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The Arts Council of Great Britain
Registered Charity no. 212210

9 January 1986

Parminder Vir
Ethnic Minorities Unit
Greater London Council
County Hall
LONDON SE1

Dear Parminder Vir

Photography and Ethnic Minority Groups

The Arts Council's Photography Advisory Group has determined to take some positive action to try to assist Black photographers and communities in their practise, understanding and enjoyment of photography. It has decided to embark on an action/research project, details of which are enclosed.

I am writing to invite you, along with other photographers, to a meeting to be held at the Arts Council at 2.30 pm on Thursday 6 February. The purpose of this meeting will be to seek your advice on this research project and to give you the opportunity to refine or redefine the brief for a researcher/organiser.

I hope very much that you will be able to come. It would help us enormously if you could ring my assistant Sally Byford or drop us a postcard to let us know whether you will be able to attend. If you are unable to come any comments you may have would be welcomed.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sally Byford

fp BARRY LANE
Photography Officer

Enc

Parminder Vir OBE BLACK & ETHNIC ARTS ARCHIVE
GLC
1981-1986
Working for London
archive.parmindervir.com

RESEARCH PROJECT

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

1. In 1981 Council decided that there was a prima facie case for some affirmative action in support of ethnic minority arts and in 1983/84 allocated development funds for this purpose. The Photography Advisory Group is now invited to consider the following proposal for research into Photography and Ethnic Minority Groups.
2. A Report would be commissioned with the following aims:
 - (i) to explore the general action points agreed by Council in 1982 and their implementation in the field of photography
 - (ii) to identify examples of 'good practice'
 - (iii) to identify the principles underlying those practices
 - (iv) to provide information and advice to assist the development of policies and programmes in public and independent arts and other organisations
 - (v) to provide information and advise on how provision of opportunities and resources for photographers from ethnic minority groups might be improved
 - (vi) to stimulate debate about the issues involved
3. The Report might take the form of a publication, a tape-slide programme or a video, and would include:-
 - (i) a review of existing policies and programmes in a range of arts organisations including the Arts Council, the RAAs, galleries, arts centres, workshops, publishers and community arts projects, including photography within multi-disciplinary activities
 - (ii) identification in general terms of provision and needs in the areas of exhibitions and publications of work from ethnic minority groups, access to darkrooms, workshops and to practical, historical and theoretical educational opportunities
 - (iii) a bibliography of existing writing on practical and academic work concerned with the representation in photography of ethnic minority groups

Continued

(iv) recommendations to improve the policies and programmes of arts and other organisations in order to extend the knowledge, understanding and practice of the art of photography within ethnic minority groups

4. The Report would be followed by one or more seminars or meetings on the issues identified within it and the Council would seek to work closely with the Minority Arts Advisory Service (MAAS) when organising these.
5. Recruitment of and support and advice for the researcher would be found from consultation with RAAs, MAAs, the Commission for Racial Equality, British Film Institute, Greater London Council and Naseem Khan.

Barry Lane.
October 1985