



Bradford District Assembly Equality Forum

Hate Crime Event

Thursday 10 December 2021 10am – 12:30pm via Zoom

The Hate Crime Event via Zoom took place on Thursday 10th of December 2020. The event brought together groups and organisations in the Bradford District to discuss key issues around Hate Crime in our communities.

32 participants attended the event. Muppett introduced the event and Mark Nicholson (Co-Chair) began with an overview of the Equalities Forum, how it aims to inform policy and the work that has been undertaken.

Sharon and Penny from the Racial Justice Network gave a presentation on the work of (RJN) and particularly on their Hate Crime and Injustice Report

<https://racialjusticenetwork277579038.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/hate-crime-and-systemic-injustice-a-report-by-the-racial-justice-network-2.pdf>.

Daniel Balaz from Connecting Roma then introduced himself and gave an overview of the work done by his organisation. Daniel explained that his organisation works to support Roma Communities and has set up services to build and connect Roma to services. Although in the UK the systems, policies, procedures and legislation are better than in other countries, organisations and services still struggle to engage with this community. Connecting Roma provides interpreters, trains interpreters, cultural awareness training, recreational activities and many other services. More information can be found on their FB page [@connectingroma](#).

Inspector Kevin Taylor from West Yorkshire Police spoke about the Police Perspective on Hate Crime. Bradford has a dedicated Hate Crime Sergeant and 2 PC Hate Crime Co-ordinators. The police aims to have a victim focused response and aims to call the victim the day after the report as well as reassurance visits. The Police has a Scrutiny Panel made up of community members which looks at Hate Crime Investigations completed. The committee also looks at Stop & Search encounters. Kevin invited anyone who wished to be part of the panel to contact him on kt216@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk.

The police also have a positive recruitment policy which it hopes will help to make the force more reflective of the community it serves. 5 officers also form the Stronger Communities

Team who work to build trust with the community, particularly under represented communities like Roma. Kevin acknowledged that Hate Crime was underrepresented and stated that he was committed to turning this around. Link to presentation

<https://cnet.org.uk/bradford-district-assembly/equalities-forum>

Charles Dacres, Director of Hate Crime Alliance, gave An overview of the Hate Crime Alliance. They are working to encourage the reporting of race incidents and crime in settings other than police stations. There is an awareness of underreporting and ways to improve the system are being looked at by working in partnership with the Council and the Police. Hate Crime Alliance also support victims of hate crime and are happy to listen to suggestions on how to connect with the community better. Charles talked about potentially re-establishing a Case Review Group. The new three year Hate Crime Strategy should be ready for March 2021. For information and how to be involved, please contact Charles Dacres charles@bradfordhatecrimealliance.org.uk.

Workshop Feedback

3 workshops took place each discussing the following questions:-

- 1) Does your group / organisation deliver a service that addresses the issue of Hate Crime, if yes what is service, if not are you aiming to?
- 2) Please share with us one positive and one negative experience you've had as a result of reporting a Hate Crime

Key points:

- Preventative measures against discrimination e.g. education and awareness of what a hate crime is
- Fear of reporting a crime
- Acceptance from communities that they will be targeted
- Make reporting a safe experience for people who fear retribution
- Value of services and multi agency approach - how can we work together, opportunities, how to advise someone
- Unfounded rumours, particularly during Covid - where to get correct information
- Bullying and Hate Crime in the work place
- Social norm and acceptance of certain types of behaviours towards certain communities e.g. gay community

Closing Remarks from Co-chairs

Penny Wangari-Jones (Co-Chair) highlighted that systems still need a lot of improvement, asylum seekers and refugees do not have access to a lot of support and help. When a hate crime is reported if it is incorrectly classified, it will not be resolved. Going forward, what happens when people report a hate crime should be looked and putting the onus on the victim, witnesses should be encouraged to report as well. Penny also stressed the

importance of including the victims and communities affected in decision making spaces and opposing the Hostile Environment agenda.

Mark thanked everyone for attending and their input. In terms of going forward he stated it would be good for people to feedback to the Forum as many issues have been raised in todays meeting. Lots of opportunities have also been identified to work with organisations like the Police and Connecting Roma.