

## Background

1. Show Racism the Red Card Wales (SRtRC) is an anti-racism education charity that has worked with approximately 150,000 children, young people and adults in the last 13 years. The organisation utilises the high-profile status of sport and sports stars to offer up relatable role models in a bid to help tackle racism in society. This is achieved through the delivery of education workshops in schools, workplaces and at events held at local sports clubs or stadia.
2. This written evidence is intended to support gauging whether the Measure has led to improved outcomes for children and young people.

## Our Response

3. While not a reporting body, the charity does record all communication relating to a racist incident. This is usually in the form of phone calls from teachers or parents who have been made aware of incidents. SRtRC's database for the academic year 2017-2018 shows a 21% increase in such communications of racist incidents compared to the previous year, 2016-2017.
4. As EHRC points out in its *Is Wales Fairer? 2018* report, "*the right to an education requires people to be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in education settings*" p16.
5. Within a context of a rise in hate crime, SRtRC feels it is worthwhile to continue to examine the number of racist incidents occurring in schools, as well as the exclusions that resulted from these incidents.
6. In order to cross-reference our own data, Show Racism the Red Card Wales submitted Freedom of Information requests to each of the 22 local authorities in Wales. The requests focused on the number of pupils in maintained schools excluded (both temporarily and permanently) on the grounds of racial misconduct for the school academic year 2017/2018.
7. There has been a 46% increase in exclusions as a result of racist incidents when compared to the previous academic year, and a 28% increase since 2014. At least 143 pupils were excluded as a result of involvement in a racist incident in 2017/18, resulting in a total of at least 205 lost school days for the perpetrator and likely many more when taking into account the victims of racist incidents.

8. This may be attributed to a number of factors including the general increase in hate crime, fears and intolerance as a result of past terror attacks, global intolerance with the proliferation of far right groups, the aftermath and ongoing uncertainty around Brexit, negative media portrayals of certain groups, unmonitored social media, better reporting in schools, and schools taking incidents more seriously. However, this requires investigation and must be a subject for a future research paper.
9. Our FOI request also asked for data on the number of racist incidents recorded in schools, but only 11 of the 22 local authorities had this information.
10. Given the rise year-on-year of exclusions for racism, the data provided regarding the number of racist incidents in schools raises serious questions about its robustness and whether or not local authorities are obtaining a clear picture of the incidence of racism in their schools.
11. Failure to keep an accurate record of the incidence of racism in schools could result in LAs and schools failing to respond appropriately, leaving victims unsupported and perpetrators uneducated in the consequences of their actions.
12. This failure in recording could also result in LAs and schools being unable accurately to evaluate the measures they put in place to deal with racism in school. As Estyn point out in their report ***Healthy and Happy, School impact on pupils' health and wellbeing June 2019***, *'By not recording carefully any allegation of bullying by pupils or what may be considered as a minor incident, schools are at risk of being unable to build up a picture over time about certain pupils whose wellbeing may be a significant concern but unknown to the school. It also means that schools are unable to evaluate effectively their work in relation to the protected characteristics.'* (Pages 19, 22)
13. Therefore, the recommendations of SRtRC are:
  - Welsh Government should issue a clarifying statement on the reporting duties of schools and Local Authorities in relation to racist incidents and exclusions.
  - Schools and Local Authorities should be effectively monitored to ensure that they are consistently recording and reporting racist incidents and acting upon this information.
  - Welsh Government should consider producing an annual statistical bulletin providing the data SRtRC currently has to acquire via FOI requests.
  - Additional training and resources should be provided for schools to ensure all individuals are comfortable in developing an anti-racism ethos throughout the Welsh education system.

We would be willing to attend and answer any questions the committee may have in respect of our contribution.