

**SCOTTISH HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS WIN**  
**NATIONAL DIVERSITY AWARD**

*Trust, Hanover (Scotland) and Bield win Gold Standard award  
for "Happy to Translate" Logo Initiative*

Three Scottish housing associations -- through their joint equality team -- won a major national award for excellence in diversity practice at the 11th Annual British Diversity Awards held in London on 17 June. The awards are organised by Diversity Leaders UK, a charity dedicated to promoting inclusiveness in the workplace and society.

Rohini Sharma (Housing Equal Opportunities Manager) accepted the "Gold Standard" award in the "Diversity in Public Service Champion" category on behalf of her team and the three associations. Other finalists in the category included Blackburn with Darwen Council (Blackburn), Kingston upon Thames Borough Council (Surrey), London Borough of Havering, The Pension Service (Glasgow) and Pendle Council (Pendle).

The "Happy to Translate" Logo Initiative -- which is funded by a grant from the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland -- includes the development of an official logo to symbolise language assistance, and encourages public and private sector organisations to display the logo on their literature and advertising. Organisations using the logo are committed to providing people from black and ethnic minority (BME) communities with professional translation and interpreting services.

Says Rohini Sharma: "In the course of our grassroots work with Scotland's BME communities, it became clear that there has been a significant increase in the number of languages being spoken in Scotland and that many people, particularly older people, were not able to access appropriate services and information because of communication problems. The "Happy to Translate" logo provides a way of opening up the interface between BME people and the services and information they need for empowerment, social inclusion and richer and more comfortable lives."

"We are delighted to win this prestigious award for the encouragement it gives us, and for the endorsement that the "Happy to Translate" Logo Initiative can make a very real difference to peoples' lives across Scotland's BME communities.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual British Diversity Awards aims to recognise organisations that, "regardless of size or resources...change their environment in some small positive way [through] commitment, good practice, fairness and inclusively." The awards were sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry and received entries from organisations representing a total of 2 million employees.

-ends-



**Minister for Communities Malcolm Chisholm launches the official "Happy to Translate" logo.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Rohini Sharma (Housing Equal Opportunities Manager) or  
Tamiko Mackie ("Happy to Translate" Logo Development Officer)  
at Trust Housing Association on 0131 225 7246  
rsharma@trustha.org.uk, tmackie@trustha.org.uk  
www.happytotranslate.com