

PE01840/D

Petitioner submission of 26 January 2021

Introduction

On 27 January 2021, the Freedom Walk campaign was made aware that the Scottish Government issued a response in relation to our petition currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament. As such, we are submitting correspondence to Committee for consideration considering the Scottish Government's response to Committee. We are also calling on the Committee to call witnesses to ensure the full evidence has been identified and considered before a final decision is reached.

Tackling Racism in Scottish Education

Noting the issues raised by the Scottish Government in relation to racism in Scottish education, the following issues are still not tackled by the Government.

1. The Scottish Government does not mention any training for schools communities in term anti-racist education and implementing anti-racist education in the classroom.
2. The Scottish Government has presented a range of programmes that are currently available in Scottish schools but has not presented any evaluation of these programmes and initiatives to demonstrate effectiveness. It is also necessary to clarify that all these policies and programmes are not mandatory.
3. The Scottish government does not mention accountability for those who commit racism in the classroom as a hate crime.
4. A freedom of information request made by the Scottish Liberal Democrat founds at least 2251 instances of racism in schools between the 2017-18 and 2019-20 academic years; some local authorities did report their numbers but some did not wish to report; simply because reporting is not mandatory.

Recommendation

The Freedom Walk Campaigns call on the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee to call for any witness who wants to testify about their experiences on the issues raised by the Scottish Government, or anyone who wishes to submit additional evidence in support of this petition.