

1st July 2008
London



“ If we aspire to represent modern Britain, the Foreign Office needs to look like it, from top to bottom. If we can achieve this, it will make the organisation stronger because creativity depends on having more diversity. ”

- Rt Hon David Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

→ | diversity gala dinner



Guest of Honour:
Rt Hon David Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

David Miliband was appointed Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in June 2007. He held the position of Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from May 2006 to June 2007. He was elected as MP for South Shields in June 2001 and his previous Ministerial jobs have been Minister of Communities and Local Government (2005-6), Minister for the Cabinet Office (2004-5) and Schools Minister (2002-4).

Before that he headed-up the Prime Minister's Policy Unit at Downing Street, after working as Head of Policy in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. From 1989-1994 he worked as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and from 1992-4 was Secretary of the Commission on Social Justice. His first job was for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

David was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he got a first class honours degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. After which he was a Kennedy Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received a Masters Degree in Political Science.

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue '08

The year 2008 has been marked as the European Union's Year of Intercultural Dialogue, which aims to encourage all those living within the European Union to explore its great and diverse cultural heritage, encouraging individuals to learn from other cultural traditions and recognise Europe's cultural diversity. Ambassadors have been appointed to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of intercultural dialogue. There are flagship projects taking place on the European level as well as a variety of national projects within each Member State.

“Tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and respect for diversity are more essential than ever in a world where peoples are becoming more and more closely interconnected.”

-Kofi Annan

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

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