

Wales Race Forum

10.00 – 11.00am Wednesday 17 September 2025 - Via MS Teams

Attendance

Name - Organisation
Jane Hutt - Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (CSSJWCW)
Representatives from:
KIRAN Cymru
Black and Minority Women's Support Organisation (BAWSO)
Race Equality First (REF)
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
Race Council Cymru (RCC)
Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST)
North Wales Regional Equality Network (NWREN)
Henna Foundation
Privilege Cafe
Tai Pawb
Women Connect First
Diverse Cymru
Welsh Refugee Council
Networking for World Awareness of Multicultural Integration (NWAMI)
Equality & Human Rights Division (WG)
Equality & Human Rights Division (WG)
Head of Anti Racist Action Plan (WG)
Head of Strategic Quality and Mainstreaming (WG)
First Minister's Group (WG)
ECWL (WG)
Head of Cohesion (WG)
Head of Democratic Engagement and Diversity (WG)
Head of Digital Democracy (WG)

Meeting notes

Discussion
<u>1: Welcome and opening remarks</u>
CSSJWCW welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the autumn term meeting of the Wales Race Forum
The CSSJWCW informed the Group that the Terms of Reference (ToR) had been circulated to attendees prior to the meeting for comment.

CSSJTCW also welcomed three new members of the Welsh Government Policy team.

There were no outstanding actions from the last meeting.

2: Social Cohesion (John Davies)

The Head of Cohesion (WG) updated the Forum on the rise of anti-migrant narratives and untruths being shared through social media channels about asylum accommodation and schools being unsafe environments. Welsh Government recognise the distress this is causing to communities. An update was given on the work that has been carried out within Welsh Government to support communities.

The Head of Cohesion (WG) informed the Forum that social media platform algorithms are boosting the content being shared and although platforms are requested to remove content, 97% of requests are rejected and remain in circulation. WG are working with Ofcom and trying to meet with social media companies to inform them of the risks of sharing such content.

The Forum was informed of a consultation that is being run by Ofcom and encouraged colleagues in Wales to offer feedback through this. Link attached below for ease.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/media-literacy/how-to-promote-media-literacy-consultation-on-recommendations-for-online-platforms-broadcasters-and-services>

The Forum was updated on the protests that have been taking place over the summer months and the recent protest in Rhoose with a great deal of multi-agency work being carried out to ensure the protests have been peaceful and safe.

CSSJTCW opened the discussion for questions and contributions. The following comments were made:

- Concerns about videography being used to identify and target peaceful individuals online, attending protests to counter protest right wing protests.
- A reminder that asylum seekers and migrants are not just housed in hotels but also in HMOs around Wales who will be vulnerable.
- Concerns about national flags being used in conjunction with far-right messages.

The Head of Cohesion (WG) acknowledged the comments that had been made on protests, misinformation, and the use of flags through protest and community tensions and re stated Welsh Government will continue to work to positively to support

The Head of Cohesion (WG) highlighted the Hate and Community Tensions Board that meets on a quarterly basis. The membership for this Board is currently being refreshed, and a request was made for the Forum to choose a representative to join the Board.

Action: Secretariat to share details of the Ofcom consultation mentioned by the Head of Cohesion.

Action: Forum members interested in joining the Hate and Community Tensions board to contact the Secretariat or the Head of Cohesion directly.

3: Equality and Inclusion Grant

CSSJTCW referred to the previous meeting where members were introduced to the development of a new Equality and Inclusion Grant and welcomed the Head of the Strategic Equality Team and Senior Grant Manager (ECWL) to share an update on the launch of the grant.

The Senior Grant Manager presented to the Forum, sharing the purpose and overall aims of the grant and what it can be utilised for.

Action: Secretariat to share presentation on the Equality and Inclusion Grant following meeting.

Item four: Democratic Engagement Grant

CSSJTCW welcomed the Senior Elections Policy Manager and the Head of Digital Democracy, who introduced the Democratic Engagement Grant, which aims to ensure that the diversity in communities is represented during voting.

The Senior Elections Policy Manager informed the Forum that the Democratic Engagement Grant was launched in 2023 with the aim of supporting third sector organisations and those organisations that have experience of delivering democratic engagement projects, including projects that engage with target groups and are led by target groups. The Grant is aimed all members of the community who may be less represented, for example, young people, people where English isn't their first language, Black and Minority Ethnic communities, Disabled people, and other communities where there are existing barriers to taking part in democracy at selection times, but also in between elections to know that they can contact their representative so that they can understand that they've got a voice.

The Forum was informed that the first round of grant funding supported 26 projects and there is now £400,000 per year available for the next three financial years.

The Senior Elections Policy Manager encouraged anyone who wanted to hear more to contact her and the team. They will also be offering workshops to discuss the new Senedd system.

ACTION: Secretariat to Share slides on Democratic Engagement Grant and contact information following Forum

5: Any other business

The CSSJTCW thanked those attending the Forum and highlighted work that individuals are doing in Wales to positively support this space.

The next meeting will be held in December and the Secretariat will send out a calendar marker as soon as a date has been secured.

AOB 1 - A representative of Race Council Cymru (RCC) shared experiences of increased cyber bullying and enquired whether there was guidance available to support communities in protecting themselves.

Action: - The Head of Cohesion to reshare the Misinformation Toolkit with the Forum and also for the RCC representative to make contact with him to discuss further.

AOB 2 - A representative from Tai Pawb shared information on the Deeds Not Words pledge that was being launched to help address housing inequalities, with the aim of dismantling racism in the housing sector (for staff and tenants and communities across Wales).

Action: - Secretariat to share details of the Deeds Not Words pledge with Forum

AOB 3 - A representative from RCC also highlighted the Leadership Summit on Arts, Culture and Heritage being held on the 14th October, for leaders and organisations in Wales' arts, culture and heritage sectors. Participants will gain insight into how the Reverse Mentoring Programme is reshaping leadership thinking, challenging systemic barriers, and creating more equitable cultural spaces.

Summary of Actions

No.	Action Item	Owner	Deadline/Status
1	Secretariat to share details of the Ofcom consultation mentioned by the Head of Cohesion	Secretariat	As soon as is practical

2	Forum members interested in joining the Hate and Community Tensions board to contact the Secretariat or the Head of Cohesion directly.	Individual Forum Members	As soon as is practical
3	Secretariat to share presentation on the Equality and Inclusion Grant following meeting.	Secretariat	As soon as is practical
4	Secretariat to Share slides on Democratic Engagement Grant and contact information following Forum	Secretariat	As soon as is practical
5	The Head of Cohesion to reshare the Misinformation Toolkit with the Forum and also for the RCC representative to make contact with him to discuss further.	Head of Cohesion (WG) RCC	As soon as is practical
6	Secretariat to share details of the Deeds Not Words pledge with Forum	Secretariat	As soon as practical