

Bedfordshire R&EC Office Opening Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00am – 5:00pm

Bedfordshire R&EC Public Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday
9:30am – 4:30pm

Friday
9:30am – 1:30pm

Advice Surgery Opening Hours

Monday @ BR&EC Appointment only 10:00am – 2:00pm

Also every 1st & 3rd Monday @ PREEN, Biggleswade 10:00am - 1:00pm

Tuesday @ BR&EC 10.00am - 2.00pm (Drop-in)

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ Queens Park Neighborhood Centre 10:00am - 2:00pm

Thursday @ BR&EC 10.00am– 2.00pm (Drop-in)

Discrimination in Employment Advice

Monday – Wednesday
9:30am – 3:30pm

Working in partnership for an equal society

Registered Charity Number: 1111652

Co Ltd by Guarantee registered in England & Wales, N° 4205560

Bedfordshire R&EC is supported by:

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Central Bedfordshire Council

Bedford Borough Council

Big Lottery

House of Industry

The Bedford Charity

Casework:

The BR&EC can take on casework up to Employment Tribunal Level for individuals who feel they have been discriminated against in the workplace. The service also includes a full referral service.

In many cases the BR&EC will act as a support network to guide you through your internal grievance or harassment procedure, in more complicated cases we can work with yourself and your employer to try and resolve the issue and where necessary assist in preparing your case for Employment Tribunal.

Please note that the BR&EC cannot represent you at Employment Tribunal, at this stage we will offer a full referral service.

If you felt that you have been or are experiencing harassment and discrimination in the workplace and would like to seek the guidance of the BR&EC in dealing with the issue with your employer, then please contact us **Mon-Weds 9:30-3:30** on **01234 350459** to speak to our Adviser.

Volunteering & Work Placements:

Bedfordshire Race & Equalities Council believes in offering opportunities to all to help individuals in access to employment. We encourage volunteers to work with the BR&EC in a number of roles including assisting with specific projects and events. We particularly welcome volunteers with language skills who can assist in providing translation and interpretation services.

The BR&EC also takes on work placements in partnership with Bedfordshire Upper Schools and University of Bedfordshire.

Student Mentoring Service:

The BME Education Support Service provides mentoring support to students who may be at risk of exclusion in order to try and raise attainment and aspirations of young people. The main aim is to try and break down barriers to learning and unlock education opportunities for students.

The BR&EC is always looking for Mentors and students to participate in the project. If you would like to find out more then please contact **Merry Silk** at the BR&EC for further details on (01234) 350459

Partnership Working:

Bedford BR&EC believes strongly in the principle of partnership working and aims to work in partnership with groups and agencies at all levels from grassroots to strategic in order to improve the services for all local ethnic minority communities in and around Bedfordshire.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The BR&EC work closely with the EHRC to promote good practice and assist in highlighting Equality and Diversity initiatives and campaigns on a local, regional and national level.

Bedfordshire Women's Forum:

Bedfordshire Women's Forum has now been established for over five years and has attracted members from all sections of the community to participate in community activities and to enable increased provision and access to services for local women. If you would like further details and information regarding forthcoming activities regarding the Bedfordshire Women's Forum, please contact **Glenis Orkisz** at the BR&EC.

Support to local Community Groups:

The BR&EC has provided assistance and support to many local ethnic minority community groups. Support has included; assistance with funding applications, training, identifying premises, registering as a charity and assisting with setting up launch events. If you are looking to set up a group and would like assistance and support from the BR&EC please contact us on (01234) 350459

Community & Learning Events:

The BR&EC regularly holds and participates in community events to raise the profile of the organisation and ensure our services are accessible to all. Events organised by the BR&EC include Conferences, consultation evenings, training seminars and workshops. The BR&EC also attends local events to help promote and raise awareness of all diversity issues.

Acorn Project A Community Leadership Programme

Q-CAS A Quality System for Community Advice Services

Research and Consultations:

The BR&EC is regularly involved in research and consultation exercises that inform several strategies and provides definitive data to support various projects & initiatives.

The BR&EC is regularly requested to provide data on the state of the BME voluntary sector, needs of the sector and to identify services required to meet the needs and aspirations of our diverse communities. We carry out a lot of this work in partnership with other agencies as well as individually and we also ensure we engage the community as fully as possible.

Newsletter

Bedfordshire Race & Equalities Council produces a bi-monthly newsletter and regular E-Bulletin covering local issues, information regarding community events and other Community projects across Bedfordshire. Copies of the newsletter can be obtained from the REC office, downloaded from the website or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Robyn in the main office.

Website

BR&EC can be found at www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/brec

We regularly update and refresh our site and add/adapt pages according to news, events, legislation, projects etc. We can advertise events & services free of charge for not-for-profit groups. Downloads are available as well as BR&EC publications all free of charge.

Our own independent website is being developed and should be live by Autumn 2011.

You can report a hate crime through our website by downloading the report form or you can report directly online at www.report-it.org.uk