

## **National Assembly continues to promote equality for all**

In December 2009, the National Assembly published its Annual Equality Report providing an update on the equality work undertaken by the Assembly in 2009. The Report provides a progress report on the objectives set out within the Equality Scheme and highlights the Assembly's achievements in promoting equality over the year. On 12 January 2010, the Commissioner for the Sustainable Assembly, Lorraine Barrett AM, the Assembly's Chief Executive and Clerk, Claire Clancy, and the Assembly's Equality Manager, Holly Pembridge, were scrutinised by the Equality of Opportunity Committee on the progress highlighted in the report.

The report looks at the work undertaken to support staff within the Assembly, to support Assembly Members and to engage with the people of Wales.

Some of the key achievements over the year include:

- ◆ Entering Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index for 2009. The Index is a benchmarking exercise to rank the most gay-friendly employers in the UK. The Assembly were ranked 73 in the Top 100 and received an award as the "Most improved employer in Wales".
- ◆ The development and management of the Step Up Cymru Mentoring Scheme. The Assembly is working with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association to run a mentoring scheme for 34 individuals from under-represented groups to get more engaged with democracy in Wales and to increase their confidence in dealing with elected representatives.
- ◆ Celebratory events. The National Assembly has celebrated many events over the year including Black History Month; lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans (LGBT) History Month; International Day of Disabled People; and has been present at the Cardiff-Wales Mardi Gras.
- ◆ Outreach work. The Assembly has Outreach and Events teams who engage with people across Wales. Staff have met with various organisations across the equality strands.
- ◆ Presiding Officer's engagement tour. As part of the ten years of devolution events programme, the Rt Hon the Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Presiding Officer and Chair of the Assembly Commission, met with under-represented and under-engaged groups across Wales.

The Annual Equality Report is available [here](#).