17th May 2007

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May I first thank you for your invitation to a breakfast seminar to launch the NCVO's new report 'Faith and Voluntary Action: An Overview of Current Evidence and Debates' on 13th June, which our Public Affairs Officer, Naomi Phillips, will be attending.

However, I am dismayed that the BHA, an NCVO member with relevant expertise in the topic of the report, was not consulted about or asked to contribute to it.

The BHA is the largest organisation in the UK representing those with non-religious beliefs, and we have a pivotal role in contributing to the debates around religion and belief in general, and the role of faith-based organisations within the third sector and civil society more widely. As such, the BHA is in an excellent position to contribute to such a report, which aims to highlight the implications for both secular and faith-based organisations in the context of current policy agendas and looks at the role of faith-based organisations in governance and service delivery – issues about which we have some considerable experience and expert knowledge.

I do hope that in future work on the religion and belief strand in the context of the third sector, the NCVO will include the BHA in its consultations.

Yours sincerely

Hanne Stinson
Chief Executive

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