



**COUNCIL OF ETHNIC MINORITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS
(CEMVO)**

News Release

**Launch of CEMVO's National Capacity Building Programme Evaluation
Report at the House of Lords**

On Friday 19th October 2007, the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO) held a reception at the House of Lords to mark the launch of its National Capacity Building Programme Evaluation Report.

The event, chaired by Lord Amir Bhatia OBE, was attended by a select audience of forty stakeholders and partners, and featured contributions from Hashmukh Pankhania, Chief Executive of CEMVO; Professor Gary Craig (University of Hull), author of the Report, Julie - Jaye Charles, Chief Executive of Equalities National Council, and Sam Agaba, one of CEMVO's Capacity Building Officers.

CEMVO's Capacity Building Programme is a unique systematic approach at building the organisational capacity of the country's Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Sector. The scheme involves CEMVO's MBA-qualified Capacity Building Officers working with a number of minority ethnic organisations to develop infrastructure systems, policies and procedures as well as providing them with assistance in widening their funding base. Over the past few years, the programme has greatly contributed to the renewal of local communities by developing strong and sustainable social enterprises; ultimately empowering marginalised individuals and groups to become active citizens, capable of articulating their needs and aspirations.

The key findings of CEMVO's National Capacity Building Programme Evaluation Report are:

- The Capacity Building Programme is probably the largest single investment in the Minority Ethnic Voluntary Sector in the United Kingdom.
- The Capacity Building Programme has generated more than £20 million for the Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Sector.

- The Programme has had a significant impact in terms of strengthening the capacity of community organisations to be able to operate as accountable, sustainable and effective organisations.
- The Programme has shown to Government that there is a need for more investment in the sector, as well as identifying the ways in which such commitment can have a substantial benefit.

On the occasion of the launch, Lord Bhatia said:

"I am delighted to be here today to mark this milestone of CEMVO's remarkable journey. This is a celebration as much of CEMVO's success as of the countless individuals and groups who have worked so tirelessly with us over the years. I am indebted to them all for their unflinching support and commitment to turning our vision of strong and independent communities into reality".

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Notes to Editors

The Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO) is a national registered charity established in 1999. (Charity Number: 1077004)

CEMVO is based in four English regions, Scotland and Wales.

CEMVO aims to strengthen and support the minority ethnic voluntary sector by building and enhancing capacity and by influencing policy debates through the development of key areas of research.

CEMVO works towards securing the social regeneration of ethnic minority communities through a number of activities and programmes including:

- Enhancing capacity within the minority ethnic voluntary sector.
- Developing key areas of research in relation to minority ethnic issues to inform policy debates.
- Promoting networking and the sharing of best practice within the sector, thereby increasing social capital.
- Addressing concerns facing minority ethnic communities in health, education, income and housing.