

P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 03.09.20

In a 2018 collaborative report by Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team Wales, Show Racism the Red Card, Race Council Cymru, and Tros Gynnal Plant on [‘Experiences of Racism & ‘Race’ in Schools in Wales’](#) (I have attached a link to the report here) it was asserted that the Welsh curriculum has consistently been a ‘White curriculum’ (p.22). Difficult histories and complex subjects can be very daunting for teachers to discuss, especially in a classroom where these conversations may not have been brought up before. It is imperative that a holistic humanities curriculum includes a range of BAME histories and cultural studies, however, histories of slavery, Welsh colonialism and imperialism are immensely important as they are integral for understanding modern racism and discrimination.

With the new Welsh Curriculum being rolled out in the near future, how will the education department ensure that diverse histories are included by schools when writing their own curriculums?

The report from 2018 also revealed that teachers felt ‘unprepared to confront racist incidents in an effective way’ (p.18). After discussions with friends completing the PGCE qualification, they expressed a similar lack of confidence in discussing complicated subjects; including the impact of colonialism and imperialism on modern Britain, distressing or harrowing histories, and current political topics, for fear of “getting it wrong.” They were also concerned by the thought of having to mediate discussions surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and felt ill-prepared to de-escalate emotive debates.

What support and training will the education department be providing to educators and teachers in how to discuss these complicated topics in classrooms?

Extra support from official sources could instill greater confidence in educators in how to appropriately conduct meaningful discussions surrounding racism, sexism, colonialism, and imperialism.

Are the Senedd/Welsh Parliament/Welsh Government intending to allocate funding towards the production of resources and materials for educators to use?

If so, will this be outsourced to third party companies or will this be something that the working group led by Professor Charlotte Williams will address?

All the best,

Angharad Owen