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Discrimination of Minorities in the Media - Reality or Paranoia?

A Ground-Breaking Conference Chaired by Henry Bonsu and Mishal Husain

Key Speakers across two day event

Keynote Closing Address by Lord John Taylor

Wednesday 2 April 2008: Renowned broadcasters, Henry Bonsu and Mishal Husain, will head a cast of keynote speakers on 28th and 29th May at a ground-breaking conference 'Discrimination of Minorities in the Media – Reality or Paranoia' which, for the first time, will bring together both sides of the argument in addressing the issues surrounding the discrimination of ethnic minority groups in the media.

Described as an open forum for high level debate, the two-day event will cover the hottest issues affecting communities in the UK today. As the title of the Conference suggests, is there an on-going discrimination against Muslim communities after 9 / 11 and 7 / 7? Are Eastern Europeans misrepresented in the media and what do we make of the constant struggle to understand immigration, multi-culturism or Britishness?"

Leaving no stone unturned, the Agenda will also examine the media's role and impact on society today while Panel and Delegate discussions over the two days will raise important issues such as the lack of ethnic minorities in the media profession and how the media is perceived by minorities. Comedian, Lenny Henry famously lambasted the BBC and other broadcasters recently for not employing enough black staff, calling on broadcasters to take "affirmative action" to remedy the situation.

Professor Noam Chomsky, author of *Media Control – The Spectacular Achievements of Propaganda* and, more recently, *Failed States*, has put his full support behind this vitally important debate for positive change.

On Day One of the Conference, 28th May, Karen Chouhan, Leader of the 1990 Trust and CEO of Equanomics will make the first keynote address, discussing the relationship between the black community and the media. Later, Jam Mokrzoicki, President of The Federation of Poles in Great Britain, will look at the problems facing Eastern Europeans and Dr. Mohammed Abdul Bari will debate the media's representation of Muslims in Britain today following 9/11 and 7/7.



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Other highlights on Day One include A Presentation of the book '*Bad News from Israel*' by Dr. Mike Berry, co-author and Lecturer at Nottingham University.

The role of the Press Complaints Commission will form a key focus for Professor Robert Pinker CBE, International Consultant & former ex acting Chairman of The Press Complaints Commission, on Day Two of the Conference, 29th May, while Mukti Jain Campion, Executive Producer of Culture Wise, will examine cultural diversity in Public Service Broadcasting.

The ground-breaking conference will close with a keynote speech by Lord John Taylor of Warwick.

Discrimination of Minorities in the Media will take place at London's Business Design Centre, in the borough of Islington on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th May 2008.

Delegates interested in attending the event should visit the Conference website, www.media-conference.co.uk, to obtain details about registration and costs.

- Ends -

Editor's Note

1. Media interested in developing '*media*' partnerships' should contact Zarina McCulloch on 020 8203 5011 – zarina@media-conference.co.uk / zarina_mcculloch@yahoo.com or Shy Rabbani on 020 8316 0601 - shy.rabbani@media-conference.co.uk
2. Shy Rabbani, Director of the Media Conference, is available for interviews – please contact as above and on +44 (0)7921 132066
3. A Full Programme of the two day Conference is available to download online from www.media-conference.com
4. Please contact us immediately for media passes

About the Organisers

Pink Kiwi (www.pinkkiwi.co.uk) is a unique ethnic marketing specialist organisation with offices in the Middle East, South Asia, North Africa and Europe. *Shayesteh Rabbani*, the brainchild behind Pink Kiwi, has a huge passion for challenging negative perceptions and creating a solution for positive change.



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"...Britain is constantly growing and changing faster than ever. Its inhabitants are more and more diverse, yet there continues, it seems, to be a lack of understanding between the media and the different communities. We are extremely excited and proud to be joining forces with The Media Conference 2008. The event has come at a very crucial time when there is a tremendous amount of misunderstanding and misrepresentation of minorities in the media. We believe that this event will be pioneering, responsible and provide a positive catalyst for social change..."

Shy Rabbani, December 2007

CEO of the **Arab British Holding Group** and **The Media Conference**, **Younes El-Ghazi** has already made his mark across the international marketplace. With an extensive career within public affairs, consultancy and entrepreneurship across Canada, France, UK, Netherlands and Arab Countries, Younes aim is to build strong economic and cultural bridges between the Arab and Western world. The Media Conference was born as a result of his vision to establish a unique opportunity whereby the media, community stakeholders and organizations could share a common platform to bring about deeper understanding between the media and minority groups.

"...This is a comprehensive event tackling all aspects of relationships between the media and different communities constituting today's British society. We want to bring in the 'movers and shaker's and stakeholders - from politicians, academics, human rights activists & journalists to community leaders and corporate executives - to contribute to this timely debate with the aim to orchestrate & change perceptions for the good of all our communities..."

Younes El Ghazi, Nov 2007

For further information and for media interested in covering the event, please contact either Zarina McCulloch or Karen Roberts as follows:

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