



Expressing Diversity in a Unique Way

Unity Youth Forum

Manifesto Campaigns 2014-2017

Unity Youth Forum is a group of young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds from Bristol. Ages 13-19 (or up to 24 for disabled young people).

We discuss and debate issues that affect us and other BME young people and then represent the views of BME young people to decision makers so we can have our say to make changes and influence decision-making processes.

Unity Youth Forum has consulted with young people about the issues that affect BME young people; in October 2014 at our black history month events and from previous years which were 2011, 2012 and 2013.

We found the issues are as follows :

Key issues for BME young people March 2011:-

Family, Role models, culture and identity, education, equalities and stereotypes, the next-generation/future careers/money, self-confidence and empowerment, friends/relationship and opposite sex, unity, religion/faith/spirituality.

Key issues for BME young people October 2014:-

pathways, ageism and racism, lack of education and bullying, lack of jobs for young people, negative assumptions about young people, religion and society and stereotypes, lack of money, being treated differently, press and media, benefits and rights, volunteering opportunities, lack of opportunity, no voice to say how we feel, lack of knowledge.

Key issues for BME young people April 2015:-

discrimination, ageism, racism, extremism, police stereotypes, LGB TQ, disability, culture and identity, mental health, family, education, background, poverty, financial, peer pressure, prison, lack of positive role models, politics, history, pressure to work harder in education to demolish educational stereotypes.

Which sadly has not changed a great deal over the last few years, unfortunately we do not have the recourses or funding to tackle these issues in isolation.

About the Manifesto

The Young People then put the issues into categories which are as follows:

Equalities:

- **Stereotypes and discrimination**
- **Racism**
- **LGBTQ**
- **Ageism**
- **Extremism**

Social issues:

- **Politics**
- **Education**
- **Peer pressure**
- **Over representation of BME young people within the criminal justice system**
- **Poverty/financial**
- **Family/background**
- **health**

BME young people value equality for all, but recognise that their situation has not improved over the years, and is still influenced by stereotypical attitudes and prejudices. They see this in education, health policing criminal justice, employment and access to the youth provision.

After much debating, the group decided on the two campaign priorities that they were going to work on over the next three years.

Campaign Priority 1

Race Equality Awareness Sessions

– Campaign against Racial Discrimination

(CARD)

Unity Youth forum has chosen this issue as there is the ongoing identified need to raise awareness and to equip children & young people with the tools to positively challenge racial discrimination and stereotypes and to dispel some of the myths around people from BME backgrounds. This will be delivered in schools colleges and to professionals. After much research and to some extent from personal experience racism is on the increase as we regularly hear in the media of new cases of Black people being subject to institutional racism. Enough is enough !.

This aim will be achieved through three objectives:

1. create awareness of racism and how it affects individuals and the broader community
2. identify, promote and build on local and national good practice initiatives to prevent and reduce racism, and
3. empower children & Young people and professionals to take action to prevent and reduce racism and to seek to it redress when it occurs.

The primary awareness raising and engagement activity will be Delivering race Equality awareness sessions to young people in schools colleges and to professionals.

We will work in partnership with local radio stations to give children and young people a voice and a space to discuss the issues on a wider scale

link in with the Bristol Manifesto for Racial Equality Campaign and other campaigns locally and nationally.

Work with the BCYC and other forums

The Campaign aims to:

1. Ensure more individuals recognise that racism is unacceptable in our community
2. Give more children & young people and professionals the tools & resources to take practical action against racism
3. Empower individuals & organisations to prevent & respond effectively to racism

All across England, there are people and organisations doing great things to reduce and prevent racism. This campaign isn't about reinventing the wheel: we want to learn from past achievements and challenges. Our consultations have told us that it's often the people working on the ground within local communities or specific environments who have the best understanding of the issues and ideas of how to overcome them. We believe that the most effective way to make a difference in the incidence of racism is to encourage and coordinate these efforts.

Ask politicians and decision makers to support our campaign

- Ask organisations to commit to the campaign and develop their own anti-racism activities
- Ask individuals to become part of a community of people who are committed to leading by example and become equality champions
- Offer advice and assistance to supporters in implementing their anti-racism activities
- Develop materials to assist in the promotion of anti-racism messages
- Develop education tools for a range of audiences
- Share good practice examples for others to learn from and build on
- Facilitate linkages and partnerships between our supporter organisations.

By doing this, we hope to create a culture where people are able to identify racism and have the confidence and tools to act appropriately when it does occur.

We want the next-generation to be educated and aware of how discrimination can manifest itself and unless there is a clear willingness to challenge one's own perceptions and stereotypes racism will continue through generations.

Campaign Priority 2

How black History is taught in the school Curriculum?

“Our History Black History”

The main Issue

Equalities in Education , although we recognise that Slavery is an important part of black history, we would like to focus on other aspects of Black history and the positive contributions black people have made, e.g Black inventors, kings and queens and including modern day. It is important that they employ teachers who are knowledgeable and well versed in the subject matter. It is also important that the curriculum isn't just solely focused on the transatlantic slave trade, black America's history, black entertainers and black sports personalities.

Black history should be celebrated and taught all year round and not just in October.

This campaign pretty much links into Race equality campaign as it is about inequality. If the history lessons included all history there would be no need to have black history specifically.

This Aim will be achieved through three objectives

1. Through creating awareness of racism and how it affects individuals and the lack of broad knowledge around Black history it will be highlighted in order to give a better understanding
2. Identify, support & promote and build on local and national good practice and Black History curriculum campaign initiatives.
3. empower children & Young people and professionals to take action to prevent and reduce racism and to seek redress when it occurs.

To make Black History part of the school curriculum for Primary & secondary education. It helps to enrich the development of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all ethnic groups.

- Ask politicians and decision makers to support our campaign
- Ask organisations to commit to the campaign and sign the petitions, and a pledge.
- Ask individuals to become part of a community of people who are committed to leading by example and become equality champions
- Develop materials to assist in the promotion of anti-racism messages and black History
- Develop education tools for a range of audiences
 - Ask the Head Education to support our campaign
- Share good practice examples for others to learn from and build on
- Facilitate linkages and partnerships between our supporter organisations.

Over the next three years, the campaign will:

- We will work with schools and colleges to consult with children and young people
- We will promote via Leaflets and get our pack added to school websites and newsletters
- We will actively Participate in the Race Equality for Education Steering Group and work closely with the young person Rep.
- We will organise an event called young black heroes – focusing on black history past and present

Meeting Times & Contact Details

The first Monday of every month, 5:30pm- 8pm at The Station, Silver St, Bristol Or Campaign Planning Meetings every other Wed at docklands youth centre St Pauls

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