



# Union Council Motion

## Lobby the University to act on the recommendations from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity Mental Health Campaign:

I would like the support of Union Council to lobby the University Student Services to act on the recommendations from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity Mental health campaign and for Hull University Students' Union & the University to review the recommendations on an annual basis. I would also like the support to continue to act upon these recommendations in Hull University Students' Union (HUSU) activity where possible.

These recommendations include:

- Greater transparency with students about the training that UoH and HUSU staff undertake, including mental health professionals and student services e.g. cultural competence, impact of racism on mental health, generational trauma etc.
- Greater transparency to students about what the procedure is when reporting a staff member for racial harassment.
- An awareness raising campaign with students and staff around empathy and generational trauma.
- Part-time hire of a practitioner who is a specialist in understanding racism, cultural competence, generational trauma etc.
- A module or learning tool for students and staff to learn how to be better allies or be anti-racists. This can be done in partnership with students and HUSU.

And more....

These recommendations have come from

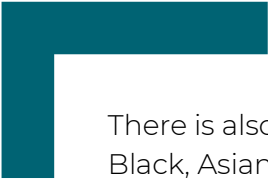
- Black, Asian, Minority Ethnicity mental health survey
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity open forums
- Research from PhD students at other institutions

You can find more information in the Black Asian and Minority Ethnicity Mental health campaign report.

Please note that the term 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity' is used throughout the report. The campaign results demonstrated that some students are uncomfortable using the term 'BAME' and HUSU are currently consulting students to find out what terminology students prefer. But, in the meantime, HUSU have moved away from the acronym 'BAME' and are referring to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity in its full.

## Why do you want to change it?

Research has consistently shown that Black, Asian and Minority ethnicity students experience greater rates of mental illness, and worse access to care and treatment.



There is also a lack of national and local support specifically for people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity mental health, and the unique issues that people in these communities face. This means it is even more important that the services provided by the University of Hull and HUSU meet the needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity students.

You can read more about this in my blog at

<https://hulluniunion.com/news/article/BAME-mental-health>

The university's strategy for 2020 onwards focuses on inclusion, and particularly listening to the needs of students from protected characteristics and minority groups. Listening to the experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity students, and acting on these in student services, training and all aspects of a students' University experience is therefore essential in carrying out their vision. The University ought to be held accountable to this strategy.

As is evident in the findings of the campaign, some Black, Asian and Minority students appear understandably tired at having to re-tell their experiences of trauma and discrimination. Some students are also frustrated at feeling as if they have to carry the campaigns on their own shoulders. That is why it is essential that it is part of the portfolio of the HUSU president team, and staff at the University to act on the recommendations that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity students have shared.

This report and the recommendations will be presented to the University's Mental Health Working group on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021. It would bring a lot more weight to the recommendations if they have been supported by a representative body of students.

## What do you want Hull University Union to do?:

I would like HUSU to support the lobbying of these recommendations to the University of Hull and HUSU.

**Proposer:** Evie Kyte (President of Inclusivity and Diversity)

**Seconder:** Shekinah Komolafe (BAME students' representative), Cas Nicholas (Social Mobility and Class Representative)