

This essay will describe and investigate the legislation for race and give a brief history of Race Relations beginning with the Windrush generation in 1948. The essay will provide an overview of inequality and discrimination in the UK. In particular, the essay will specifically investigate the murder of Stephen Lawrence and the legislation that emerged following his death. This essay will provide evidence on new legislations put in to place to make changes in the law and make the UK a place where everyone has a voice that can be heard and that government will now stop and take into count what changes need to be made and how they can improve those changes to comply to everyone's needs and make the UK a fair country for all who resided here.

After the end of World War Two, most of Britain was left in ruin, help was needed to rebuild most of the major cities and the call went out for manpower to help rebuild a devastated and exhausted country. Newspaper advertisements were placed encouraging Commonwealth citizens to emigrate to the UK, promising jobs, homes and a better future (BBC, 2018).

Therefore, on June 22nd 1948 HMT Empire Windrush arrived and docked in Tilbury, Essex from the Caribbean. The ship carried 492 men, women and children, who had made the journey from the West Indies to Britain. They all arrived with hopes and dreams of a better life, good education, employment and a future, however the newcomers' arrival was not welcomed by everybody in the community (ODN, 2018) as it was feared the new arrivals would take jobs and housing which the locals felt belonged to them.

Many of these people who had come to the UK would suffer a lot of discrimination and prejudice. This happened in many ways and there would be signs with the words in bold writing saying "NO BLACKS, NO DOGS, NO IRISH" (Khan, 2015) outside homes with available accommodation to let.

Eventually violent racial attacks started to take place on people of colour, leading to the Notting Hill riots which took place during a carnival in August 1958. A group of white males known as the "Teddy Boys" would take it upon themselves to try to eradicate the black population of the city of London, with vicious attacks and brutal beatings on them as well as their homes (University of Warwick, 2015).

This made way for the law to change and a bill to be passed making it against the law to discriminate on the grounds of race in “Place of Public Resort”. This was the Race Relations Act of 1965 which came into force on the 8th December in the same year (Parliament. House of Commons, 2018).

During 1968, the shadow defence secretary Enoch Powell would give his thoughts on how Britain was changing which led to his famous speech “Rivers of Blood” on the 20th April 1968. This had a massive impact on society but led to his downfall as his attempt to oppose the Race Relations Bill failed and he was ejected from the Conservative government of the time (Skynews, 2018).

These events made way for a change in the law, a new bill was passed and the new Race Relations Bill 1968 was introduced. This new law made big changes in how it was now illegal to deny work, housing or education to anybody on the grounds of race (Parliament. House of Commons, 2018). This massive change in the new law now allowed people to find work and housing, so they could settle down, and have access to mainstream schools for their children (CBBC Newsround 2018)

In time, the bill was replaced in 1976 by the Race Relations Act which included the definition of indirect discrimination. This is a policy, practice or a procedure that is put in place to allow everyone to be treated as equals.

On April 22nd, 1993 a young boy named Stephen Lawrence was the target in a vicious hate crime led by a group of white males. This group of males attacked and murdered Stephen while he waited for a bus. This tragic event unfolded a massive impact on society especially in the black community of London. Some felt that the police had let them down in how policing work did not prevail; there were massive errors made during this time which brought to light flaws in how the police dealt with the case. However, this unearthed a big scandal in the police force showing how they had discriminated against people due to the colour of their skin. When undertaking stop and search it was found that nine out of ten males stopped for a random search at least nine would be black. This clearly shows that before the death of Stephen Lawrence the police were not subject to the race discrimination legislations (The Telegraph, 2018).

Action needed to be taken to prevent this discrimination from happening, and a process was stated by Jack Straw who was appointed Home Secretary in May 1997 who announced a public inquiry (The Telegraph, 2018) to be led by Sir William Macpherson, who at the time

of this case was still working as a judge for the high courts (BBC, 1999). He recognised that the biggest changes needed were with the Metropolitan Police Force, who were found to have been using 'institutional racism' towards people of colour (Equality and Human Rights Commission). As a result, new legislation and policies were put in to place so that everyone would have the right to be treated equally regardless of the colour of their skin.

Sir William Macpherson believed that changes needed to be made and his findings were that the police mishandled the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence as it was clear that senior officers of the Metropolitan Police Service were guilty of institutional racism and failure to handle the crime in the correct manner. This showed in the murder case that the police incompetence of the murder, which allowed the killers to walk free because of prejudice inside the police ranks, (The Guardian 2018). A report was published which included seventy recommendations that needed to be acted upon not just in the police force but in other areas of concern. He proposed seventy recommendations that would lead to changes in the police force, NHS, schools and local government (BBC, 1999).

The recommendations he put forward would also change the whole of the Race Relations Act making way for a new law which would be the Equality Act 2010, this new act did not restrict itself to inequality due to race but due to gender and disability and also religion and beliefs, sexual orientation. This change of law will trade the existing anti-discrimination laws with one single Act. It shortens the law, and also reinforces the law in important ways to help challenge discrimination and inequality (Equality Act 2010).

This new Equality Act which came into law on the 1st October 2010 (Equality Act 2010). Equality would change the way how barriers would be broken this would ensure equal opportunity for employment and goods and services as this is supported and protected by legislation (British Library). This new act would give people a chance for equal rights, make it possible for a better life and to be treated fairly. (Government Equalities Office). Diversity can be defined as celebrating differences and appreciating everyone. Each person is an individual with visible and non-visible dissimilarities and by valuing this everyone can feel respected for their contributions which is valuable not only for the individual but for all it applies to (British Library).

If it had not been for these new legislations acts and laws, life would be a lot different to what it is now things would be very different, and life would be a conflict. This is a decent thing

now and that people have more entitlements and now have an influence to get their voices heard by government and that they are willing to listen to what others have an opinion on. This will allow them to see what changes needed to be made or can be made to ensure a fair life and everyone gets the same opportunities as others and everyone is treated equal (Equality and Human Rights). As society now understands that the government now acts on things opposed to them, they will always have a place in society to make change where it is needed and that it can be changed even if it done within a workplace setting as an employer they must ensure needs are met in a fairly way as that any changes made must apply to the employees (Equality Act 2010). With this new legislation in place the future appears to be better for all of the U.K. Society will all now have equal opportunities additionally to now be able to express any thoughts they may develop, and this will remain for the expected future and for other generations to follow societies to be able to set examples for children and even the older generation to embrace change and be acceptance to how it will and can also be a good object as long as it for a better and to make life as we know it fairer for everyone. This Equality Act has changed the lives for everyone and hope that more changes will enable better things to come for all and embrace any more changes to come for the enhanced outlook so that all of whom fall under this legislation will always know that life will constantly be a place of equal prospects.

It seems hard to believe that some of this stuff happened and was allowed to happen, and that it was acceptable to mistreat people in this manner or way. If it had not been policies and legislations put into place by the government and made against the law, I would not be where I am now, and I would not have been able or allowed to attend school, achieve employment apply for mortgage or even have somewhere to live. Society would not be as fair as it today if these laws had not been enforced, and as we know life is not always fair but without these acts and legislations and policies in place it would be even worse. Society itself has come a long way to accept change as it is no longer grimaced upon to be living on the same street as someone of different skin colour or even sending children to a school with people of different ethnic background. But not all of today's society is willing to acceptance there will always be small intolerant people who feel that change is not always a good thing but hope they will or are willing to accept change or even change themselves as this would help set an example the

next future generations of people in faith that they will be more tolerant to difference and change and not mistreat others for any differences they may or may not have, as id like to see everyone treated as equals like they should be in life.

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