

We are Communities Inc - a social enterprise passionate about tackling inequalities faced by the most disadvantaged groups.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES



Building Stronger Communities is a project that empowers people to overcome discrimination. We build people's skills to better support and understand each other so that they are part of the solution to the problem of declining community cohesion.

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The Far-Right have been using the 'Black Lives Matter' (BLM) movement to gain momentum for their own cause, spreading their alternative message of 'White Lives Matter' instead. Drawing attention away from the issues which BLM highlights, their message manipulates racial tensions and aims to normalise radical viewpoints.

The majority of today's Far-Right movement is far removed from the violent and disorganised impression it once portrayed. The skill in fundraising, ability to manipulate the mainstream media and use of fake news to hijack narratives, demonstrate that it is now a highly organised and powerful movement.

Far- right movements are increasing their reach not only in the UK but across the world. In 2019 in the United States, two thirds of terrorist attacks and plots were perpetrated by Far-Right members and this has increased in 2020. At BLM protests in the US, members have used their second amendment right to intimidate people who support the aims of BLM.

The rise of the Far-Right in the light of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter protests.



If we are to create a safer, equal society for everyone, we must tackle the narratives of the Far Right, by identifying and taking action which will bring about change. For our latest Dialogue, we brought together representatives of local organisations to discuss what we can do in Nottingham, and how these steps could help the wider community as a whole.

Key issues:

- How do we combat the narrative that the far-right use?
- How can we best draw attention away from the far-right and onto the anti-racist struggle of BLM?
- What are the next steps for the wider anti-racist movement?
- How can we combat the stereotypes used by the far-right against BAME communities?
- What changes can be made locally to support BAME communities?
- What changes can be made locally to challenge racism and bigotry in communities?

What actions will you take after this session to tackle the far-right narrative?

"Challenge, educate and support in every aspect of countering far-right narratives".

"Talk."

"Challenge stereotypes."

"Definitely think about using social media more creatively to put my standing around BLM."

"Continue trying to deliver activities to challenge a possible crisis of white identity linked to racist attitudes."

"Become a better ally. Join more active groups to tackle racism."

"I will encourage and support schools to create an inclusive, de-colonialised curriculum."

"I'm going to run zoom sessions about reporting hate crimes for Muslim women. I am going to keep up the momentum of talking about decolonisation of history."

"Work closely with BAME communities to challenge racism."

Recommendations:

- **Invest in young people** - particularly in deprived areas - by reinstating services such as youth clubs and providing opportunities to build aspirations.
- **Use media influence positively to encourage action and change people's perceptions**, including myth busting.
- **Encourage open dialogue on history ensuring it takes into account the multiple perspectives.** Look at what happened and learn from it, without vilifying others.
- **Develop accessible terminology for resources** so that people can address issues in their daily lives without this leading to alienation.
- **Promote positive messages through the arts, social media and other industries.** A multi-faceted approach is needed.
- **Hold the media and government to account** to ensure they continue to keep the conversation going about the messages of Black Lives Matter.
- **Make change on a smaller scale** by challenging racism in our local community.
- **Embrace the diversity we have in some areas of Nottingham and address the 'corridor' of racism which exists in other parts.**
- **Act as role models and encourage people to move from intention to action.** Take responsibility for standing up to acts of racism and bigotry.
- **Encourage the Nottingham Together Board** to include a continuation of the Black Lives Matter discussion.
- **Heighten awareness of racist 'banter'** as this can be used in a way which reinforces white supremacy.
- **Tackle representations of 'otherness'.** Such as when the media refer to the race of people when not relevant, creating negative associations with that group.
- **Encourage school reform** on policy and the curriculum at government level. Address the teaching of colonialism as part of curriculum reform.
- **Organise workshops and events for parents and carers which encourage compassion for minority groups.**