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**Joint General Secretaries**  
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The Rt Hon Boris Johnson  
10 Downing Street  
London  
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CC: Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP

15 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to you on behalf of the members of the National Education Union. We hope that you are continuing to recover from your illness.

Our members are deeply concerned about the injustices and racial disparities that have been highlighted by the virus and by the horrific events of brutality against Black people in the United States. The NEU sent a message of support to the American Federation of Teachers, for urgent action to build racial justice in the USA and deliver safety and social justice for Black Americans.

We believe that UK elected politicians must acknowledge that acts of race hate are not new, unique or disconnected.

In the UK, the global health pandemic has reminded people of the centrality of Black workers to our NHS and our care homes, to our transport systems and food supply, and to education and to every profession and sector of the economy. In education there are systemic and persistent racial disparities in exclusions, recruitment and attainment. Black children and young people face racism every day and experience a curriculum that does not reflect Black history, culture or global achievement. Over 4,000 young people were excluded, for racism, in 2017/2018.

In this context, and irrespective of the timescale of any new Review, we call on the Government to:

- Provide immediate advice to employers in the education sector about the racial disparities in the pandemic in order to minimise risks to the wellbeing and safety of Black workers and the communities in which they live, work and travel
- Review the curriculum to ensure it embraces the fact that Britain is rooted in Black and global history, achievement and culture and includes the achievements of Black Britons; as recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.
- Commit to review Initial Teacher Training to equip all trainee teachers with anti-racist strategies and tools, for the benefit of all students.
- Adopt a strategy to make the pipeline of new entrants to the teaching profession significantly more diverse over the next four years.

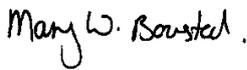
- Learn from the Windrush Review and develop a plan to teach about the history of the UK and its relationship to the rest of the world – including Britain's colonial history and the history of migration. (1)

We will publish an anti-racist framework for schools and colleges this term to build the capacity of education and professional skills to challenge racism.

We believe that, irrespective of the timelines of any new review, Ministers need an anti-racist strategy and immediate action plan if you are to make real change and harness the potential of education.

We look forward to further engagement on these urgent issues.

Yours sincerely



**Mary Bousted**  
**Joint General Secretary**



**Kevin Courtney**  
**Joint General Secretary**

(1) Our Migration Story <https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/about.html>