

# The Fourth Hull Young People's Parliament

16<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Report to Children and Young People



## The Fourth Hull Young People's Parliament

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007 153 children and young people between the ages of 11-25 crammed into one of The Guildhall's largest rooms for the fourth Hull Young People's Parliament (HYPP).

Welcomes and introductions were given by Councillor Christine Randall (Lead Councillor for Children and Young People) and Nigel Richardson (Director of Children and Young People's Services).

### The Key Question!

The key question on the day was "What can we do about Racism in Hull?" There were 22 workshops in total and, for the first of the two morning workshops, we asked you all to make some recommendations about what needs to happen in Hull to change things! You can find a summary of these on Page 5.

We also tried something new for the fourth Parliament and enlisted the help of a local drama group called Act Now! They brilliantly performed a short play to get you all thinking before you went off into your first workshops.



Everyone worked very hard by attending two workshops before lunchtime! The second workshop was an opportunity to get more information, facts, figures, listen to real life stories and examine your own views on the issue of racism in Hull.

## Resolutions and Voting



As usual, after lunch you all came together in the Council Chamber for voting and you used the opportunity to debate and vote on the resolutions. In total, 10 resolutions were passed. These were:

- That Asylum Seekers should be allowed to work.
- The media should take more action to prevent racism by reminding people of the punishments they will face if they are racist.
- That we should use drama more to influence people not to be racist.
- That the Police should have more involvement in educating people who commit racist crimes.
- To form a group and tell the public the positive aspects of having lots of different people in England.
- We would like more multicultural days in Hull to promote more understanding between cultures.
- There should be more teaching and education on different cultures in schools.
- We would like more opportunities for young people to go on exchange trips – and go and live with other young people in different countries!
- For the Parliament to support the Hull Freedom Trail which will help children living in orphanages in Sierra Leone and help reunite families. We would like you to go on the website and tell your friends about it. [www.freedomtrail.com](http://www.freedomtrail.com)
- We would like the Parliament to support a walk on behalf of everyone who has died because of racism, and to support asylum seekers and Gholam. (This has happened already – the walk took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October)

## **Local Action Points**



This was something new that we introduced so you and your School, Youth Group and friends could get more closely involved. An action point is something small and manageable that we asked you to think of that would in some way make sure that you didn't all go home thinking what a great day you all had with nothing to show for it! So, during lunchtime you all got into your small groups and came up with some amazing ideas that you could work on to help stop racism! Some of these included:

- **Designing a stop racism poster to show in your school**
- **Highlighting the issue of racism through more drama sessions**
- **Make people more aware of racism through school council meetings**
- **Putting on more 'Cultural Awareness' events in schools to celebrate all that's good about living in Hull**
- **More involvement from other schools in 'International Week'**
- **Making a film on racism to show on the Big Screen!**
- **A Big Brother diary room to discuss problems**
- **Inviting refugees along to give talks about their lives**

Hopefully, someone from Hull Youth Council has been in touch with you to see if you needed any help in achieving your Local Action Points. We also hope to show how some of you got on with them at the next Parliament in February 2008. So, if you have any posters etc that you would like to share with everyone at the next Parliament then send them into Hull Youth Council and we will display them for you.

## Issues and Conversations



The first of the two morning workshops that you attended asked you to focus on ways in which the young people and agencies of Hull could combat racism. Everyone worked really hard and here are the ideas that you came up with.

### What can we do about racism in Hull?

#### What You Said

- Anti racism days
- Clubs – to find out about other cultures
- More jobs and money for asylum seekers coming to Hull - it's a good thing.
- Parents and the media need to change their views
- More education in schools – primary and secondary
- More celebration of cultures
- Using sports to unite people
- More posters to highlight racism for school groups
- More understanding of how racism makes families feel
- More use of the big screen
- More multi – cultural days with food, dance, arts & crafts and visits from/to people from different countries.
- A slogan that can be used city wide to challenge jokes
- More visits to places of worship e.g., mosques, synagogues and Hindu Temples
- More publicity / posters
- Chat / help-lines
- Visits from people from other cultures, talks and presentations
- Family trees to explain where people are from
- Live as 'others' for a day - acting out using role play
- More workshops about how to challenge racism
- Provide a booklet for all young people, with arguments on how to challenge racism (maps of other countries)
- Buddy groups – share facts about other's lives and cultures
- People from other cultures doing talks in schools to young people
- More relevant history lessons such as Martin Luther King -I have a dream
- People who are racist should be treated that way and see how they feel
- Have a befriending service available in schools for any victims
- Larger fines / punishments for racism
- At school - pick a country and learn about it

## What's Next



As always we will be trying to make sure that all your suggestions and concerns about racism are brought to those people who can change things and make things better.

We will also be bringing your concerns to Councillor Christine Randall (Lead Councillor for Children and Young People) and Nigel Richardson

(Director of Children and Young People's Services) so they can personally hear what you had to say.

## What you thought of the day!

The majority of what everyone thought about the day was really positive. We are always trying to make things better as each Parliament passes and we always take into account what you have told us. We had 63 responses from you - here's what you told us.

## What have/haven't you enjoyed?

- I enjoyed everything x 15.
- I enjoyed discussions around racism/group work x 10.
- Meeting new people x 6.
- I enjoyed sitting in the Council Chamber x 5.
- I enjoyed voting on the resolutions x 5.
- I enjoyed today because I got to talk about racism with other people and I got to share my opinions with others x 5.
- Food/lunchtime x 4.
- I enjoyed the drama at the beginning x 3.
- I didn't really enjoy the resolutions because there was no opportunity to defend/challenge ideas x 2.
- Group discussions were very effective and opinionated.
- I enjoyed writing the poems.
- It has been another way to look at this subject.
- I did something for the world.
- Good debate and strong resolutions.

- I enjoyed everything - it was a great experience and I really think it will help.
- Workshop discussions were very good and informative.
- I enjoyed everything but the thing I didn't like was the fact that lots of people did not speak up.
- I enjoyed hearing other people's views on racism and why people might be racist.
- I enjoyed learning about what happens to people who are racist.
- I enjoyed learning about other races/cultures.
- The subject was extremely important but there was not enough time to discuss different resolutions in detail. There should be more time to explain and debate.

Have you learnt anything today?

Yes	No
55	3

### What have you learnt today?

- More about racism x 6.
- How racism can hurt/affect people x 5.
- That everyone is equal x 4.
- There are lots of forms of racism x 4.
- Ways to stop racism x 3.
- That people who are racist can be arrested/sent to jail x 3.
- A lot x 2.
- How to stop racism x 2.
- To respect each other x 2.
- To be happy with who I am x 2.
- About different cultures x 2.
- That racism can target anyone.
- About behaviour.
- Never be racist to anyone.
- Racism can make people kill themselves.
- Racism doesn't just mean picking on black people.
- I have learnt lots of new ideas and opinions.
- Music influences racism in a major way.
- That white people use offensive words.
- That racism is wrong and it has to stop.

- To work together without arguing.
- About different projects in Hull.
- That the media over-exaggerate everything.
- That young people can make a difference in Hull.
- That racism happens more often than I thought.
- More about Gholam.
- How people perceive Britain and how difficult it is to get in.

### Is there anything you would like to see changed at the next Young People's Parliament?

- More fun things to do/activities (educational) x 8.
- More choice of sandwiches/drinks x 3.
- More diversity/people from different cultures (white race are dominant at moment) x 3.
- More food from different countries/cultures x 2.
- Smaller groups so that we all have a say x 2.
- Wider age range x 2.
- More time to discuss resolutions x 2.
- More talks.
- More interesting workshops.
- Flavoured crisps.
- More choice of subjects.
- More chocolate.
- More young people attending.

### Don't Forget!



If you want to get more active within your local community, contact Hull Youth Council to find out about your local Youth Forum or how to join CHYP (Coalition for Hull's Young People). Contact Hull Youth Council on (01482) 585297 for more details

## A BIG Thank You!



A great big thank you to you all for getting involved in the Hull Young People's Parliament. Hopefully, you will have received your certificate for attending already! If you haven't, please let us know.

Thank you also to the adults who supported you on the day and who will be helping you stay active and involved in your own groups.

A big thanks also to all the facilitators, helpers, funders, guests, advisers, the photographer, Act Now Entertainment and The Guildhall staff for making sure things ran smoothly.

## AND FINALLY!

### Some dates for your diary! (Young People and Adults)

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at The Guildhall - The Fifth Hull Young People's Parliament. The theme for this one is Health! Your invitations will be out sometime soon!
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2007 at Hull City Hall - Hate Racism, Love Music Event - a music festival to say goodbye to the William Wilberforce 2007 celebrations. For more information contact either Hull Youth Council on (01482) 585297 or The Warren (01482) 218115

## Act Now Poem

Racism causes so much pain  
Even though there is nothing to gain.  
We need to collaborate in order to succeed  
When other people are in need.  
Influence other people to show the way.  
So we are all happy to be here to stay.  
We can use drama to make people think  
And challenge their views and make their hearts sink.  
Lead by example, do not hold back  
Help people so they know the right track.  
Now we've told you all you need to know.  
Lets all work together to help the world grow

## STOP RACISM!

**R**acism is illegal  
**A**nycne has the right to be included  
**C**an the world come to peace?  
**I**'m sure you know it's wrong  
**S**urely the world can be open  
**M**y hope is that it stops