



CORE response to the report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

After a nine-month wait, the report into Racial Disparity in Britain has finally been published today. As many of us feared, the report is Government level gas lighting.

We are dismayed that a Government-backed commission would seek to deny the evidence from countless reports and our own lived-experiences.

Structural racism in our society is proven by the disproportionately negative outcomes for Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities) in almost every aspect of British life – including criminal justice, education, housing, employment and health.

As organisations working with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities across the country, we have seen the destructive (and sometimes fatal) impact of structural racism in Britain.

We cannot tackle structural racism if we do not believe it exists.

The report argues that since some Black, Asian or minority ethnic people have had better outcomes than others, institutional racism is no longer a problem. This is an extremely worrying way to analyse data and will only serve to play communities off against each other.

The report goes on to talk about communities being “haunted” by “historic cases” of racism, creating “deep mistrust” in the system which could prove a barrier to success. This is clearly claiming, the reason so many Black people don’t get on well in this society is because they are stuck in the past and this makes them mistrustful. So racism isn’t the problem, people talking about racism is the problem.

We find it galling that the report claims a nation that is still so unequal in so many ways “should be regarded as a model for other white-majority countries”.

Equality is not something that you can have in piecemeal way. You either have it or you do not.

This was an opportunity to really build on the public sentiment following the death of George Floyd and really finally make progress on tackling racism in our nation.

We believe this report is worse than a missed opportunity, in the battle against racism, it is a massive leap backwards.

Yours sincerely,

CORE (Coalition of Race Equality Organisations)

CORE, the Coalition of Race Equality Organisations, is comprised of a number of the leading organisations within the UK Black Asian and Minority Ethnic, voluntary and community sector. CORE acts as a collective voice to lobby government, influence policy, and raise awareness of issues of inequality that permeate society. Priority areas include housing, health, criminal justice, education, employment, and political engagement and representation.