

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motions	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 25 2020

8.1 Decolonising the Curriculum

The Macpherson report into the murder of Lewisham resident Stephen Lawrence, published in 1999, asked that “consideration be given to amendment of the national curriculum aimed at valuing cultural diversity and preventing racism, in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society”.

This Council notes:

- That since the publication of the report, the Government has made relatively little progress in building a curriculum that helps prevent racism. In recent years, history in the national curriculum has if anything been narrowed.
- That conversely, significant progress has been made in Lewisham with regards to “decolonising the curriculum”, and adequately representing Black History as a standardised part of History teaching in our schools.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Education, calling on him to urgently review as a matter of priority the current curriculum, ensuring that Black and minority ethnic history is taught across the themes of the history curriculum; teaching about Black civil rights history and reflecting the contribution of Black people across the ages, locally in the UK and more widely.

Proposed by Cllr Powell
Seconded by Cllr Barnham

8.2 Classifying Misogyny as a Hate Crime

The Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including sex or gender, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament in 2020. Misogyny, or the hatred of women, is not currently recorded as a hate crime by the vast majority of police forces in the UK, outside of a handful of trial areas.

Lewisham Council notes:

- That this review has been put in place thanks to the work and support of Stella Creasy MP, as well as groups such as Citizens UK, HOPE Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, and the Fawcett Society.
- That a 2020 Citizens UK report of over 1000 people's experiences showed that 33.5% of hate crimes already have gender as a motivating factor
- That studies have shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are BAME, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.
- That the adoption of misogyny as a hate crime was successfully implemented in Nottingham, with analysis showing that the vast majority of people interviewed wanted the scheme to continue, and seven other constabularies have since following suit.

Lewisham Council resolves:

- To make a submission to the Law Commission's Consultation at the earliest opportunity in favour of strengthening hate crime legislation and making misogyny a hate crime.
- To call on the Government to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime.
- To call on the Metropolitan Police Service to record harassment of women as a hate crime, following successful trials in Nottingham and elsewhere.
- To call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle violence against women and girls.

Proposed by Cllr Wise

Seconded by Cllr Davis

8.3 National Safeguarding Adults Week

This Council notes that:

National Safeguarding Adults Week is marked each November by the Ann Craft Trust, a national safeguarding charity which supports organisations to safeguard adults and young people at risk. It aims to initiate nationwide conversations around adult safeguarding and draw attention to key safeguarding themes, such as adult grooming, organisational abuse, financial abuse and disability hate crime. In 2019, over 150 organisations supported National Safeguarding Adults Week, helping to raise awareness through social media, podcasts, blogs and community events. Currently, National Safeguarding Adults Week is not officially recognised by Lewisham Council or the Department for Health and Social Care.

This Council believes that:

Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and we have a vital role to play in raising awareness about adult safeguarding, both in Lewisham and beyond. National Safeguarding Adults Week is an important opportunity to raise awareness about adult safeguarding and we should show our support for it. As a local authority, we should show leadership in this area by working with the Ann Craft Trust to encourage other local authorities to participate and put pressure on the Department for Health and Social Care to recognise this important week.

This Council resolves to:

1. Officially recognise National Safeguarding Adults Week and work with the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board to help promote it in future years;
2. Work with other Safeguarding Adults Boards, Local Authorities and organisations including the Ann Craft Trust to help increase participation in National Safeguarding Adults Week;
3. Work with other Safeguarding Adults Boards and organisations including the Ann Craft Trust to lobby the Department for Health and Social Care to officially recognise National Safeguarding Adults Week.

Proposed by Cllr Best

Seconded by Cllr Muldoon