

PEOPLE OF COLOUR, EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

EAUC-Scotland stands against racism and strives for sustainable development, which includes social and racial justice. In supporting and working within the FHE and sustainability sectors, we recognise the serious need for progress, as shown by the data below and acknowledge it should be an urgent focus for our organisation and the sector. To our knowledge we have sourced the most up to date sector information.

Alongside this infographic, we have collated a list of further resources we and sector staff can use and share to help better understand the context of race in the UK, and how we as individuals and organisations can be allies for anti-racism.

Evidence of systemic racism in UK education

1 PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Research shows that at the age of 11, Black children are significantly marked down by their own teachers in mock exams vs their actual anonymous SATS exam results, compared to their white peers.

Burgess, Simon & Greaves, Ellen. (2013). Test Scores, Subjective Assessment and Stereotyping of Ethnic Minorities. *Journal of Labor Economics*. 31. 10.1086/669340.

2 SECONDARY AND FURTHER EDUCATION

- Research by the Department for Education found that a Black Caribbean student in England is approximately 2.5 times more likely to be permanently excluded compared to the whole school population

Department for Education (2019) Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2017 to 2018

- Despite these challenges, a greater proportion of Black students than white students progress to higher education after 6th form or college. However:

Department for Education (2020) Destinations of KS4 and 16 to 18 students 2018: 16 to 18 national tables

3 HIGHER EDUCATION

- Black students are less likely to be accepted into a Russell Group university than their white counterparts

Russell Group (2019) Tackling Racial Disparities

- The overall attainment gap between white and Black students qualifying with a First/2:1 degree was 23.4% (2017/18)

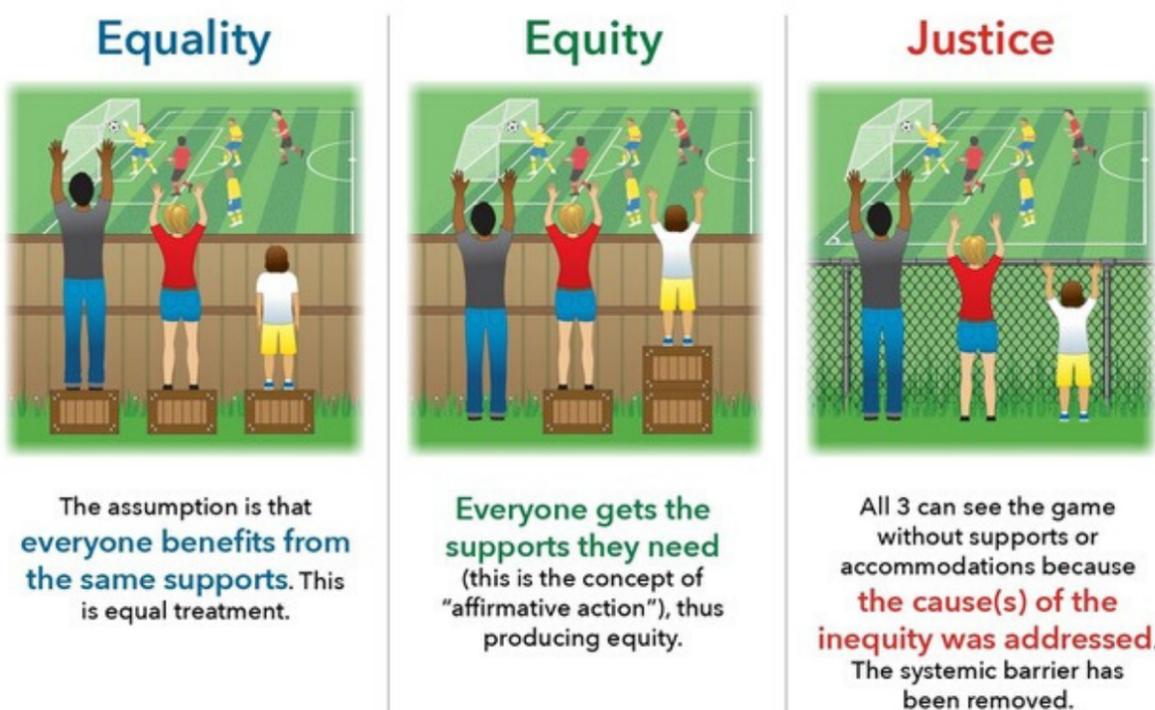
Advance HE (2019) Equality in higher education: statistical report 2019

- Only 0.6% of UK professors are Black, including only 25 Black female professors

UCU (2019) Staying Power - The career experiences and strategies of UK Black female professors

- Less than 5 heads of institutions were Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (2017/18)

Advance HE (2019) Equality in higher education: statistical report 2019



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Diversity within the UK Environmental Sector

4 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES COURSES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- In 2016/17, whilst 22% of HE students identified as non-white minorities, only 9% studied direct 'feeder subjects' to environment professions

Identified subjects were: Environmental Conservation, Environmental Science, Physical Geographical Sciences, Environmental Geography, Physical Geography, and Human and Social Geography

NUS, The Equality Trust and IEMA (2018) Race, inclusivity and environmental sustainability: A scoping study

5 EMPLOYMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

- 19.9% of employees across all occupations identify as minorities with 12.1% identifying as non-white minorities
- However, only 3.1% of environment professionals identify as minorities with 0.6% identifying as non-white minorities

NUS, The Equality Trust and IEMA (2018) Race, inclusivity and environmental sustainability: A scoping study

Environmental racism in the UK

5 EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION

- Research in England highlighted that ethnically diverse communities (>20% non-white) were on average exposed to 41.7 mg/m³ NO₂^{*}, above the European Directive exposure limit of 40 mg/m. This compared to 28.2 mg/m³ NO₂ for less ethnically diverse communities (<20% non-white). Ethnically diverse communities were also exposed to significantly more PM₁₀^{**} (24.3 mg/m³ vs 20.1 mg/m³).

^{*}NO₂ = Nitrous Oxide, a pollutant usually associated with fossil-fuelled road vehicles
^{**}PM₁₀ = Particulate matter with a diameter <10 µm, associated with construction and fossil fuel combustion

Fecht D, Fischer P, Fortunato L, et al. Associations between air pollution and socioeconomic characteristics, ethnicity and age profile of neighbourhoods in England and the Netherlands. Environ Pollut. 2015;198:201-210. doi:10.1016/j.envpol.2014.12.014

6 ACCESS TO GREENSPACE

- In England, Black people are nearly four times as likely as white people to have no access to outdoor space at home, whether it be a private or shared garden, a patio or a balcony (37% compared with 10%).

Office for National Statistics (2020) One in eight British households has no garden

- 69% of white adults accessed greenspace at least once per week compared to 41% of Black adults (2018/19)

Natural England (2019) Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment – The national survey on people and the natural environment Headline report 2019

7 LACK OF RESEARCH

In compiling this infographic, we found current research on environmental injustice within the UK to be limited in scope and often it did not consider ethnicity in its analysis. This trend is echoed in the Public Health England (2020) Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 report which omits air pollution exposure as a potential factor in increased risk to COVID-19 within BAME communities.

Public Health England (2020) Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19