

Depth Study O - Race Relations in Multi-Cultural Society Since 1945

SOURCE A: From 'Longest Journey: A History of Black Lewisham' by J Anim-Addo, 1995.

Those arriving in London for the first time from 1948 onwards had high expectations. This was often based on faulty information. The source of this wrong information was largely the formal education given by the established churches in the colonies. The churches gave too rosy a view of the British way of life. The popular media reinforced these impressions, England, the West Indian population had been taught, was the land of opportunity. Merit, knowledge and skills, it was believed, were the keys for colonial peoples to great opportunities.

SOURCE B: From 'Racial Discrimination in Britain', a report published in 1968.

Three applicants (one black Briton, one white Briton and a Hungarian) applied for the same forty jobs. The black Briton always applied first.

	White Briton	Hungarian	Black Briton
Offered job or told vacancy existed and advised to apply	15	10	1
Told 'No vacancy at present' but details taken for future reference; or asked to call back; or told 'there should be a vacancy shortly'	15	7	2
Told 'no vacancy'	10	23	37
Total	40	40	40

SOURCE C: From an article in 'Spectrum' by George Dixon, a West Indian writer, 1976.

In some cases it is obvious that black teenagers don't get a fair deal compared with white teenagers. The only reason being that we are black: we think black, we act black and most of all, we're proud to be black. When we leave school we have no sense of belonging anywhere.

We are what integration is all about. A few years ago Mr Roy Jenkins MP, called us "Coloured Britains". He said that we dress and speak much as whites do and we look for the same opportunities. Few of us have found them.

SOURCE D: A photograph showing racist graffiti in a London street in the 1990s.



SOURCE E: From an article about the Race Relations Act of 1965, published in the 'Yorkshire Post' in 1967.

The latest dose of well meaning foolishness from the Home Office would extend the Act to deal with discrimination on grounds of colour, race or ethnic origins in employment, housing, insurance and credit facilities. Discrimination on any of these grounds is wicked and uncivilised. We doubt it happens as much as people think it does. The trouble is that immigrants are being encouraged to believe that if they are asked to leave a first-class railway seat, when they have only a second class ticket, it is because of their colour.

SOURCE F: From a speech by Alan Beith, a Liberal M.P., 1976.

Anti-discrimination laws in themselves are not enough. Action must be taken to combat the disadvantage experienced by many people in minority communities, wider disadvantages, not merely discrimination. The new body (The Commission for Racial Equality) needs resources to combat this.
