Further written submission from BEMIS

BEMIS suggests the following lines of inquiry for the session with the Cabinet Secretary on 25 October—

1. In light of projected cuts to the budgets of local providers of services for ethnic and cultural minorities, the impact on local ethnic minority groups and organisations will be massive beyond a MONEY aspect and into various areas of their active participation and representation: Capacity building for such grassroots groups emerges as a crucial factor in supporting such affected groups: how would the government/budget ensure that the support for national Infrastructure organisations to providing capacity support to such affected groups is sustained.

2. Perceived failings by the local authorities in observing and implementing "equality" with regard to discharging their obligations in respect of ethnic and cultural communities, is a factor of fear for local ethnic minority groups. How can this be mitigated by this budget and beyond cuts, i.e any strategic direction for Active Citizenship and Human Rights Education for civil society?

3. How does the budget contribute to the concept of life-long learning and developing active citizenship beyond formal education and in relation to civic Scotland.

4. What guidance to Local Authorities does the budget give in relation to their obligations to maintain and support ethnic and cultural minority organisations.

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