



## **BEMIS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FAWCETT SOCIETY**

### **CLOSING THE INEQUALITY GAP:**

**Get Your Voice Heard:**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009,**

**10.30am-1.30pm**

**Venue: City Chambers**

**Tel: 0141 548 8047**

### **Ethnic Minority Women and Politics**

BEMIS in Partnership with the Femocracy is holding an event to get Ethnic Minority Women's voices heard in Politics. The aim of this event is to work directly with ethnic minority women on their political empowerment to increase the number of ethnic minority women registered to vote and engaged in politics. Ethnic minority women are not being seen or heard politically, and their concerns are not prioritized in public policy.

BEMIS & Femocracy's aim is to bring politics directly to disengaged ethnic minority women in Scotland in order to get their voices heard and engage ethnic minority women in politics. The aim of the workshop is to build:

- **Confidence** to take part and influence decision making through exercising their right to vote
- **Awareness** of how democracy is organised and decisions made and championing of political active women
- **Understanding** of the relevance of politics and how it impacts on their lives
- **Knowledge** of the timing and significance of upcoming elections and how to register to vote in these

### **The causes**

- **Lower political participation:** Ethnic minority women are underrepresented on the electoral register. They also tend to be less engaged with mainstream politics than white women and ethnic minority men; Black Caribbean and Black African women are particularly unlikely to turn out to vote.
- **Distinct barriers:** Ethnic minority women face particular barriers to democratic participation. These include low levels of awareness of political processes and limited availability of tailored communications that demonstrate how politics is relevant to their lives.
- **Under-representation:** The severely low number of ethnic minority women visibly involved in British politics serves as a disincentive to ethnic minority women's political participation. There are currently only 2 Black women MPs; 8 ethnic minority women peers in the House of Lords; and only 168 ethnic minority women councillors out of 20,000; this is less than 1% and none in Scotland.

Please take this opportunity to register your interest as soon as possible as places are limited.

**For further information please contact:**

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