

September 2024

REMY's open letter to those with responsibility for the welfare of C&YP.

To Whom it may concern.

We are contacting you on behalf of young people who over the summer witnessed either directly or via the news and social media the violence and disturbances that took place in our region and across England.

The images and sentiments expressed by those *opposed to immigration*, have left many of us feeling unsafe and unsure of our place in our communities. Some of us have spent the last few weeks staying home, not going out, not enjoying our summer break.

These feelings however are not new, and we see what happened over the summer as an extension or an exposé of what we experience every day, both in and out of school.

Many of us experience racism and discrimination on a daily basis, from having our hijabs pulled off, being called names, hearing snide comments, asked to go back to where we came from, experiencing cyber bullying. As reported this week, [Racism in schools surges with SIXTY children as young as age four sent home every day - Mirror Online](#), it can still feel like little is done in schools to prevent or stop this abuse, with either it being dismissed as banter, or labelled as 'bullying' rather than 'racism', leading to us no longer bothering to report it. Our sense of distrust in teachers and the education system is increased when we experience racism from teachers / college and school staff, those meant to protect and educate us.

Over the next few days, we will be expected to return to school, and share corridors and classrooms with those who only a couple of weeks ago were seen to take part in 'riots', who openly expressed that they 'hate' us. If we, however, don't feel safe enough to go back to school/ college you will punish us.

So we ask,

- What will schools be doing to make us feel safe?
- What will schools and wider society be doing to address and tackle racism?
- Will you educate young people on racism and allyship – so young people are aware of the language they use, the difference between nationality and ethnicity and why people feel they have no choice but to leave their own homes.
- Will you educate young people on social media and algorithms and how these can lead you to an echo chamber of misinformation and hate. As well as being exposed to grooming and exploitation.



-What will schools do help promote tolerance and multiculturalism in schools / colleges ?

· Will the adults who lured young people to take part be seen as groomers, traffickers and exploiters and be punished for this? Will you and your education support us in discussing this, demanding this?

· What will the council and the police do to help us feel safe in our communities, so that we can live our lives without fear? How will education work with the council and the police to support us live without fear?

We look forward to hearing from you,

And ask that all schools are aware of [Racist Incidents - In and Out of Schools \(theeducationpeople.org\)](http://theeducationpeople.org)

With regards

Members of REMY (Regional Ethnic Majority Youth Group), the WY Youth Collective, SY Youth Combined Assembly, YWU Youth Board.