

BME LAW FIRMS AT RISK!

- Do you value being able to choose a lawyer who shares your culture, religion language or ethnic background?
- Does it give you a sense of pride to be able to find law firm run by lawyers from your own community?
- Does it give you greater confidence in the legal system?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, please take a moment to read on...

The Government plans to make sweeping cuts to the way it funds legal aid, that are likely to wipe out small law firms.

Nearly half of all law firms offering criminal legal aid services are small law firms owned and run by lawyers from BME (black and minority ethnic) groups.

The Government's plans will directly hit these firms, wiping out livelihoods, causing redundancies, and attacking aspirations and entrepreneurship in our communities. Your choice of lawyer to represent you will be limited in future. You may have to travel further to find a lawyer, who may not share your cultural, language or religious background.

To find out more about the Government's plans go to:
<http://www.legalaidprocurementreview.gov.uk/news.htm>

To find out how the "Carter Diversity Group" of Black and Minority Ethnic Lawyers is responding go to:
<http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/document.asp?documentid=3934>

✂.....

PETITION HAVE YOUR SAY

If you answered 'yes' to any of the questions above, please use the tear-off slip below to join our petition to alert the Government. It's really important that they hear from the communities most likely to be hit by their proposals. Please return to Carter Diversity Group, Bar Council, Angela Campbell (CDG) FREEPOST LON 13131, LONDON WC1V 7BR or email carterdiversity@btinternet.com

Add my name to the Carter Diversity Group petition, to protect our BME law firms	
Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Email address:	
Telephone:	
Signature:	Date: