

Dear Members of the Welsh Government,

We, the undersigned coalition of anti-racist organisations and Trade Union movement bodies, are writing to express our deep concerns about the recent findings of the Baroness Louise Casey Review into the culture of the Metropolitan Police Service. The review exposes systemic issues that have led to a loss of public trust and confidence, particularly among ethnic minority communities. We believe that these issues are not limited to the Metropolitan Police Service. Therefore, we call upon the Welsh Government to conduct a similar urgent review of the police and criminal justice system in Wales.

The need for such a review is evidenced by the recent cases of Siyanda Mngaza, Christopher Kapessa, Mohamud Hassan and Mouayed Bashir, which have raised serious concerns about racial discrimination, abuse of power, and the lack of accountability within the Welsh police force. To provide context, we must also acknowledge historical cases such as Mahamoud Mattan, Cardiff 5, and Butetown 3, which further demonstrate the longstanding issues within our criminal justice system.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) Public Perception Tracker published in May 2022 reveals that ethnic minorities in Wales are more likely to experience excessive use of force and die in police custody than their White counterparts. Additionally, the IOPC survey found that trust in the police handling complaints fairly is significantly lower among BME respondents compared to White respondents.

Given the Senedd self-declared ambition to become an anti-racist nation by the year 2030, we urge you to recognise the gravity of this situation and take immediate action by conducting a comprehensive review similar to the Baroness Louise Casey Review.

Whilst we recognise that policing is not devolved to Wales, there is a clear interest for the Welsh Government to conduct this enquiry and make recommendations, so that the Welsh police are not undermining the devolved governments ambitions for an anti-racist Wales.

This review should examine the culture, practices, and policies within the Welsh police force and the criminal justice system to identify and address the systemic issues contributing to racial discrimination and injustice.

We believe that this review is a crucial step towards rebuilding public trust and confidence in the police and criminal justice system in Wales. By addressing these systemic issues, we can ensure a fair, accountable, and transparent system that serves

and protects all members of our diverse communities, ultimately supporting the goal of Wales achieving an anti-racist nation by 2030.

We look forward to your response and commitment to taking steps towards a just and equitable Wales.

Sincerely,

Dr Wanda Wyporska, FRHistS, FRSA
Chief Executive Officer
Black Equity Organisation



Adria Watson
Black Lives Matter London



Zita Holbourne, FRSA, MRHistS
Co-founder & National Chair, BARAC UK



Hilary Brown
Chair, Stand up to Racism Vale



Andy George
President, National Black Police Association



Rhodri Francis
Stand Up To Racism Aberystwyth.



Judge D Peter Herbert O.B.E (retired)
Chair, Society of Black Lawyers



Lee Jasper
Chair, Alliance of Police Accountability



Val Clarke
Black Lives Matter Midlands



David Weaver
Chair, Operation Black Vote



**Andy Marshal, Lyn Eynon
Kevin Julien, John Actie, Lloyd Paris**
Justice for Cardiff 5



Cammilla Mngaza
Free Siyanda Campaign



Delia Mattis
Black Lives Matter Enfield



Carr Fox
On behalf of the Butetown Community Centre
Management committee



Kwabena Devonish
Y Pantherod



Talat Chaudhri Chair,
Melin Draford



Jeremy Crook O.B.E
Chief Executive, Action for Race
Equality



Melecia Mullings
Black Lives Matter Croydon



Elda Cardoso
Frentepretauk



Alex Ruddock
Black Lives Matter Portsmouth



Shavanah Taj, General Secretary
Wales TUC

