

# Barnet Community Relations Council

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DCM/CP

16 June 1983

D. Webb, Esq.,  
Director,  
NCROPA,  
15 Sloane Court West,  
Chelsea, SW3 4TD.

Dear Mr. Webb,

Thanks for the completed questionnaire. I agree it would have been interesting to have had a general meeting to discuss some of the issues. Certainly we would have been in a position to put some of these questions directly. I attach a copy of the page 4 which I am sorry was omitted in sending you the form. Page 4 should have been on the back of page 3 as you no doubt guessed.

Very briefly and in connection with some of your comments. Regarding the Home Office and the Nationality fees, in fact they have confirmed some very large profit figures (in reply to Parliamentary questions, I think.) Strangely enough since then it has become more widely known that these fees are probably the highest which are charged anywhere, and often ten or more times higher than any other European and North American countries.

With regard to the question of religions and marriages. We are convinced that there are few marriages of convenience, but of course a high proportion of the Asian marriages are arranged marriages, and of course usually work extremely well. No doubt, however, the system will tend to breakdown when exposed to the Western practices.

The question of affirmative action or positive discrimination as it is called is a controversial one. There has been an impetus because of the success of American legislation over the past 20 years, and because of a growing realisation that since the end of slavery in America and a generally fair legislative background, nevertheless the non-whites suffered a great deal. No doubt in time to quote another analogy, women will be able to take up any employment which they wish, nevertheless, it may take a very long time before this is achieved judging by the lack of progress in Britain since women received the vote 60 years ago. In view of the tensions in certain parts of the country some people are concerned as to whether the matter can be left such a long period. As you suggest attitudes are hard to change, legislation does not necessarily receive the result, and meanwhile

Contd.-

Vice-Presidents: Sydney Chapman Esq., M.P.

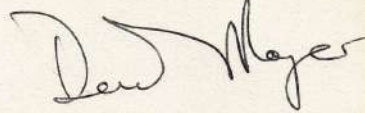
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas Q.C., M.P.

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people become less willing to obey the law and accept a subordinate role.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Mayer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Mayer".

David Mayer  
Senior Community Relations Officer.

Enc. Questionnaire.