

2020 Black History Month – Headline Impact Report

The Students Association hosted and/or participated in three key events during Black History Month 2020. These sessions focused on the student experience of EDI issues, and were informed by student participation in focus group and online sessions. The feedback has raised important issues for the Association (and the wider OU community) to consider, such as representation of BAME students, potential barriers to engagement, and the ways in which face-to-face and online events could better encourage their participation.

October 2020 saw 25 new applications for the Association's BAME Group, indicating positive student engagement during Black History Month.

BAME Students' Views of Studying at the OU

Patrice Belton (Vice President Equality, Diversity and Inclusion)

15 October 2020

- This session was presented in partnership with the OU as part of the *Reflecting on Race* event. Having co-led focus groups with BAME students, VP Equality, Diversity and Inclusion shared the feedback from these sessions. This session considered students' views to identify key areas where more work could be done to address the challenges faced by BAME students.
- In a follow-up survey, 25 respondents indicated that they had attended this session. Attendees were predominantly members of staff at the OU, with 72% identifying as White. Of these 25 attendees, 21 (84%) were interested in seeing more '*discussion of race by students*' in future events.

The survey respondents also gave feedback about how attending this session would inform their work at the OU:

"It has helped me to engage with students and give some ideas on how to better listen to them in future."

"Been an eye opener of the challenges that are faced by the BAME student community"

"To challenge unacceptable behaviours within student cohort"

"Include students in our inclusive curriculum work"

Going Forward: Ensuring Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Volunteering and Representation

Volunteering and Representation Team

29 October 2020

- This session was focused on student volunteering at the Association, with two student speakers including a past volunteer and the current Vice President Education. Student participants responded positively to the speakers and discussed topics such as the range of volunteering roles available, the skills they could gain, and time commitments.
- The session had 23 attendees.
- The Volunteering and Representation Team also shared takeaways from the session such as promoting events to the student community, reviewing alternatives to acronyms such as BAME, and ensuring that Association events have good speakers to engage students.

Celebrating Black Students in the OU Student Community

The Community Team

15 October 2020

- The feedback touched on a range of themes, such as students feeling positive about Black History Month celebrations and the OU student community (e.g., Societies). However, potential barriers to participation, such as underrepresentation of BAME students in student community spaces, were also highlighted.
- There were 17 attendees in total (including the presenter and two guests).