

Women and Equalities Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From the Chair

Baroness Williams

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government

2 Marsham Street

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11 January 2016

Dear Baroness Williams,

I am writing to ask for details regarding the Government's approach to tackling racial discrimination in the UK.

More than 50 years on from the introduction of the Race Relations Act, the Committee is concerned that black, Asian and minority ethnic people still experience significant inequalities. The Equality and Human Rights Commission's recent report 'Is Britain fairer?' found that BAME people were disproportionately likely to be unemployed, to have experienced poverty, and to have had contact with specialist mental health services.

We would be very grateful if you could confirm the respective roles the Department for Communities and Local Government and Government Equalities Office have in tackling racial inequality in the UK, and explain the action planned in this area. In particular we would be very interested to know whether the Government plans to produce a public cross-departmental race equality strategy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

Maria Miller

Rt Hon Maria Miller MP

Chair, Women and Equalities Committee

CC Minister for Women and Equalities