



MME Council

A STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE NI EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON

THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT DRAFT OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

MARCH 2021

Statement on the PfG Draft Outcomes Framework

We commend the Northern Ireland Executive for reaching out to the community to help shape the forthcoming Programme for Government (PfG).

We applaud the aim to create an “inclusive society in which people of all ages and backgrounds are respected and cared for and in which we all prosper. A society which has no barriers to prevent people from living fulfilling lives. The Outcomes apply equally to everyone, and no one is excluded”.

We agree with the Outcomes as stated in the document, and note the inclusion of references to the Racial Equality Strategy under two of the nine outcomes.

However, we believe an awareness and emphasis on racial equity, and an embrace of ethnic and cultural diversity, should run through the whole strategy, rather than being confined to ‘equality’ or ‘identity’ sections.

In order for the Outcomes to “apply equally to everyone”, the differences in context and situation of everyone must be taken into account. Existing inequalities, for example, have been shown to result in a disproportionate impact on the health of minority ethnic communities of the current COVID-19 crisis. Similarly, migrant and minority ethnic communities may face challenges not faced by others in education, housing, the justice system, and in other areas covered by the PfG.

If our society is to have “no barriers to prevent people from living fulfilling lives”, then the primary goal of policy makers should be to find out what barriers already exist across all these areas, in order to remove them.

We therefore urge that this opportunity is taken to commission, at the highest level, and throughout all levels of government, and across all Departments, a thorough and fully resourced strategy to identify and address the issues, barriers and disadvantages that undermine equality of opportunity in our community faced by people of migrant and minority ethnic communities - in partnership with, and led by, those communities themselves.

This statement is endorsed by: [Partners’ names will be added here]