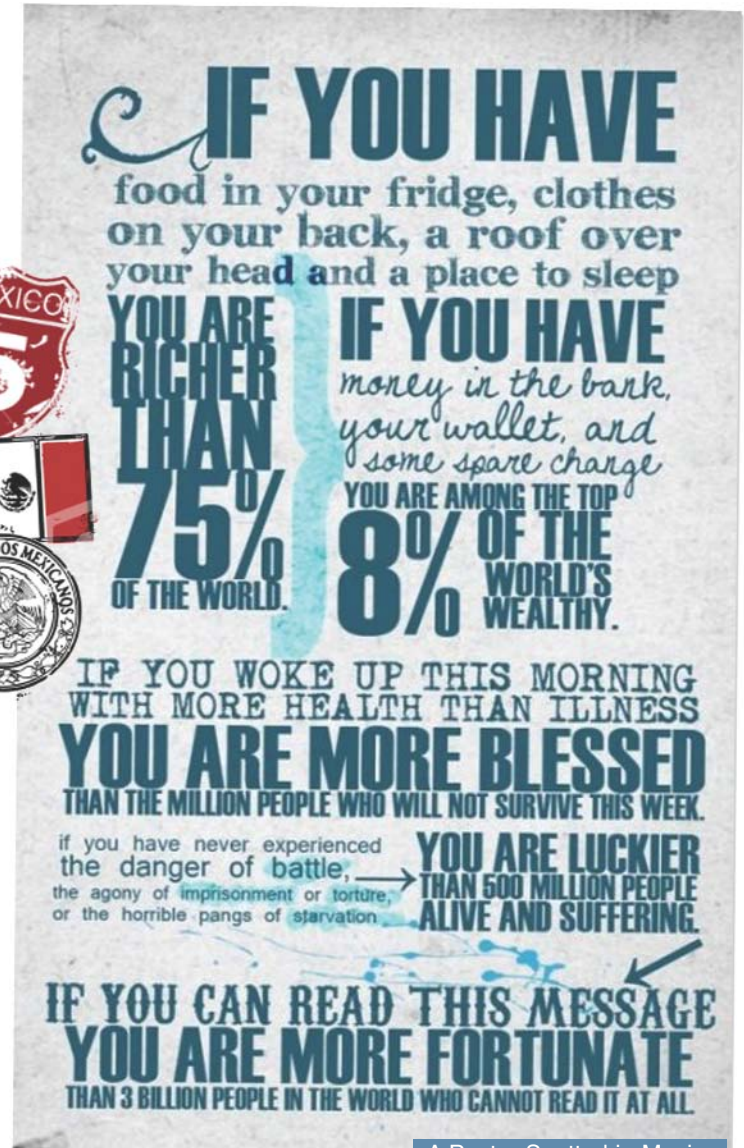


## Mexico Summer Youth Congress

Last summer, two New College Durham students Tara Anderson and Nathan Wakely travelled to Mexico as part of the Philosophy for Change scheme which runs an annual youth congress in Chiapas, Mexico. Over the following editions we will be documenting their experiences on this journey.

“Admittedly, I was apprehensive about meeting the indigenous community and spending a night with them. I had in my mind an idea of what I would be going to. Most likely a rundown area with no facilities and all of my home comforts would be miles away. Despite this, I knew that I wanted to make the most of the experience. When we arrived at Yaptiklum, my previous assumptions were correct. It was a small community based around a few rundown looking buildings, but as soon as I stepped inside there was a feeling of warmth like nothing I could have expected. Each person was smiling and looked so happy... they were so welcoming to us, and strangely, we weren't treated like a minority, we were treated like part of their community.” [Tara Anderson](#).



A Poster Spotted in Mexico

## Equalitree

The Equalitree Project Team would like to thank all staff and students who joined in the Celebration of the Equalitree and sponsored a bauble.

The event raised £124 which will be donated to the chosen charities Age UK and The Rainbow Trust Children's Charity.

Thank you again for your generous donations and support



## Staff Toolkit

Want to know more about Equality and Diversity? Need some help with your Impact Assessments? Visit our Equality and Diversity page on the staff intranet.

The E&D page can be found under the 'Departments' section and is full of useful information ranging from the college's policies, updates from the Equality Steering Group, guidance and good examples of Equality Impact Assessments, as well as info relating to teaching and learning.

# The Equality Act - October 2010

“The Government believes that there are many barriers to social mobility and equal opportunities in Britain today, with too many children held back because of their social background, and too many people of all ages held back because of their gender, race, religion or sexuality. We need concerted action to tear down these barriers and help to build a fairer society.”

*The Coalition: our programme for government.  
Fairness, freedom, responsibility. May 2010.*

## The Equality Act 2010:

- Simplifies and harmonises existing law
- Continues to widen inclusion and emphasise responsibilities
- Equality and Human Rights Commission will play a significant role in enforcement of legislation
- Changes definitions of discrimination
- Harmonises provisions allowing positive action
- Introduces a new Public Sector Equality Duty
- Identifies 9 Protected Characteristics

## Remember REGARDS?

Well out of the 9 protected characteristics (strands) under the New Act, 8 apply to FE and HE Institution Provisions and they are:-

Age  
Disability  
Gender Reassignment  
Race  
Religion or belief  
Sex  
Sexual Orientation  
Pregnancy and Maternity  
(Marriage and Civil Partnerships) does not apply

For more brilliant information and useful articles and guidance please read the Further Education Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Reviews on the intranet and visit Equality and Human Rights Commission at [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)



## World Mental Health Day

As part of World Mental Health Day and Get Moving Week, staff member Bev Baldasera organised a walk on the 12th November to raise awareness and challenge the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Staff and students joined in the walk around the college grounds collecting donations as they went. All of your contributions were donated to the Waddington Street centre, a partner of New College Durham, and a centre for people with long term and enduring mental health issues. The money was used by the centre to purchase arts and crafts equipment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part.

## Are you Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or unsure?

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) group meet every Thursday at 12.15pm in room Green 134. It is a chance for students to receive advice and support, meet other students and find out what's going on in the North East in relation to LGBT.

## Give us your ideas for...

- What you would like to see in the next newsletter
- Events/Activities relating to Equality & Diversity
- How we can raise awareness for staff and students.

## Email your ideas to:

[equalityanddiversity@newdur.ac.uk](mailto:equalityanddiversity@newdur.ac.uk)