

Religion and Belief, Discrimination and Equality in England and Wales 2000-2010: Theory, Policy and Practice

Professor P. Weller (University of Derby), Dr N. Ghanaea (University of Oxford)
and Dr K. Purdam (University of Manchester)
2010-2012

This project will build on the methods and results of the first government-commissioned study of Religious Discrimination in England and Wales, 1999-2001. That study found evidence of unfair treatment especially in education, employment and media, particularly as reported by Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus. Some overlap was found between religious and racial discrimination, New Religious Movements also reported experiences of considerable hostility.

The new project based at the University of Derby and in collaboration with the Universities of Oxford and Manchester will take account of the past decade's legal and policy developments on religion and human rights in which the category of "religious discrimination" has become more widely accepted, while modified by reference to "belief" and an emerging policy focus on "shared values", "social cohesion" and "Britishness".

Organisations that participated in the original project's national survey will be invited to participate in a new one in which the same questions, but also new ones, will be asked. Qualitative research will be conducted in the original case study areas of Newham, Cardiff, Blackburn and Leicester. Norwich will be added as a location with a rural hinterland and recent developments linked with EU labour migration.

The original project's emphasis on "religion" has been balanced by reference to "belief". Thus the project will use focus groups to help capture the experiences and perspectives of those who understand themselves as "non-religious".

Project outcomes include: a scholarly monograph study of religion and belief, discrimination and equality; and a briefing report for opinion-formers and policy-makers in the public, private and voluntary/community sectors. The briefing report will inform a series of knowledge exchange seminars held in Autumn 2012 at the Multi-Faith Centre for practitioners in the public, private and voluntary/ community sectors, for religious groups and for legal practitioners.

For more information:

Email: kingsley.purdam@manchester.ac.uk



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



tel +44(0)161 275 4721
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk>