

## **Annual General Meeting of CILIP Diversity Group 2011**

### **Chair's report - Christie Ikeogu**

Thank you all for joining the Diversity Group's Annual General Meeting this evening.

What a turbulent year it's been for the profession and for all our members.

Many of us have been much more adversely affected than others. I very much sympathise with any of you affected by this economic down turn.

However, as an optimist, I have been reflecting on how much DG has done in the past, what it is planning to do in the future, and its relevance in the profession. Our website outlines our activities - please don't fail to browse through it at your own time. I wish to say a few things about our relevance in the profession. Thinking about the pending CILIP's review of the future of our profession, I couldn't help wondering the position of DG in the organisation. I therefore decided to check again what CILIP's vision says and it reads:

'Our vision is an informed society in which everyone has ready access to the knowledge, information and works of imagination appropriate to their needs, wants and aspirations. This is the distinctive contribution of library and information professionals to developing a society where:

- All groups are empowered;
- Attitudes and prejudices that hinder the progress of individuals and groups are confronted and tackled;
- Cultural, racial, and societal diversity is respected and celebrated;
- Individuals and communities live together in mutual respect and tolerance;
- Discrimination is challenged and tackled robustly'.

This statement gave me a lot to be proud of what DG has been striving to achieve since its inception.

As a public servant for nearly 30 years, I am aware of what local authorities are doing in order to stay relevant to their communities. Diversity reigns both in the nature of the workforce and materials on their library shelves.

Tell you what! Library authorities are not alone in the push for diversification. If in doubt, check out your local shops and supermarkets. My small corner shop has even gone to the extent of saying 'madam, just tell me whatever you require and I will make effort to stock it by your next visit'.

So I am as proud as ever to belong to this small but bespoke special interest group of CILIP.

Before I hand over to the main speakers for this evening, I would like to thank the entire members of the committee for their support in the last year or two. On behalf of all the members of the Diversity Group, I thank specifically the office holders because without them we wouldn't have been talking about the Diversity Group at all. They are:

Dave Percival – Vice Chair

Karen Berry - Treasurer

Rose Johnson - Secretary

Ruth Murphy - Web editor

Rebecca Chetwood - Newsletter editor

Emma Hadfield and Nate Evuarherhe - Facebook managers

Other Committee members are:

Gulshan Iqbal

Andrew Russell

Toni Franck

Briony Birdi

Leila Kassir

Jacqui Lichtenstern

Gaynor Baveystock

Kal Dale

In spite of the down turn of events DG still attracted 4 new members into the Committee this year.

So, I encourage you to remain positive