

How should we react to the removal of the Edward Colston statue?

It's no surprise that reactions to protesters' removal of Edward Colston's statue in Bristol have included liberals worrying about the rule of law. The outrage, not at the statue honouring a slave trader, but at its removal by a 'mob' rather than by democratic means without visible legal ramifications, has been notable.

What is vital is the equal application of fair laws.

The rule of law, after all, is central to liberalism. Right?

Not quite. What is vital is the *equal* application of *fair* laws. And these protests were born out of anger that **the law and police treatment have not been equally and fairly applied to many black people and communities of colour.**

Since 1990, there have been [1,741 deaths following contact with the police](#) in the UK. This, of course, is a problem in itself. But when paired with the fact that [black people are twice as likely as white people to die in police custody](#), **the very unsettling reality of the unequal policing of black people is hard to ignore.**

the very unsettling reality of the unequal policing of black people is hard to ignore

Of course, not all of these deaths will have involved wrongful or illegal behaviour by police officers. But even if you assume that a very low proportion of those 1,741 deaths were in some way caused by police misconduct, you would expect a fair number of cases to have resulted in the successful criminal prosecution of an officer.

So how many officers have been prosecuted following the investigation over 1,741 deaths?

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

Our Bill to Extend the Brexit Transition Period

This week we should have had the second reading of the Liberal Democrats' Bill to guarantee an extension to the Brexit transition period.

Instead the government have ensured that this bill will not progress until after the extension deadline

The British people deserve better than needlessly risking No Deal

With just over two weeks to go until the deadline for extending the transition period, the timings were already incredibly tight. Those who voted Leave and Remain alike have called for the transition period to be extended. It makes no sense to anyone for us to crash out of the EU without a deal in place, especially as we deal with the terrible human cost and economic toll of COVID-19.

The stakes couldn't be higher.

Just this week, the pharmaceutical industry warned that some stockpiles of medical supplies have been "used up entirely" by the virus. Building these stockpiles back up without a deal with the E.U., and as our healthcare sector faces the winter flu season, will be incredibly difficult.

At the same time, coronavirus is wreaking terrible damage to our economy.

The economic damage caused by this disease will hit those on lower incomes the hardest. As millions of people across the country have felt anxiety caused by being furloughed, losing business, or being made redundant, the last thing they need is a government willing to risk a chaotic No Deal crash out of the E.U.

Not enough progress has been made on Brexit negotiations.

We are now dangerously close to the extension deadline. It is time to do the right thing for our NHS, economy, and vital supplies of food and medicines – it is time to extend the Brexit transition period. pic.twitter.com/wb201zFL5b

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [June 6, 2020](#)

The government's stubbornness on this issue, and their willingness to put party ideology over the national interest, could cost lives and livelihoods.

The British people have gone through enough in 2020 – they deserve better than needlessly risking a No Deal Brexit.

Liberal Democrats will continue to urge the government to extend the transition period for the maximum time available so that our economy, healthcare sector, and supplies of food and medicines have the time and bandwidth to cope with Covid-19.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

To remain silent is to remain complicit.

The Prime Minister must condemn President Trump's behaviour

British foreign policy must always promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law all over the world. The USA is no exception.

The UK has a moral duty to speak out when the freedoms and rights of the people of the US are under attack.

As one of the United States' closest allies, the UK has a moral duty to speak out when the freedoms and rights of the people of the US are under attack. Today is the 9th day of protests following the murder of George Floyd, yet Boris Johnson and his Ministers remain silent.

The UK Government's refusal to condemn the behaviour of the President of the United States is shameful.

Since the murder of George Floyd, President Donald Trump has used increasingly violent rhetoric in response to protests over racial injustice and police brutality.

On top of this, we have seen peaceful protestors and journalists beaten and attacked by those whose duty is supposedly to serve and protect the public.

When questioned on this last weekend, the Foreign Secretary refused to denounce such behaviour.

The UK must use its Special Relationship to condemn this language and the use of military action to quell protests. British foreign policy must promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law all over the world. The USA is no exception.

We are therefore urging the Prime Minister to make a clear public statement condemning in the strongest possible terms the language and actions of the US

President in relation to protestors and journalists.

To remain silent is to remain complicit.

[1/4] To remain silent is to remain complicit.

As one of the United States' closest allies, the UK has a moral duty to speak out when the freedoms and rights of the people of the US are under attack. [#BlackLivesMatter https://t.co/1mBZbo0eXh](https://t.co/1mBZbo0eXh)

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [June 4, 2020](#)

Tackling BAME inequalities in the UK

However, we cannot ignore the systemic racism and inequality in our own society. The situation in the US is also a stark reminder of the systemic racism here in the UK.

The UK has a moral duty to speak out when the freedoms and rights of the people of the US are under attack.

We are therefore also urging the Prime Minister to set out the steps his government are taking to prevent deaths like George Floyd's happening in the UK and how the government will enforce change throughout the UK police and justice system to ensure that BAME and white individuals are treated equally at all stages.

Just yesterday Public Health England published a report into the disproportionate impact of coronavirus, yet it failed to put forward any recommendations which would help tackle the disproportionate number of BAME people losing their lives to the virus.

A government-wide plan to tackle BAME inequalities must be developed, with a review by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to determine whether its funding is adequate.

We must see more action from this Government if we are to tackle the injustice and inequality in our society.

Now the government's report has been published, they must take immediate action to support BAME communities through this crisis and beyond. [@IsabelleParasra](https://t.co/rxskc0km3R) explains <https://t.co/rxskc0km3R>

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [June 2, 2020](#)

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

I stand in full solidarity with everyone protesting in London

The murder of George Floyd has led to a global outpouring of anger and grief.

From Windrush to Grenfell, from Stephen Lawrence to Mark Duggan, we are not short of our own examples of institutionalised, deep-rooted injustices that shame us all

Racism has been exposed in the most shocking and tragic of ways in Minneapolis **but make no mistake – it exists in Britain too.**

In London, thousands of protestors are expected to gather in Hyde Park in possibly the biggest Black Lives Matter demonstration the capital has ever seen.

From Windrush to Grenfell, from Stephen Lawrence to Mark Duggan, we are not short of our own examples of institutionalised, deep-rooted injustices that shame us all. From the white-washed curriculum that is still taught in British schools to the indiscriminate use of stop and search and racial profiling in our cities, **racism permeates our society at all levels.**

Even today, **with the indisputable evidence before us that black and minority ethnic people are more at risk from Covid-19, we are failing to put in place adequate protections or to try and understand why.** Racism in the UK is a public health crisis which requires broad, sustained and urgent action.

Racism in the UK is a public health crisis which requires broad, sustained and urgent action

As a member of the Liberal Democrats, a political party that proudly states its opposition to entrenched privilege and inequality, rejects prejudice and discrimination and seeks to build a fair, free and open society, I'm acutely aware of how deeply we have failed too.

It's time for us and for all organisations that can affect change, to stop hiding behind correct but hollow words. It's time for us to listen. Time for us to get educated. Time for us to work in partnership with black people to bring about real change.

I know that as a white woman I can never fully understand this struggle. But,

as the London mayoral candidate, I can use the platform of my campaign to amplify voices that don't have my privileges and to be the best ally I can be.

For today, I stand in full solidarity with everyone protesting in London. Stay safe.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

We demand action on the disproportionate impact Covid-19 is having on BAME groups

The disproportionate toll of COVID-19 on people from BAME groups is extremely alarming.

My Liberal Democrat colleagues and I have written to the Prime Minister to express our grave concern at the disproportionate toll of COVID-19 on people from black, Asian and minority ethnicity (BAME) backgrounds and are urging the government to take urgent action now to address this.

Whilst we welcome the Government's report into the impact of the coronavirus on BAME people, there must be full scrutiny of this process by MPs right across the political spectrum.

That is why we continue to call for a cross-party taskforce to oversee the review process and monitor the roll out of measures required to tackle this issue.

Further immediate action must also be taken to support BAME people vulnerable to and facing this crisis now:

Safety at Work

Around two thirds of healthcare staff who have died are from a BAME background whereas they make up 20% of the overall workforce.

People from BAME groups make up a significant percentage of those on the frontline. Their protection is paramount, yet the shortfalls in personal protective equipment and access to testing during this crisis have, at times, been shocking.

Around two thirds of healthcare staff who have died are from a BAME background whereas they make up 20% of the overall workforce.

Adequate PPE equipment, in line with WHO standards, must be provided to prevent coronavirus outbreaks among NHS workers in wards treating COVID-19 cases, those treating other conditions, and for care workers, both in care homes and those providing domiciliary care.

Today, I had a meeting with [@cajardineMP](#) [@thedoctorkhan](#) of the [@LDCRE1](#) & Parliamentary staff to discuss what we're going to do about the disproportionately high incidence of [#BAME](#) deaths from [#COVID19](#)

Action has to be taken to protect BAME workers, schoolchildren, NHS staff pic.twitter.com/f3P8bJTSGj

– Isabelle Parasram (@IsabelleParasra) [May 13, 2020](#)

The Government must also ensure that all risk assessments by employers include an Equality Impact Assessment considering the higher risk for BAME people in general and BAME people with additional vulnerabilities specifically.

At the same time, the Government's recent announcements around the return of "those who cannot work from home" to their workplaces is putting BAME individuals at disproportionate risk.

That's why we are urging the government to work closely with relevant authorities and the necessary resources to prevent overcrowding on public transport and to provide alternative means of transport to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all commuters.

Safety in Schools

The Government must review the proposed 'Back to School' plan with regards to BAME children

The Government has failed to consult with school leaders, teachers, and unions on the details of its guidance for reopening schools, and that's just not good enough.

Current communications from the Government on schools do not recognise the specific risks that BAME children may be exposed to, nor how this can be managed.

That's why we are urging the Government to review the proposed 'Back to School' plan with regards to BAME children who may be exposed to the virus and transmit it either at home to their families or to BAME teachers and other school staff.

We are also calling on the Government to publish all scientific advice it has received on this, and for a guarantee that all children, of all ages, will be given the equipment and funding to learn safely, either at home or in school.

Research

Further research into why BAME people are so disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 is needed as a priority

[Researchers working on behalf of NHS England](#) analysed the NHSX data of over 17.4 million adults in the UK and found that, compared to white people, BAME people were at a higher risk of death from COVID-19.

Further research into why BAME people are so disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 is needed as a priority in the long-term to ensure an effective response to the coronavirus crisis.

We are urging the Government to work to support such endeavours.

The coronavirus crisis is an unprecedented threat. We must all work together to ensure there are no blindspots in the UK's response to this crisis.

[Go to Source](#)

Author: