

## People in Harmony

For 36 years the charity People in Harmony has been involved with supporting and campaigning on behalf of mixed race people and families. Problems have shifted over the years and experiences have altered in scope and in kind. A majority of the negative experiences arise from ignorance and exclusion of those perceived to be mixed or mixing race. It is therefore vital that public services equip themselves to think through the questions facing the mixed race 'community'. For more information see [www.pih.org.uk](http://www.pih.org.uk)

### Delegate fee

Full rate: £190.00 + VAT

Reduced rate: £150.00 + VAT

(limited number of places available to small registered charities with 10 or fewer employees)

Discounts are available for teams of three or more places booked simultaneously.

The delegate fee includes: lunch, refreshments and a delegate pack.

### To book a place

#### Paper booking Form

A booking form is enclosed which contains full terms and conditions of booking. Please note in particular the cancellation terms, and highlight any special dietary, access or other requirements.

Once completed, please return the form to Central Conference Consultants Limited.

**Fax the booking form to 0115 916 3106**

Or post it to Central Conference Consultants Ltd, 23 Barratt Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham NG9 6AD.

#### Online

You can also book online by going to **[www.ccclimited.org.uk](http://www.ccclimited.org.uk)**

### Venue

The conference takes place at **The King's Fund, 11/13 Cavendish Square** (entrance is in Dean's Yard), **London WC1**. This is a short walk from Oxford Circus underground station.

There are car parking facilities in Cavendish Square, but these are expensive and we advise the use of public transport where possible. The venue is within the London Congestion Charge area.

Directions and details of accommodation options will be sent out with confirmations.

### Enquiries

If you have any queries about the conference, please contact:

Central Conference Consultants Limited on  
**0115 916 3104** or email **[ccclimited@aol.com](mailto:ccclimited@aol.com)**



# Understanding the experience of mixed race families and young people: improving services

The mixed race population, one of the fastest growing in the UK, is disproportionately young. These young people and their families have a range of different experiences and it is important for service providers to understand more about issues such as identity, exclusion and under-achievement.

**29 April 2008**  
**Central London**



## Background to the conference

Since the inclusion of a 'mixed race option' in the UK census, more has come to be known about this population. While 'mixed' is a broad definition, the numbers who identify with the term appear to be increasing. Despite this, services have generally been slow to adopt a realistic view of mixed race people and families.

The 2001 Census identified approximately 0.7m people of mixed race, of which about 50% were of black Caribbean and white origin, just under 30% were Asian-white and the remaining 20% were from other and very varied backgrounds. The mixed race population is very young in profile and, with an expected growth of mixed race relationships, this is forecast to grow fast - by approximately 40% between 2001 - 2010, and 30% between 2010 - 2020. This will have a significant impact on the profile of the local population in some areas of the UK.

Mixed race people sometimes describe themselves as 'invisible' as they have been expected to merge within the parental minority group. People of black Caribbean and white background are often perceived as black, yet rarely as white. This tendency is now being challenged by mixed race people themselves. There is also a growing concern around the negative outcomes for mixed race people and families, particularly in public service areas such as education and social work. Race is not the only factor contributing to mixed race experience, with social class, gender, age, sexuality and other social factors combining to affect life chances.

Mixed race family structure has long been perceived in negative terms, such as 'can white mothers raise black boys?' The outcomes of the negative view of mixed race families and expectations of mixed race children are evident across areas of public service: while certain groups of mixed race children outperform the average, it remains the case that mixed race children are disproportionately represented in the care system, exclusions from school and in the criminal justice system.

## Aims of the conference

In recent years the internet has enabled a sharing of information about mixed race questions with national and international networks such as People in Harmony, Intermix, MixTogether and New Demographic existing for mixed race people and families to meet and share their ideas in 'virtual' if not 'real' terms. However it is to local and concrete services that this conference is addressed in the expectation that this is an area of practice which will experience considerable change in the coming decade.

Over the last few years, there has been recognition that a 'one size fits all' approach to mixed race people and families is not beneficial. Several important pieces of research, some complete and some in progress, offer more accurate information on which to base policy and service development. Awareness of client background is important in providing all services, as is the need to challenge the assumption that mixed race young people and families are 'confused about identity' and do not fit in anywhere.

This conference aims to provide delegates with the opportunity to:

- Hear about current research on mixed race populations
- Consider the policy implications of the research findings - focussing particularly on groups which under-achieve
- Hear from some of the few services which have been specifically developed for people of mixed race
- Network with professionals who share an interest in the development of services to meet the needs of mixed race people

## Agenda (subject to change)

9.15 - 10.00	Registration and coffee
10.00 - 10.15	<b>Why we need to talk about mixed race - Introduction from the chair</b> Louise Barker, People in Harmony
10.15 - 10.40	<b>Crossing the colour and faith line: challenging assumptions about families from mixed racial, ethnic and faith backgrounds</b> Dr Chamion Caballero, London South Bank University, and co-author of the forthcoming Parenting 'Mixed' Children: Negotiating Difference and Belonging (funded by Joseph Rowntree Foundation)
10.40 - 11.05	<b>Improving the educational environment for mixed race children</b> Professor Leon Tikly, University of Bristol
11.05 - 11.25	Open forum
11.25 - 11.50	Coffee
11.50 - 12.20	<b>The Multiple Heritage Project: raising the profile of mixed race issues through focussed services</b> Bradley Lincoln, founder of the Multiple Heritage Project, Manchester
12.20 - 12.40	Open forum
12.40 - 1.35	Lunch
1.35 - 2.35	<b>Study sessions (A)</b> - Delegates may attend ONE of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Creating a strong sense of self in mixed race young people</b> - Bradley Lincoln, Multiple Heritage Project, Manchester</li> <li><b>2. Mixed race young people: over-represented in the criminal justice system</b> - Uzo Iwobi, former Commissioner, Commission for Racial Equality; Principal Equality &amp; Diversity Officer, South Wales Police</li> <li><b>3. Making mixed race children visible in the education system</b> - Jane Daffe, Senior EMAG Consultant, Nottingham City Council</li> <li><b>4. Social services and mixed race families</b> - for further details see <a href="http://www.ccclimited.org.uk">www.ccclimited.org.uk</a></li> <li><b>5. Complex family systems: working with mixed race service users</b> - Yvonne Ayo, Tavistock Centre</li> </ol>
2.35 - 2.45	Swap Study Sessions and help yourself to tea!
2.45 - 3.45	<b>Study Sessions (B)</b> - Delegates may attend ONE of the above.
3.45 - 4.15	<b>Implications for policy making and service delivery</b> Panel: selection of previous speakers/study session leaders

## Who should attend

- Policy makers at local, regional and national government levels
- Equalities officers
- Social services and children's services
- Housing services
- Education services
- Mental health services
- Primary care services
- Criminal justice system
- Agencies working with young people
- Agencies working to promote race equality