

brap

# Bright ideas...

April 2011



Research brochure





“brap have thought  
creatively about how to  
address the problems  
they identify”

Amanda Ariss  
Chief Executive, Equality and Diversity Forum  
*Managing Competing Equality Claims*



This brochure showcases a selection of brap's most recent research.

The reports have been chosen because they highlight the scope, breadth, and quality of our research.

To obtain a copy of any of the reports, to find out more about our current projects, or to discuss how we can help you, please email [brap@brap.org.uk](mailto:brap@brap.org.uk).



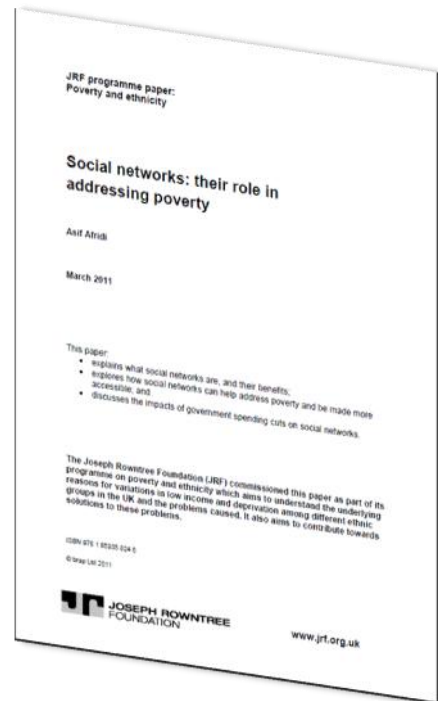
## Social Networks: their role in addressing poverty

**Name:** Social Networks: their role in addressing poverty

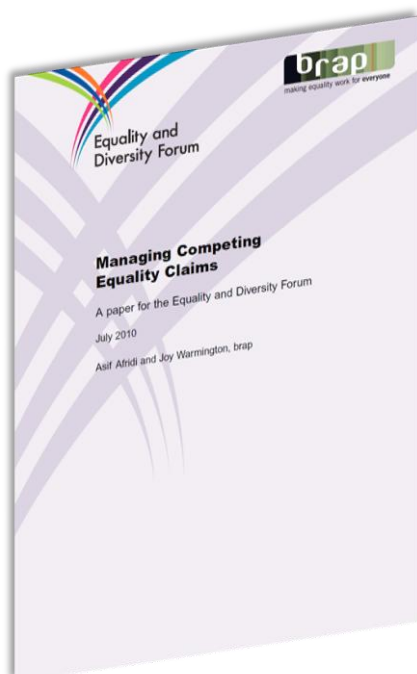
**Commissioned by:** Joseph Rowntree Foundation

**Date:** March 2011

Recognising the importance of social networks in shaping people's lives and influencing their capacity to access a range of opportunities, this report explores what role networks can play in reducing poverty. Exploring how differences in social networks affect poverty among people from different ethnic backgrounds and the potential for current social networks to provide better support in relation to routes out of poverty, this report is a timely read in light of the Big Society agenda.



## Managing Competing Equality Claims



**Name:** Managing Competing Equality Claims

**Commissioned by:** Equality and Diversity Forum

**Date:** July 2010

Commissioned by the Equality and Diversity Forum to stimulate debate about how to address situations where individual rights conflict, this report takes a practical approach, incorporating case studies of some recent 'conflicts' and identifying the lessons that can be drawn from them.

Useful to anyone interested in dealing with workplace conflicts, promoting community cohesion, or deciding how to make and explain spending cuts in an increasingly lean financial environment.

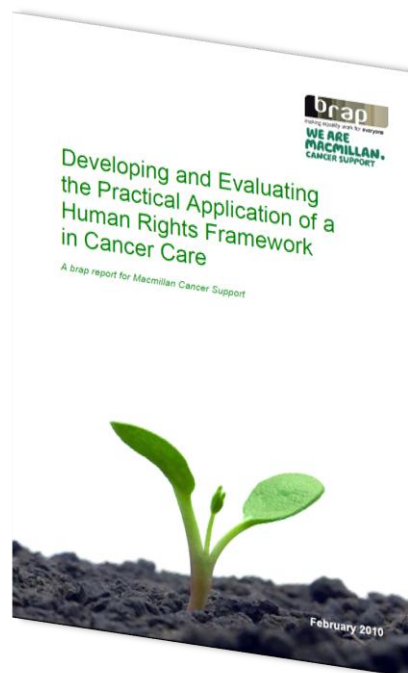
## Developing a Human Rights Framework for Cancer Care

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**Name:** Developing and Evaluating the Practical Application of a Human Rights Framework in Cancer Care  
**Commissioned by:** Macmillan Cancer Support  
**Date:** February 2010

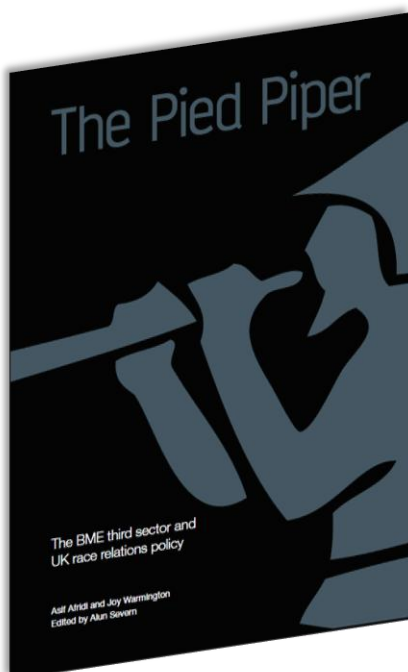
Unfairness in the health system means there are major inequalities in cancer incidence, uptake of services, and outcomes according to people's socio-economic position and other aspects of their background and identity.

This report outlines how a human rights framework can be used to reinvigorate the relationship between staff and patients, to improve cancer treatment and the experience of care for everyone.



## The Pied Piper

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**Name:** The Pied Piper: the BME third sector and UK race relations policy  
**Commissioned by:** Capacitybuilders  
**Date:** March 2010  
**ISBN:** 978-1-905677-99-3

*The Pied Piper* is all about the black and minority ethnic third sector – its roots, the political context in which it operates, the challenges it faces, and its future development.

As well as being a useful resource for people working with or for BME third sector organisations, *The Pied Piper* is a provocative and enjoyable account of the last 60 years of race relations – a good read as well as a good resource. Packed full of information and analysis, *The Pied Piper* shows that the development needs of the BME sector are different - but for reasons that are more complex than is generally understood.

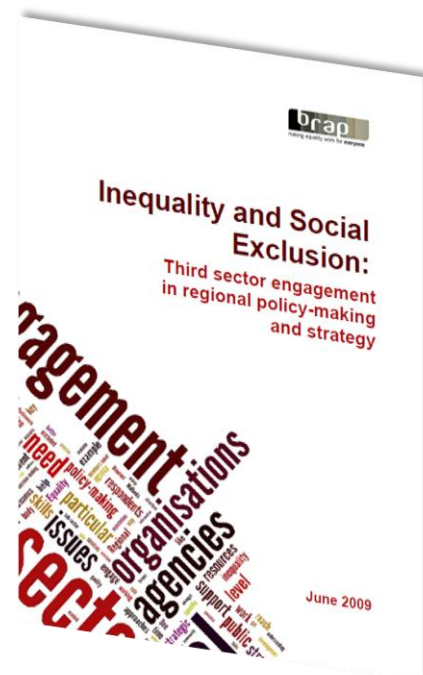
Nelarine Cornelius, Professor of Human Resource Management at Bradford University, described the book as “an excellent overview of modern race relations – extremely useful to anyone wanting to know why the BME third sector is the way it is.

## Inequality and Social Exclusion

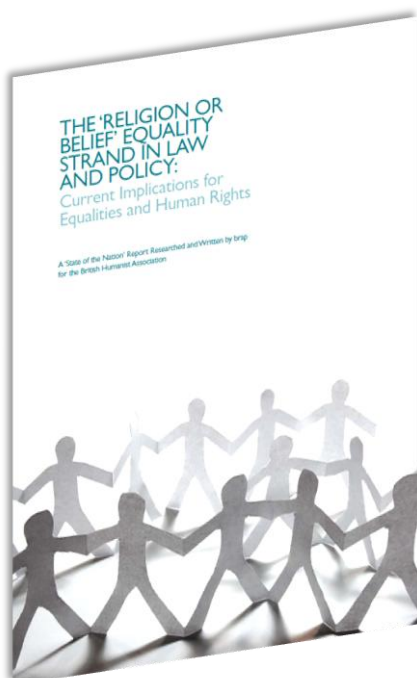
**Name:** Inequality and Social Exclusion: Third sector engagement in regional policy-making and strategy  
**Commissioned by:** Government Office for the West Midlands  
**Date:** June 2009

For some years now it has been established practice for public sector organisations to engage and consult with third sector organisations. This comprehensive and – at times – provocative report examines how, why and with what purpose regional agencies engage with third sector equality bodies in the course of regional policy-making.

Specifically, the report provides an indication of the support needs third sector and regional agencies have regarding equalities-related engagement, and how organisations have different views on what constitutes ‘effective’ engagement.



## The ‘Religion or Belief’ Equality Strand in Law and Policy



**Name:** The ‘Religion or Belief’ Equality Strand in Law and Policy: Current implications for equalities and human rights  
**Commissioned by:** British Humanist Association  
**Date:** April 2009  
**ISBN:** 978-0-901825-86-5

Shining a light on this much misunderstood and hotly contested area of equalities law and practice, the report examines how current approaches to policy and legislation on ‘religion or belief’ need to change if we are to ensure equality for a range of people in the UK.

Given confusion regarding the term ‘religion or belief’ as used in the Human Rights Act, the increasing involvement of faith groups in public sector delivery, and tensions within government cohesion and anti-extremism policies, *The ‘Religion or Belief’ Equality Strand* is a comprehensive overview of an extremely important topic.

## 'Race', Representation, and Influence

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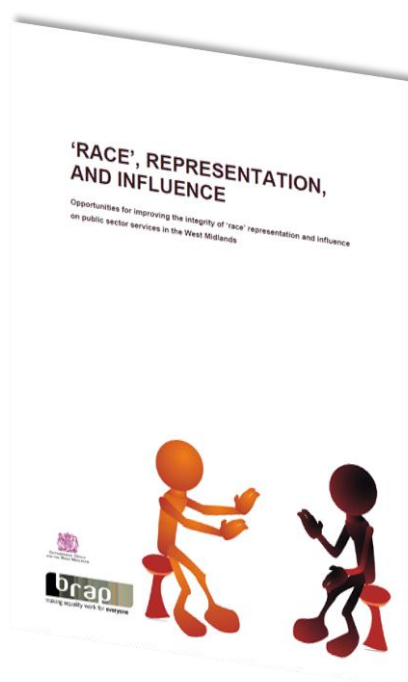
**Name:** 'Race', Representation, and Influence: Opportunities for improving the integrity of 'race' representation and influence on public sector services

**Commissioned by:** Government Office for the West Midlands

**Date:** February 2009

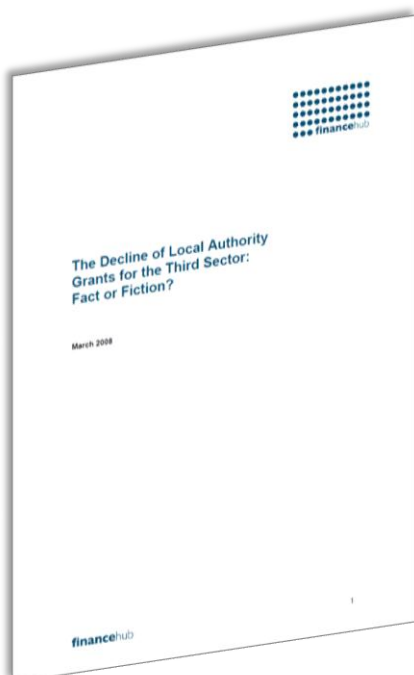
Commissioned by the Government Office for the West Midlands to improve engagement practices across the region, *'Race', Representation, and Influence* explores how and why public bodies involve people from a black and minority ethnic background.

The report identifies common approaches to engaging with marginalised groups – and the problems associated with them. It also makes practical recommendations about the values, techniques, and national best practice that can make consultations fairer and more effective.



## The Decline of Local Authority Grants for the Third Sector: Fact or Fiction?

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**Name:** The Decline of Local Authority Grants for the Third Sector: Fact or Fiction?

**Commissioned by:** Finance Hub

**Date:** March 2008

A fascinating account of how a changing funding environment can affect the make-up of the third sector, this report examines the change from grant funding to commissioning; the effect of these changes on third sector organisations; and the implications for funders and social businesses.

Based on interviews with 90 local authorities from across the country, *The Decline of Local Authority Grants* raises key issues about the support third sector organisations need when faced with a changing funding environment – much as they are today.



*“The Pied Piper* moves away from simple narratives to explode some myths about BME communities and their chequered relations with policy makers.”

Professor Roger Zetter  
Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford  
*The Pied Piper*

## Performance and Race Equality

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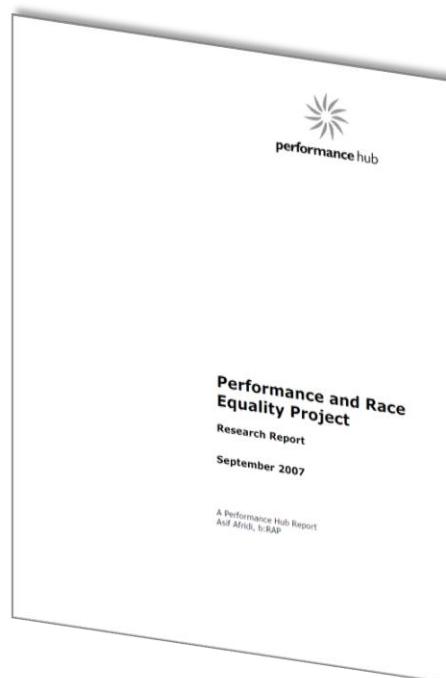
**Name:** Performance and Race Equality

**Commissioned by:** Performance Hub

**Date:** September 2007

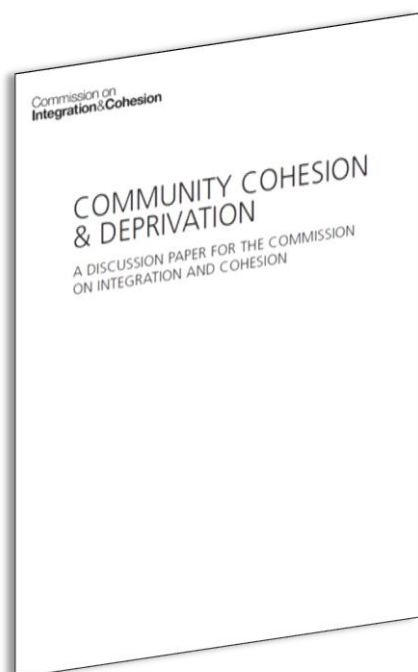
This report, commissioned by the Performance Hub, examines whether existing performance improvement approaches are relevant to the black and minority ethnic (BME) third sector, whether performance improvement can assist BME organisations to achieve their social mission, and whether the BME sector has specific support needs that are distinct from those of 'mainstream' organisations.

A penetrating and illuminating read for anyone interested in BME social organisations and the Big Society.



## Community Cohesion and Deprivation

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**Name:** Community Cohesion and Deprivation: A discussion paper

**Commissioned by:** Commission on Integration and Cohesion

**Date:** June 2007

Is there a direct relationship between cohesion and inequality? Does pronounced inequality *erode* cohesion? Does greater cohesion actively *reduce* inequalities? This paper addresses these issues, as well as exploring the possibility of rethinking cohesion in light of Sen's capabilities approach and calls for a new equalities measurement framework.

Drawing upon a range of academic and policy documents from the UK and beyond, the paper also contains reflections based on brap's own experiences of working on issues of equality and cohesion, most notably the Lozells disturbances in Birmingham in 2005.



## What we can offer you

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brap's equalities research centre brings together an expert team which includes associates from the public, academic and third sector. This combination produces cutting edge insight and high-quality practical recommendations which can actually be implemented. We believe that evidence, truth and innovation are critical to understanding our society's challenges and how we might work together to deliver greater opportunities for all.

Research for brap isn't just about understanding the 'why' – it's also about understanding the 'how'.

Our services include:

- needs analysis of diverse groups
- evaluation of policy and services
- service re-design and improvement
- consultation and facilitation with diverse groups (focus groups, interviews, online surveys)
- equality and human rights impact assessment

People we have worked with have particularly valued our use of qualitative research with excluded groups to unpick and demonstrate both the causes of inequality and practical approaches to addressing discrimination. Our organisation's mission is to use research to provide the evidence needed to bring about practical and lasting change in society.

To find out more about how we can help you, contact us at [brap@brap.org.uk](mailto:brap@brap.org.uk) or phone 0121 456 7400







“The brap thinkpiece was very helpful. Its discussion of the impact of inequality and deprivation chimed with many of the things the Commission thought and discussed.”

David Anderson  
Integration and Cohesion Implementation  
Communities and Local Government  
*Community Cohesion and Deprivation*





brap is a think fair tank, inspiring and leading change to make public, private and third sector organisations fit for the needs of a more diverse society. brap offers tailored, progressive and common sense approaches to equality training, consultancy and community engagement issues.

Registered charity number 1115990

The logo for brap, consisting of the lowercase letters 'brap' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are closely spaced and have a slightly rounded, friendly appearance.

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