

## Val Hoskins

I am a mixed race family parent with 5 children who joined Harmony, now named People in Harmony, when my 3 eldest children were young. We also became members of a thriving local group called Thames Valley Harmony where parents and children had regular meetings and social events.

I became a committee member in the 90s organising speakers and workshops for our annual events, publicising events, raising local funds towards costs and some core funding when PIH was based in Slough. I was asked to take responsibility for managing the phone line and from the many request we received I developed resources for PIH to sell - papers, reports, books and videos. I was also involved in recruiting new members, trustees and volunteers, editing and publishing newsletters and mailing them out to members.

I've served in various roles during my time such as membership secretary, company secretary, vice-chair, treasurer, event organiser, publicity and media, web development, and was involved with facilitating workshops requested by school staff. I participated in media workshops, employment of staff and other useful training, was a committee member at Bracknell Forest REC during it's development and involved locally with police training following the Macpherson Report.

'Mixed Race Matters' a national one day conference held by PIH in London, 2000, has been one of many exciting and successful events to be involved in organising with committee members and volunteers and it was supported by a high standard of speakers from a range of backgrounds and experience of mixed race. The PIH public sector conferences held at Kings Fund, London, almost 10 years later were also very successful and well attended by professionals. Feedback from the conferences we organise given by both mixed race people and families, as well as professionals wanting to learn more about mixed race experiences, confirm there is a need for them.

I would like to see the diversity of the committee grow and expand with new members joining the board and for the work to be supported by additional volunteers. I am interested in all aspects of mixed race experience with specific experience of education, special education and criminal justice, where the support, experiences and learning from other PIH members and contacts has been invaluable.

I enjoy reading, keeping up to date with race and mixed race related research, publications as well events nationally and locally, researching complex health issues, mental health diagnosis and learning disabilities, family barbecues, chatting to friends and relaxing at spa days – time permitting.