



Ministry
of Justice

Alex Chalk MP
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State for
Justice and Minister for
London

Stella Creasy MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MP ref: LC/ZA47755
MoJ ref: MC79748

24 July 2020

Dear Stella,

RACE DISPARITY IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Thank you for your letter of 23 June addressed to the Lord Chancellor on behalf of your constituent, regarding the case of Siyanda Mngaza and their concerns about police conduct and racial disparity across the justice system. I am responding as the Minister with responsibility for race disparity in the criminal justice system (CJS).

As the courts and the police are operationally independent of Government, I hope you will understand that it would not be appropriate to comment on, or intervene in, a specific case, investigation or complaint. I can however set out measures the government is undertaking to tackle racial disparity in the justice system in order to address your constituent's broader concerns.

For justice to function and command confidence of the whole community, no one should face discrimination, within or outside of the CJS. That is why we welcomed David Lammy's 2017 review which shone an essential light on disparity in the treatment of, and outcomes for ethnic minority individuals in the CJS.

We remain committed to taking recommendations within the review forward in some way. In February 2020 we published an update on our broad programme of work to address race inequalities, which includes an update against each of David Lammy's recommendations. The update can be found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881317/tackling-racial-disparity-cjs-2020.pdf

We are also working with the Home Office & Cabinet Office Race Disparity Unit (RDU) to continue in its efforts to understand and try to remedy the 'trust deficit' identified amongst BAME communities in the Lammy Review. The RDU will be carrying out a pilot which aims to provide qualitative insight into root causes and drivers of mistrust, and establish from community representatives and police officers what does and does not work, what further support may be needed, and examples of good practice.

This insight will be used to inform training and development for current police officers and the recruitment of the 20,000 over the next 3 years, and the RDU will have contact with the Home Office during this project.

The Government is also clear that all forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable and have no place in modern Britain and takes hate crime very seriously. The Action Plan published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-action-plan-2016> focuses on five key priorities - : to prevent hate crime happening in the first place through education; tackling hate crime in our communities; increasing reporting; improving support for victims; and increasing our understanding of hate crime

The over-representation of Black and Asian people and those from other ethnic minorities in the criminal justice system is a deep-rooted issue but, we are continuing to work hard with the rest of government and other partners to tackle it head on.

Thank you once again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Chalk", is centered on a light gray, textured rectangular background.

ALEX CHALK MP