

# Motivation & Legislation

*"Shall we work for more legislation or set out strategies for motivation by working with the media, politicians and other groups involved in public opinion? What is your opinion, experience, ideas for getting further in your country?"*

- **Legislation is an important motivator of change, however it is limited in its effect by the ability to practically enforce it and there is also a general distrust of politicians and their motives.** (The results of recent US research reported that: 63.9% of university students do not trust the Federal Government to do the right thing all or most of the time; 48.8% of university students do not trust their State Government to do the right thing all or most of the time!)
- **The attitude and actions desired in embracing diversity must go beyond the meeting of legal responsibilities.** But setting and meeting agreed legal responsibilities would be a good start!
- **Working with the media could be highly beneficial if we could get them interested!** Much of public opinion is based on media headlines and therefore could be a powerful tool in forming opinion on diversity. In the broader context of "media" in sport, literature and the arts there is also great opportunity for informing public opinion (Can we get the David Beckham's, Michael Jackson's, and Sir Lawrence Olivier's of this world to model and promote diversity? Or can we create a new generation of the right role models?)
- **Any pressure group successfully effecting opinion has the potential to be a worthy ally.** Are there groups influencing large enough parts of the population to approach and how would we interest them, after all, they are there to fight their own cause!
- **CONCLUSION:** Perhaps the best way to keep these issues on the agenda of life is to press for increased legislation with increased "teeth" and increased resources to enforce it. However, if we are really to change society I believe we need to take a long-term view and work with "shakers and movers" of the future in their formative years in schools, further and higher education.