

NASACRE statement on Black Lives Matter

The shocking killing of George Floyd in the USA sparked protests globally, including in the UK, highlighting deaths, acts of brutality and racism within society. It once again brought to the fore the very deep fault lines that exist in society around the issue of race. Sadly, this is not a stand-alone incident. Racism is evil wherever and whenever it happens and has no place in our society. It is undeniable that in this country there are ingrained racial biases, inherent inequalities and racism within traditional institutions. Whilst recognising it is a complex issue, we need to ask how should we - as members of our society - respond? The NASACRE Executive Committee is asking this question of our organisation and challenging our member SACREs to do the same.

SACREs bring together a diverse range of members of local communities to work collectively and collaboratively to support high quality RE in their schools and to prepare the pupils in their schools for life in a multi – faith society, where black lives matter. Many members of our SACRE communities will be grieving over what has happened around recent events, and as an Executive, we want to grieve with them. At this time, we feel we should be slow to speak, quick to listen and compassionate towards those who mourn.

Religious Education and Collective Worship in our schools provide opportunities for reflection on justice and diversity around these sensitive issues. Whilst NASACRE has always worked to promote greater inclusion of diverse voices in education, we recognise that there is more to do, and this work needs to be done with greater urgency. **As your local Agreed Syllabus Conference sets your local syllabus for religious education, there is important work to be done reviewing your current curriculum, checking it is fit for purpose, and ensuring Black Lives Matter is within it.**

The NASACRE Executive has always sought to reflect the diversity of its membership and to encourage member SACREs to review their membership to ensure they are fully representative of their local diversity. Historically NASACRE has been at pains to provide space for a range of voices to be heard in our meetings, our membership and in our conferences; we recognise there is more to do and commit to working to challenge inequality, racism and to hear the voices that are frequently silent or ignored.