



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01813

Name of petitioner

Eunice Olumide

Petition title

Reform the national curriculum to include all African Scottish history

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to reform the national curriculum to include Afro-Scottish history including artefacts of African diaspora, cultural and economic contributions, the role of the British Empire and the benefits to Scotland from colonies of the Caribbean and Africa.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted my MSP, MP's and local councillors.

Petition background information

Like me, many have been horrified by the recent conflicts in America, sparked by the killing of George Floyd, fanned by hundreds of years of oppression and racism.

It is easy to think that this does not happen here but in fact statistics and personal accounts prove otherwise. When Black parents have 'the talk' with their sons or daughters, it is often about what to do when you are racially abused, attacked, or assaulted. It can be argued that much of the discrimination and racism faced by Afro-Scots is due to the poor levels of education on the history of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Scotland's role, and how Scotland benefitted economically from this.

The current national curriculum also does not highlight the many prominent Afro-Scottish and Black British figures who have contributed significantly and positively not only to Scotland but to the UK as a whole.

I believe this has led to racial profiling, physical and mental abuse, and to Afro-Scots being less likely to be recruited after achieving a degree.

[Is Racism Real?](#) a 2017 report by the TUC notes that:

"for many years trade unions have consistently campaigned against all forms of racism and discrimination in the workplace. The TUC believes that racism is real in our workplaces.

The report shows that BME workers face many forms of racism and discrimination such

as: verbal abuse; racist comments and jokes; bullying and harassment; physical violence; being singled out and treated differently; or discriminated against.

Our findings show that:

- More than a third (37%) of Black or minority ethnic (BME) workers polled have been bullied, abused or experienced racial discrimination by their employer.
- 19% have experienced discrimination such as being denied training or promotion.
- 15% have experienced verbal abuse and 16% of BME workers have experienced bullying or harassment at work.
- 43% did not feel able to report their experience of discrimination to their employers and 38% did not report incidents of bullying and harassment.”

I am calling for a commitment and pledge from policy makers for pro-active anti-racist action. In recognition of these historic times, a meaningful step that can be taken is the implementation of a thorough and robust account of Afro-Scottish history through the national education system. This would negotiate, rectify and recognise those real-life events and contributions that continue to shape and support our society today culturally, socially, and economically.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/afroscotshistorycurriculum>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

20

Closing date for collecting signatures online

05 / 08 / 2020

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Do you agree the national curriculum should be changed to include Afro-Scottish history?

What should be included in the national curriculum to ensure a full account of Afro-Scottish history is taught?