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Contact: Tamara Sullivan, BRIDGES  
513-583-1433  
[tsullivan1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:tsullivan1@cinci.rr.com)

**BRIDGES PROGRESS REPORT ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
REVEALS RACE RELATIONS NO LONGER AT TOP  
OF PUBLIC AGENDA**

*Emerging Groups; Persistent Problems Identified*

**CINCINNATI, OH – May 22, 2008** – BRIDGES for a Just Community announced the status of inter-group relations in our eight-county region in the BRIDGES Progress Report on Human Relations in Greater Cincinnati, the second biennial measurement of progress towards inclusion, closeness and fair treatment among eight different social groups living throughout the southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and southeast Indiana region. The inaugural report was issued in 2006.

“Our hope is that the BRIDGES Progress Report will be used – that it guides and influences policy-making to help create a more inclusive and welcoming community for all,” said Dr. Mitchel D. Livingston, chair of the BRIDGES for a Just Community Board. “Major employers in our region, including my own, The University of Cincinnati, are all competing to attract the best and brightest of the younger generation from around the world – the BRIDGES Progress Report helps to demonstrate that this community is intent on building a better future for everyone,” he added.

“Rather than measuring only Black-White relations in Hamilton County, the BRIDGES Progress Report measures relations among six additional social groups, including Hispanics, Gays & Lesbians, Jews and Muslims, with Asians and women added to the added to the report for 2008,” said Jack F. Ryan, vice president of human resources, GE Aviation, and chair of the BRIDGES Progress Report. “The report measures closeness and contact between groups, their perceptions of fair treatment to identify both emerging groups and persistent problems facing the region,” he said.

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**KEY FINDINGS:**

**Race Relations is no longer at the top of the public agenda in Greater Cincinnati.**

- Five percent of residents cited race relations as the top issue facing the area in 2007, which is down from 22% in 2003.
- Crime/Safety at 38% and the Economy at 16% both ranked far ahead of Race Relations as the most important issue in the most recent survey.

**The overall regional trend masks the undiminished importance of race and police relations to Hispanics.**

- Hispanics were more than three times as likely as African Americans and more than four times as likely as Whites to say race or police relations were the top issues facing the region.
- Twenty-four percent of Hispanics compared to only 7% of African Americans and 5% of Whites mentioned race or the police as the most important issue.

**Unfair treatment of African Americans remains a chronic problem.**

- More than one in four or 29% of African Americans reported experiencing at least one instance of unfair treatment in stores, at work, by police, in the courts and in other situations in the last 30 days, which is unchanged since 2004.
- Unfair treatment of African Americans is higher than for either Hispanics or Whites. The Cincinnati area is not an exception in this regard: Unfair treatment of African Americans is at the same level nationally.

**In a sign of progress, Hispanics experienced less unfair treatment in stores, at work and especially by police/courts in 2007 than in 2004.**

- Hispanics reported experiencing less unfair treatment overall than African Americans; however, unfair treatment in places such as "in public/on the streets/in the community" is much higher for Hispanics than for African Americans and Whites and has remained constant at 16%.

**A majority of women and men say women are not treated as well as men when it comes to pay.**

- Seventy-three percent of women say they are not treated as well when it comes to pay and 63% say they are not treated as well when it comes to management promotions.
- Most men (56%) agree that women are not treated fairly when it comes to pay, but less than half (42%) say that about promotions to management.

**Muslims remain the most distant group throughout the region in terms of other people having only limited contact with them.**

- At 21%, contact with Muslims by other social groups is less than half the level of contact with Asians, the next most distant group.
- After Muslims and Asians, Jews and Gays/Lesbians are the most distant groups.

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**Education level appears to be the most important factor in determining the amount of contact and familiarity between social groups.**

- For example, college graduates have three times the contact with Asians and twice the contact with Muslims than persons with less than a high school education.

“A dedicated group of regional, civic leaders representing a cross-section of both our social groups and our institutional stakeholders was responsible for oversight of the entire project,” said Robert C. “Chip” Harrod, president and CEO of BRIDGES.

Research for the report was again conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati, under the direction of Dr. Kimberly Downing, associate director of the Institute. Gary Wright, president of Wright Futures, Ltd and formerly a senior demographer at The Procter & Gamble Company served as project manager for the BRIDGES Report. LaVerdad Marketing conducted the Hispanic over-sample in Spanish.

The United Way of Greater Cincinnati has endorsed the research and has contracted to include the BRIDGES Progress Report in its own State of the Community Report. Agenda 360, led by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, and Northern Kentucky’s Vision 2015 have been included in the process.

For more information about the BRIDGES Progress Report on Human Relations, the complete report is available on-line at [www.BRIDGEScincinnati.org](http://www.BRIDGEScincinnati.org) or call the BRIDGES office at 513-381-4660. CET’s “Focus” program, hosted by Kathy Lehr, offers an in-depth discussion of the report and will be available on-line at [CETconnect.org](http://CETconnect.org) on Friday, May 23.

***About BRIDGES for a Just Community, Inc.***

*BRIDGES for a Just Community brings people together to achieve inclusion, equity and justice for all who live and work in the Greater Cincinnati community. As the region’s leading human relations organization, BRIDGES’ vision is to create a respectful, equitable and welcoming community for all citizens through education, advocacy and dialogue. Formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati, BRIDGES for a Just Community has served the region since 1944. For more information, call BRIDGES at 513-381-4660 or visit online at [www.bridgescincinnati.org](http://www.bridgescincinnati.org).*

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