

Wales Race Forum

10:00 – 11:00 am, Monday 3rd February 2025 – Via Teams

Attendance

Name - Organisation
Jane Hutt MS - Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (CSSJTCW)
KIRAN Cymru
Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST)
Chinese in Wales Association (CIWA)
Gypsies, Travellers Wales (GTW)
Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC)
North Wales Regional Equality Network (NWREN)
Race Equality First
Race Council Cymru
Wales Local Government Authority (WLGA)
Travelling Ahead
Somali Education Foundation
South Wales Police
Wales Trades Union Congress (Wales TUC)
Wales Refugee Council (WRC)
Tai Pawb
Privilege Café
WG (Equality and Human Rights)
WG (Race, Faith and Belief and Gypsy and Roma and Traveller Policy Team)
WG (ArWAP Policy Team)
WG (Cohesive Communities Policy Team)
WG (Strategic Equality and Mainstreaming)
WG (Cabinet Secretary Private Office)
WG (FMG – Healthcare Inspectorate Wales Division)
WG (FMG – Special Advisors)
WG (CSI - Statistical services Division)
WG (LGHCCRA – Local Government Policy)

Meeting notes

Discussion
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>CSSJTCW welcomed everyone.</p> <p>CSSJTCW paused to remember a now-departed member of Hayatt Women's Trust. She described her as a much-respected member of our community and of the Wales Race Forum and a driving force behind the Hayatt Women's Trust based in Cardiff.</p>

CSSJTCW said that she will be remembered for dedication and contribution to fostering equality and support for women and will leave a great legacy.

The updated Terms of Reference (ToR) has been circulated to members prior to the meeting. ToR for all Equality Groups and Forums supported by Welsh Government are being updated.

CSSJTCW welcomed a new member to the Race Forum; a representative from Tai Pawb.

No outstanding actions from the last meeting.

2. ArWAP Regional Convenors

CSSJTCW introduced the Head of Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP) Implementation Team (HoAT) to provide an update on the ArWAP Regional Convenors.

HoAT gave an update on the work of the ArWAP Regional Convenors and regional engagement. Details on the regional areas covered and how they are divided between the Regional Convenors was shared.

HoAT also mentioned that an ArWAP Communications and Engagement Plan has been drafted and once finalised will provide a further in-depth update on the ArWAP and Regional Convenors role.

CSSJTCW invited questions. A question was asked: what cross party support is there for ArWAP. CSSJTCW outlined what support there is within the Senedd for the ArWAP.

CSSJTCW informed the forum that she will be requesting the Cross-Party Group on Race to reconvene which will be chaired by a nominated member of the Race Forum.

CSSJTCW said she will be making an Oral Statement in Plenary on Nation of Sanctuary on Tuesday 11th February.

Action: CSSJTCW to ask the nominated Chair to reconvene Cross Party Group on Race.

Action: ArWAP Head of Implementation Team (HoAT) to update the group on the ArWAP Communications and Engagement plan once finalised.

Action: Secretariat to share the Oral Statement on Nation of Sanctuary with members.

3. Social Media and impact on race organisations

CSSJTCW referred to the previous meeting where members had discussed the unrest in the UK following the Southport incident and outlined that this meeting is an

opportunity for more in-depth discussion and to hear from members if they had needed to take steps to protect staff e.g. personal alarms and any other mitigations taken. CSSJTCW also asked for members' input about social media/online hate and what support is needed.

WG Head of Sanctuary Policy, gave an update on WG activity in response to the spreading of social media/online hate and misinformation.

CSSJTCW has recently written to forum members and shared a draft of the Misinformation Toolkit that is being developed by WG. WG asked what support people would like to see from WG. Comments included:

- KIRAN Cymru to share their safeguarding policy with WG officials for feedback.
- Far right groups posting photos of EYST staff on social media spreading misinformation.
- EYST have CCTV installed and have held wellbeing sessions for staff.
- Social media has increased racism; people have been subjected to attacks in the street.
- A far-right protest/march has been scheduled in Swansea on 15th February.
- Race organisations cannot go extinct on social media and should use it to increase awareness of the good work organisations are doing to counter the narrative.
- Increase in staff workloads following the spread of misinformation/online hate.
- Need to focus on adults in ages 20s, 30s and 40s as they are not in a learning environment.
- Reputational risk for organisations/charities under attack on social media.
- Importance of language in politics and in the press and how issues such as asylum seekers are spoken about.
- WLGA are exploring social media activity and EDI impact and will feedback to WG.
- Hope not Hate to deliver a session in Wales with Wales TUC.

Action: Inform WG officials about 15th Feb far right protest/march in Swansea.

Action: KIRAN to share safeguarding policy with ArWAP team.

Action: Secretariat to share Misinformation toolkit with members.

4. Any Other Business

CSSJTCW introduced 3 AOBs.

1. Senedd Reform: CSSJTCW reiterated the importance of the Section 30 guidance to increase diversity in political parties. The consultation on the guidance is closed, and the team are working through the responses.
2. Home Secretary's review update: The Home Secretary has announced an independent public inquiry following the Southport attacks. A National Audit has been announced which will be undertaken by Baroness Louise Casey to evaluate understanding of the scale, nature and drivers of group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) at a national and local level. Further updates to follow at future meetings.
3. International Day to Combat Islamophobia: Cabinet Secretary will be making a statement about this.

Due to a lack of time to discuss these and other issues, CSSJTCW requested that the Forum meet sooner than scheduled with another meeting to take place in March.

CSSJTCW thanked everyone for attending.

Action: Another meeting of the Wales Race Forum will take place in March. POSTSCRIPT to be held 17th March.

Action: Future meetings to update and provide further detail about the public inquiry and National Audit.

Summary of Actions

No.	Action Item	Owner	Deadline / Status
1.	Ask nominated Chair to reconvene the Cross-Party Group on Race.	CSSJTCW	When possible / Before next CPG meeting
2.	Provide an update on the ArWAP Communications and Engagement Plan once finalised.	Head of ArWAP Implementation Team (HoAT)	When finalised
3.	Share the Oral Statement on Nation of Sanctuary with members.	Race Forum Secretariat	After Plenary statement (11 February)

4.	Inform Welsh Government officials about the 15 February far-right protest/march in Swansea.	Race Forum Secretariat	As soon as possible
5.	Share the Misinformation Toolkit with members.	Race Forum Secretariat	As soon as possible
6.	Arrange an additional Wales Race Forum meeting in March	Race Forum Secretariat	17 March 2025
7.	Provide future updates on the independent public inquiry and National Audit on group-based CSEA.	Welsh Government	Next Forum meeting