



UK journalists recognised by European Commission for contribution to non-discrimination issues

22nd October 2007, London

Billy Briggs, freelance journalist, awarded first prize in "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" Journalist Award

Mary O'Hara, Social Affairs Correspondent for *The Guardian*, awarded Special Prize in "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" Journalist Award

UK print journalists Billy Briggs and Mary O'Hara have been recognised by the European Commission for the contribution they have made to diversity and non-discrimination issues through their writing.

Billy Briggs, a freelance journalist specialising in human rights issues, has been awarded first prize in the national category of the EU "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" Journalist Award.

Mary O'Hara, Social Affairs Correspondent for *The Guardian*, was awarded the '2007 – European Year of Equal Opportunities for All' Special Prize, part of the same Journalist Award.

The annual competition, granted by the European Commission as part of the Europe-wide "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" information campaign, is designed to honour journalists who contribute with their work to a better public understanding of the benefits of diversity and the fight against discrimination in employment on the grounds of age, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, disability, religion or belief.

Briggs' article, 'Pursued by prejudice', was published in *Scotland on Sunday* on 19th



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August 2007. The article was chosen from a selection of 28 shortlisted entries by a jury panel of professional journalists and experts in the field of diversity and non-discrimination.

On awarding Briggs with first prize in the competition, the jury released the following statement:

"The jury was impressed by the relevance of the article to the campaign, the quality of writing and the obvious lengths the author had gone to in researching the piece. Jury members felt that it provides a timely and in-depth account of the discrimination that Roma people face both in Scotland and across Europe. They also felt that it explores, in an honest manner, a subject matter that is often misrepresented in the media and the public domain."

O'Hara's article, 'Stand up and be counted', was published in *The Guardian* on 21st February 2007. It is the second year in a row that O'Hara has been successful in this competition: in 2006, she won first prize in the national category.

The Special Prize aims to reward journalists who write about issues of multiple discrimination, discrimination on the grounds of gender, or that specifically mention the 2007 - European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

On awarding O'Hara with the Special Prize, the jury released the following statement:

"The jury deemed 'Stand up and be counted' to be particularly relevant to the theme of multiple discrimination as it deals with discrimination faced by the subject, Stephen Amos, on the grounds of three different strands: race, sexual orientation and religion or belief. The jury also noted that the article is well written, accessible and engaging for readers, and thoroughly researched."

Both articles will now be put forward into the EU-wide stage of the competition that will feature winning articles from all 27 Member States. The overall winners will be honoured by Commissioner Vladimir Spidla (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) at an awards ceremony in Lisbon in November 2007.

For more information about the Journalist Award or the "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" information campaign, please visit <http://www.stop-discrimination.info>, or contact:



For Diversity



Against Discrimination

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