. It chose instead to work 'behind the scenes' the problem with this is that it gives the impression that people discriminated against have no public advocates, and the even worse impression that employers and services providers have nothing to fear if they fail to meet their legal obligations.

None of this is helped by the Prime Minister telling the CBI that he will get rid of one of the most effective methods of bringing about equality the requirement to assess and publish the likely impact of new or changed policies.

For many years the laws on race were ignored until the enquiry conducted by Lord Macpherson into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, British society cannot afford to wait until another tragedy before taking equality seriously.

Regards

Linda Bellos OBE