

Describe the development of policy and legalisation for one of the following groups since 1945: race, age, religion or belief.

For my assignment I have chosen to write about the development of policy and legalisation since 1945 on race and how over the years things have improved and changed drastically when it comes to people of a different ethnic origin. Firstly a small description of what a policy, an act and legalisation is and how they are made.

A policy is a formulation of ideas or plans that are used by an organisation or government as a basis for making decisions. It is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a protocol or procedure. Policies differ from rules and laws, laws compel or prohibit behaviours while policies merely guide actions towards those that are mostly likely to achieve a desired outcome. Legalisation is the process of removing a legal prohibition against something which is currently not legal. Legalisation should be contrasted with decriminalization, which removes criminal charges from an action, but leaves intact associated laws and regulations. An Act of Parliament creates a new law or changes an existing one. Once an Act has been passed by parliament it is the government's responsibility for bringing the new law into place. An Act can be brought into force straight away, on a specific future date or in stages. However sometimes a specific date is not given and it is left to the secretary of state for the relevant government department to enforce it. So below is a bit of history about race and when some of the Acts regarding race were made and then changed or amended to adapt to society at that particular time.

At the end of World War II, Britain went through some major changes in lots of ways, they had won the war but the country was exhausted economically. The British people voted in a Labour government, who promised to introduce the welfare state and the nation health service, a national system of benefits was also introduced to provide 'social security' so that the population would be protected from the 'cradle to the grave' in other words protected throughout their life. But they also needed help to rebuild the country and the damage done to it during the war. During the summer of 1948, a ship called the Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury, Great Britain, carrying four hundred and seventeen Jamaican immigrants, which was the first of many to grace our shores in the great influx of Commonwealth migrants to the Great British Nation. Great Britain was in dire need of reconstruction, but with the lack of labourers and tradesmen it was an impossible job. So in came the ships full of immigrants to come to our rescue. The 1948 British Nationality Act gave citizens of foreign countries special immigration status, allowing them to freely 'entre, work and settle with their families' (ibid., p. 25). In 1958 the increasing strain on society led to over whelming white hospitality towards coloured immigrants, which led to the Notting Hill riots in the West London Community. (Revolvy)" The Notting Hill race riots were a series of racially motivated riots that took place in Notting Hill , England, **between 30 August–5 September 1958**. Background The end of the Second World War had seen a marked increase in

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West Indian migrants to Britain". After this a campaign was started to control immigration of coloured foreigners into Britain. It was the view of the conservatives and more radical right winged nationalists that only the strictest of immigration policies could race relations be improved. To put it politely they thought Britain would no longer have a problem with race relations if they stopped anymore coloured immigrants coming here. But things soon started to change when in 1960 they had to bring in control measures for the first time, the 1962 Commonwealth Immigration Act required commonwealth citizens and immigrants to get a voucher before given leave to enter. The government laissez – faire policy towards immigration ended with the passage of the commonwealth immigration act. Enoch Powells 'River of Blood' speech only further inflamed resentment towards immigrants. The 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act was used so that the British government knew the difference between those who had UK passports with the right of entry and abode in Britain and who did not. This was changed again a few years later when in 1971 the 1971 Immigration Act restricted entry to Britain even more, they now had to get a work permit every twelve months to remain in Britain. Again in 1976 the Race Relations Act was updated with an author of specialising in human rights said "established a body of law, which was broad in scope and was unique in Europe. It is, however, drafted too technically, and contains unnecessary exceptions and limitations" (Lester. A. (1998)). In 1981, the Nationality Act declared all people who had the right of abode and entry to Britain according to the 1868 and 1971 Immigration Acts to be made British citizens, and were free of immigration control. 'Children born in the UK to non-British citizens do not acquire British Citizenship unless they can satisfy the requirements of partiality. Such children could become stateless (Mason pp28). During June 1987 there was a land mark election when four non-white MPs were elected in the general elections. Four immigrants were elected as members of parliament for the labour party with Dianne Abbot being the first black woman MP since 1945. She was a very popular woman and liked to share her opinions and views, she said "white people love playing 'divide and rule'. We should not play their game" (Abbot. D (2012)). She also said "it is time Britain put its trust back into the Labour Party. I believe I am the candidate that can make this happen precisely because I am not associated with the past" (Abbot. D) The new arrivals from the commonwealth or coloured ethnicity made the white people believe there was a shortage in resources and the demand for unskilled labour began to subside. Interrogation of these new arrivals from the Commonwealth states was essential, but Arthur Marwick points out that 'the British, at the best of times, are a xenophobic people. For their part, the

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immigrants had long standing and deeply felt cultural and religious traditions of their own. To hope for integration, let alone assimilation, was perhaps to hope for too much (Marwick (1990)). Following the Fall of the Iron Curtain in 1998, Eastern Europeans fled racial and political persecution, while other immigrants tried to seek a better life in Western Europe. As a result of Albanians fleeing Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom had more than forty six thousand applications for asylum. That was a massive forty two percent rise over the previous year. Research shows that by 2000 one hundred and twenty five thousand people were allowed to settle in the United Kingdom. The Race Relations Act was again amended in 2000 to further protect foreigners against discriminatory Acts, According to the CRE (2005)), "The Race Relations Act of 1976, as amended by the Race Relations Amendment Act of 2000 makes it unlawful to discriminate against anyone on grounds of race, colour, nationality (including citizenship), or ethnic or national origin. In May 2002 in Burnley, the effects of all the riots showed when the British National Party won three seats after all the riots. The British National Party wanted to stop immigration completely and repatriate all foreigners. By 2008 the British National Party had peaked tremendously and had fifty five seats nationally. The British National Party was founded in 1982 through the merger of the New National Front and the British Movement. It was run by John Tyndall and his deputy Ray Hill, but in 1995 John Tyndall was replaced by Nick Griffin. In the early years the British National Party never really stood a chance in elections but with all the riots and animosity between whites and blacks, they were at their strongest. That however didn't last long when in 2015 the British National Party had been removed from the register of political parties in Great Britain when they failed to submit their statement of account on time. Seven years after Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2014, they were officially allowed to work in the United kingdom sparking fears for British Jobs. This prompted a media frenzy with claims Britain would be flooded with more immigrants, however after all the scaremongering journalists found that only one man from Romania had entered the country on that day. In defence of Romania the spokesperson for Romanian Foreign Ministry said "There isn't going to be an invasion of Romanians as of two days' time. Not all Romanians, young and old, are going to get on a plane" (Bradusa Predescu). She also said "We don't have estimates, you don't have estimates. The UK will [not be] and is not the preferred destination of Romanians" (Bradusa Predescu). Another right winged party was formed in 1991, it was renamed to UK Independence Party in 1993. In 1997 Nigel Farage became the party's permanent figure. In 2006 Farage became leader and the party adopted a wider policy platform and started

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rising concerns of immigration. The party has significant break throughs in the 2013 Local Elections, 2014 European Elections and the 2015 General Election. The 2016 referendum is said to be down to the pressure UKIP put on the government, which led to the decision to leave the European Union. Following the referendum, Farage stepped down as the UKIP leader and the party's membership and votes declined significantly. Both the BNP Party and the UKIP Party have done well in elections all because they focused on immigration and how they wanted to close or limit the British borders.

One major factor to how Acts, Legislations and Policies are made with regards to race is how the Stephan Lawrence murder was investigated and solved. On the evening of 22nd April 1993 a young black teenager named Stephan Lawrence was murdered in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Well Hall. This case was massive and its fallout included cultural changes of attitudes on racism and the police and the law and police. This case was said to be "one of the highest – profile unsolved racially motivated murders" (independent (2102)). After the first investigation five suspects were arrested but were not charged. It was thought that the police force investigating was affected by issues of race. After five years of campaigning from Stephan's parents, Jack Straw announced that Sir William Macpherson was heading a public inquiry in 1998, he examined the Metropolitan Police Service investigation and concluded the force was racist. He also suggested and recommended that the double jeopardy rule should be repealed in murder cases to allow a retrial upon new and compelling evidence, this was effected in 2005 upon enactment of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. On May 18 2011, after another review, two of the original suspects were to re-stand trial for the murder after new evidence emerged. On January 3rd 2012 Gary Dobson and David Norris were found guilty of Stephan Lawrence's murder. In 2013 a former undercover police officer stated in an interview that he was pressured to find ways to smear and discredit the victims family, to silence and deter the public complaining for better police response to the case. Straw said at the time of the Macpherson inquiry he hoped it would prove "a watershed in attitudes towards racism. I want it to act as a catalyst for permanent and irrevocable change, not just across our public services, but across the whole of society..... we must make equality a reality" (Straw. J (22 Apr)). Some Acts that have come into force or that have been amended since Stephan's death are: The Criminal Justice Act 2003, came into force in April 2005, Police and Criminal Evidence Act, where under section 1 people can be stopped and searched, Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is another way of being stopped and searched and Freedom of Information Act can be used to get information about someone.

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Over the last seventy odd years the way Acts, Legalisations and Policies have been made and implemented has changed tremendously. A lot of them are made or amended because of events or incidents that have occurred in our society and they are brought in to help aid and protect not only individuals but countries too. Many more Act will be made or amended in the future, we are unable to say what ones and when they will be made but what we do know is that as society changes so will the rules and regulations to keep up with it.

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