

Promoting Youth Employability and Rights Conference

Tuesday 21st February 2012, 09:30—15:30
STUC Centre, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG

Programme

(Day will be chaired by **Dr Rowena Arshad**, Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland (CERES), University of Edinburgh)

- 09:30** **Registration** (with tea and coffee)
- 10:00** **Setting the Scene**
Dr Rami Ousta (CEO, BEMIS)
- 10:10** **Opening Address**
Angela Constance MSP (Minister for Youth Employment)
- 10:25** **Mark Lynch** (STUC Youth Committee)
- 10:35** **Modern Apprenticeships**
Hazel Mathieson (Head of National Operations, Skills Development Scotland)
- 10:50** **'Unemployment; Challenges faced by the BME Community'**
Mr Gerry Croall (Development Director, A4e)
- 11:05** **Q&A Session**
- 11:20** **Coffee Break**

11:40 Morning Workshops:

1: Human Rights Education in Employment and Service Provision

Tanveer Parnez and **Emilia Pietka** (BEMIS)

This workshop will highlight:

- Rights and responsibilities of both employers and employees in relation to Human Rights Education and Active Citizenship
- To what extent youth unemployment impacts on active citizenship
- Interrelation of equality, employment & active citizenship
- How active citizenship for equality groups can be enhanced through employment

2: Employment through Social Enterprise

Jenice Lee (Development Officer, CEMVO Scotland)

This workshop will explore the potential for social enterprise as a route into employment for ethnic minority young people. The session will be led by CEMVO Scotland which is currently delivering a social enterprise support programme for ethnic minority young people aged 16-25 years.

The workshop will:

- Raise awareness of social enterprise as a potential route into employment
- Identify the barriers for EM young people seeking a route into employment through social enterprise
- Explore potential partnerships that could be developed in supporting EM young people into social enterprise development

3: STUC: Youth Training Initiatives

Zaffir Hakim (Project Manager, One Workplace Equal Rights)

This workshop will:

- Explore barriers to participation for young BME workers in accessing good quality Modern Apprenticeships
- Examine a successful Modern Apprenticeship model developed in partnership with employer and the trade union
- Discuss ways to promote greater equality of opportunity for young BME workers in the Modern Apprenticeship programme

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **Getting Employability to Work**
Thomas Moan (Acting Director for Performance and Development, Life Skills Central Ltd)

13:45 **Afternoon Workshops:**

1: Religion & Belief Matters in the Workplace

Maureen Sier (CEO, Scottish Interfaith Council)

This workshop will explore the importance of:

- The current legislation in terms of employment
- How a person's identity impacts on their employment prospects
- The values that young people and diversity of faith potentially bring to the workforce

2. Young Migrants and Refugees: Rights to work and Rights at work

Wafa Shaheen and **Fiori Mezgebo** (Scottish Refugee Council)

Barriers to young refugees and migrants.

This workshop will explore the importance of:

- The immigration legislation background in relation to employment rights
- Current research - employability issues and integration
- Young people's experience - how we can be informed by this

3. ILAs – What are they and how can they help me get back to work?

Thomas Moan (Acting Director for Performance and Development, LifeSKILLS)

This workshop will explain what an Individual Learning Account (ILA) is and how to register for one. The workshop will also look at how they can help job seekers to engage in lifelong learning and to take control of their own Continuous Professional Development. The workshop will end with an interactive activity that forms part of one of the ILAs that LifeSKILLS are approved to deliver.

14:35 **Coffee Break**

14:50 **Plenary Session and Way Forward**
Developing Recommendations for the Charter

15:30 **Close**