

Wales Race Forum

4 - 5pm Thursday 3 October 2024 – Via (Teams)

Attendance

Name - Organisation
Jane Hutt – Chair, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip
Representatives from:
Race Council Cymru (RCC)
Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC)
North Wales Regional Equality Network (NWREN)
Trade Union Congress Wales (TUC)
Diverse Cymru
Race Alliance Wales (RAW)
South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (SWPCC)
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
WG (Equality and Human Rights)
WG (Equality and Human Rights)
WG (Cohesive Communities Policy Team)
WG (Race, Faith and Belief and Gypsy and Roma and Traveller Policy Team)
WG (ArWAP Policy Team)
WG (ArWAP Policy Team)
WG (Cabinet Division)
WG (Cabinet Division)
WG (ECWL)
WG (ECWL)
WG (ECWL)
WG (ECWL)

Apologies

Travellers Wales

There and Back Again

Travelling Ahead

Show Racism the Red Card

Henna Foundation

Meeting notes

Discussion
<u>1 : Welcome and opening remarks</u>

CSSJTCW welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that there has been a gap since the last meeting due to changes in First Minister and Cabinet. A few updates were addressed including:

- Events over the summer following the incident at Southport and the meetings to listen to communities and hear about their experiences of fear and intimidation as a result of the race riots in England.
- Attendance at LGH Committee earlier that morning, including the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP) Gypsy, Roma and Traveller actions discussed.
- Actions that have been taken forward as a response to the meetings held over the summer. For example, schools making their own Anti-racist Action Plans.
- New members have been invited to join the Forum including the SWPCC and the WLGA who were thanked for joining. Travelling Ahead and There and Back Again have also been invited to join, hopefully they can attend the next meeting.

2: Discussion of recent unrest and disturbances

CSSJTCW opened the meeting up for a discussion about the unrest and disturbances over the summer. The points below were discussed:

Media and social media reporting activities and actions. WG officials have taken the matter to Ofcom where it is tabled for discussion at the next meeting. WG have also directly engaged with social media including Google/YouTube however Meta was not as open to discussions.

Pre-planned and grant funded events being cancelled over the summer following police advice and reluctance to attend events due to not feeling safe. In north Wales there was success with Diversity Police Officers providing support and attending events to increase confidence and feelings of safety.

The importance of local policing in increasing confidence amongst communities including 'Cuppa with a Copper' type schemes which helps in particular refugees and asylum seekers who may have negative experiences with police in their own countries. There is a fear of reporting Hate Crime and lack of understanding and knowledge and confidence in reporting Hate Crime. The robust prosecutions that have taken place following arrests for those involved in the unrest and disturbances over the summer has increased people's confidence.

Trusted Flagger status on social media. This allows Criminal Justice Agencies to respond more quickly to those with this status. South Wales police already have this operational. WG colleagues are in touch with police forces in Wales to raise the use of it.

Racism in Health and Social Care including racism against nurses and carers. These workers may not have English as their first language, and they struggle to report hate crime due to the language issue. Nurses and carers are afraid to report racism as they feel they may be threatened with removal from the UK if they report it.

A representative of Welsh TUC will discuss with health unions and is keen to work with RCC on the meeting, to pull together recommendations that tie back to the ArWAP and leadership. A representative of Welsh TUC discussed other practical work going forward including a social partnership meeting with FM and the need for more unionisation of social care as a lot is procured out. Also, the need for a conversation at UK level around government intervention around social care where it is procured out. These workers take various shifts and have no time to seek help.

There was discussion re- Mayor of London and the links between physical and mental health and the impact of racism on physical as well as mental health. A representative of Welsh TUC highlighted the TUC launch of the Anti-racism toolkit. <https://www.tuc.org.uk/anti-racism-workplace-toolkit-union-reps>

3. 'Section 30 Guidance for political Parties on Diversity and Inclusion' strategies for 2026'

CSSJTCW provided further information about the Section 30 guidance and introduced a representative from the Senedd Reform team. Discussion included:

The Section 30 guidance will encourage political parties to collect and publish diversity statistics about Senedd candidates and publish diversity and inclusion strategies relating to Welsh elections. While the Welsh Ministers will be under a duty to publish the guidance and the consultation opportunities before the guidance is published, action by political parties to collect and publish diversity information and publish diversity and inclusion Strategies will be voluntary. Members were asked to share the details with their networks.

Members of the Senedd will increase from 60 to 96 and there is an expectation for there to be more diverse representation. There is a need to support people to enter politics, across all protected characteristics and all social/economic areas. The consultation will be shared to all Forum members when published.

A representative from Wales TUC spoke of meetings with young workers and black activists that this issue is always raised. She will put together a session for an explanation of the Section 30 Guidance and an easy/accessible response to the consultation.

People lack confidence due to scrutiny of their past (they may have posted something on social media) and what support available to people. The importance of civility in public life as it can be a rough/tough place.

There is a need for people to come forward and share their experiences. SWPCC offered to help and share her experiences. CSSJTCW thanked the SWPCC for this offer.

Equal Power/Equal Voice public life mentoring scheme which ended this summer mentored a lot of people to step into public life and members discussed the need to keep this going. WEN Wales also lead in this area and need to maintain this.

4. Any Other Business

A representative of WLGA brought to the attention of the group the passing of Lord Herman Ouseley on 2nd October and noted his contribution to equality and social justice. CSSJTCW thanked her for raising this.

Meeting ends.

Summary of Actions

	Action item	Owner	Deadline status
1	The Terms of Reference of this forum have been reviewed, and a draft will be shared with the group and discussed at the next meeting.	WG Secretariat	Next Meeting
2	One more meeting of the Race Forum to take place before Christmas	WG Secretariat	Before Christmas
3	CSSJTCW to raise some of these issues with the UK Government, including new Minister for Social Care and Minister for Mental Health.	CSSJTSW's Private Office	Next Meeting
4	Head of Cohesion in WG to share Windrush report.	Head of Cohesion (WG)	Next Meeting
5	SWPCC will feedback from the meetings with social media to policing colleagues.	SWPCC	Next Meeting
6	WG will send EW briefing on Trusted Flagger status	Head of Cohesion (WG)	Next Meeting

7	Add the names of the women that RCC representative mentioned to the Muslim Women Network list.	Secretariat (WG)	Next Meeting
8	CSSJTCW will share a note of this meeting with FM and Cabinet.	Secretariat (WG)	Next Meeting
9	Section 30 guidance to be shared with Wales Race Forum members	Secretariat (WG)	Next Meeting