



OUR UNITED CULTURES REPORT

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Background:

Over the past six months Refugee Delivery Lead Pui Ling Chenh and Hate Crime Education Manager Pritpal Surj have been collecting data on the topics relating to Hate Crime and Refugee and Asylum Seeker content throughout The Prince's Trust. As young people are at the heart of everything we do at the Trust, our aim has been to create a session where young people have a safe space to discuss these complex topics.

In order to scale and amplify this project The Prince's Trust has been working in partnership with the Khalili foundation who previously supported our Commonwealth Young Leaders Project. The aim of this partnership was to create a piece to celebrate World Cultural Diversity Day in May. The Khalili Foundation generously provided funding, support and resources in order for us to create this session. This allowed us to discuss not only hate crime and newly arrived young people, but many other topics such as culture, diversity, belonging and so much more. We held 4 round tables across the UK to show the voice of what modern Britain looks like. These sessions were held over two months in Belfast, Glasgow, Birmingham, and London.



The Session:

Our United Cultures was created by Marjorie Gracie, a Youth Development Lead in Glasgow who has previous experience creating cultural nuance sessions for corporate partners and public sector organisations. The session consisted of 5 activities over the space of two hours:

- Curiosity Stations: young people get to share perspectives on themed posters e.g culture
 - Commonality activity: young people were asked a series of questions to see how much shared experience they had despite the various different backgrounds.
 - 121 Interview: young people interviewed each other about their identity and what they were proud of about their culture and heritage.
 - The Difference I Make: young people shared the difference they want to make in the world and what change they want to see for the future.
 - Our United Cultures: young people shared what they were proud of about their city.
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Each activity was created to help young people develop:

- Awareness on culture
- Expressing how they see their own cultures and other peoples
- Awareness around forcibly displaced people and Hate Crime
- Self-awareness, self-confidence, empathy, and skills for dialogue.

Overall stats of the session:

- 64 young people attended
- 31 different languages spoken
- 26 different countries.
- 95% of the young people who attended the session were thankful to have the space to discuss such important topics and have their voices heard.
- 55% said they were hopeful for the future and feel that their voices are being heard.
- 90% wished they had been educated on what hate crime was and what to do if they experience it in school.
- 85% of the young people said they want more support for newly arrived communities and would like to learn more about them.

What our young people said:

The session had young people from all different backgrounds and walks of life. Each session was different but powerful with the lived experiences and perspectives of each individual. The young people had lived experiences of being forcibly displaced, who had experienced hate crime, racism and homophobia. Some of the young people shared their experiences of having disabilities and how society have treated them and the change they would like to see

PT'S YOUNG PEOPLE VOICES

Belfast:

Diversity to me is the idea that things are different in this unique world this is meant to be and more people need to understand and respect it

Belfast is a new home for me, and I finally belong with the community, thanks Prince's Trust

Hate crime to me is a immature outlook on the difference we face, whether this is race, ethnicity or religion, a hate crime goes against the belief we are all human

Birmingham:

Diversity to me is the blending of colours and genders

Culture is often weaponised

I want to see representation for young girls and women from ethnic minorities to achieve both personally and professionally

I want to see a world where I feel safe to be who I am



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PT'S YOUNG PEOPLE VOICES

Glasgow:

Diversity can be helpful though can feel as if it's a performance rather than supportive

Diversity is your identity being politicised

I want to be able to effect policy change that will make the UK safer for trans youth and newly arrived youth



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London:

Culture is amazing, its learning, education, acceptance, colourful, melodious, and creative

Culture is often weaponised

We should stand against racism, sexism, bigotry and stand with those who want peace and harmony

Diversity is people, love and positivity

WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback:

- Would like more sessions to explore these topics
- Enjoyed the opportunity to share what they were proud about their culture
- Enjoyed being able to challenge ideas and stigmas and answer questions around their culture and identity
- Indicated that we need to do more to support Refugee's and asylum seekers
- Want The Prince's Trust to lead in Hate Crime awareness campaigns
- Felt comfortable to have a safe space to have difficult conversations in

Next Steps:

Now that all this data and youth voice has been collected through the session, we will be embedding the 'Our United Cultures' session within our Achieve programme. This session will act as an enrichment activity under the Diversity and Inclusion unit. When showing this session to teachers they have stated that this is a session they have been wanting to deliver within schools and will support in preventing discrimination and hate amongst their pupils

This session is also being adapted to be delivered as part of Explore, Get started and Get Into. By embedding this programme, we aim to keep the discussion around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion open at every level across The Prince's Trust in line with the Trust EDI Strategy.

Thank you to the Khalili Foundation for their support in successfully embedding this session. Thank you to all the Prince's Trust staff who helped facilitate these sessions and the young people who attended across the UK.

[Our United Cultures Highlight Video](#)

