

Tuesday 26 April, 2005



GROUND BREAKING EMPLOYERS FORUM ON BELIEF LAUNCHES AT THE BT CENTRE

Today, BT Centre sees the launch of a groundbreaking new initiative, with eleven major UK employers, on the complex issue of belief. The Employers Forum on Belief (EFB) has been set up to establish and share good practice on religion and belief in the workplace. BT chairs the forum which includes the founder corporate members.

The project was set up in September 2003 by founder members; BT, Land Registry, Accenture, Barclays, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, B&Q, the Co-operative group, BBC, Race For Opportunity (RFO), Shell, and London Underground.

Despite progress in developing policies to address issues of disability, age, gender and ethnicity, there has been little guidance on issues of belief for employers. The Forum has committed itself to engage with different faith groups on a regular basis to shape new policy initiatives and share ideas on better business practice.

Flexible working has proven benefits for both employee and employers as it helps to attract and retain a valuable workforce. In today's multicultural business world, information and awareness of all the main holy days and festivals together with an understanding of the varying faiths and beliefs of their people is essential to good business practice.

As part of the launch the forum has produced a thought piece outlining the role of flexible working in creating an environment where employees from any belief can contribute to their full potential.

Phil Moses, Director, Investor Relations and BT's Champion of Belief says,

"People should be treated as individuals with varying responsibilities, needs and beliefs. At BT, respect for one another and valuing each others' individuality is key to BT's culture. By creating an environment which is both positive and supportive enables everyone to perform to the best of their ability."

-ENDS-

To attend the Employers Forum on Belief or to request further information please contact:

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