# How Newport’s 2020 Black Lives Matter protest sparked Wales’s anti-racist action plan



Five years have passed since over a thousand individuals gathered in Newport on June 11, 2020, to support the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, a pivotal moment that resonated not only in Wales but across the globe. This gathering was part of a larger surge of activism sparked by George Floyd's tragic death, encapsulating a collective outcry against racial inequality. The momentum of the BLM movement at that time encouraged diverse voices to emerge, united in a chorus demanding justice and equality.

Race Council Cymru (RCC) reflects on that day as a significant turning point in the fight against racial injustice. “People took to the streets, to screens, to classrooms, and to their hearts to say: enough is enough,” the council remarked, emphasising the urgency and importance of the movement. Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic—where public health concerns dominated everyday life—the determination of demonstrators in Newport showcased a powerful commitment to activism. They protested not only against the injustices faced worldwide but also underscored the systemic racism prevalent in Wales.

In the aftermath of such protests, the Welsh landscape has seen considerable commitment to addressing these issues. The Welsh Government unveiled the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan in 2022, aiming for the nation to become anti-racist by 2030. This ambitious strategy outlines various steps to dismantle systemic racism and integrate Black, Asian, and minority ethnic histories into educational frameworks, making Wales the first UK nation to mandate such curriculum changes. This initiative is designed to affirm the critical notion that Black history is integral to Welsh history, signalling a significant cultural shift in recognising diverse narratives.

However, despite these strides, Race Council Cymru cautions against complacency. They assert that while there has been progress, the spectre of racial inequality persists. “There is progress. But there is also pain. While the conversation around race has evolved, racism has not disappeared,” a spokesperson stated. Alarmingly, hate crime remains a troubling reality in Wales, underscoring the need for persistent vigilance. The council urges everyone to look beyond statistics and recognise the individuals affected by hate crimes, reinforcing the humanity behind the data.

As the years advance since the initial BLM protests, Race Council Cymru continues to advocate for meaningful change in Wales. Their call to action is clear: “We cannot and will not allow racism to go unchallenged. Not in our streets. Not in our institutions. Not in our silence.” They encourage individuals to actively participate in the fight against injustice, urging everyone to use their voices and support initiatives aimed at fostering racial equality.

In the last five years, organisations like the RCC have laid groundwork for a more just society, but their work remains ongoing. They invite the public to engage in a collective effort to build a Wales where every person, irrespective of race or belief, feels respected and secure. This goal is not only about addressing systemic issues but also entails nurturing an environment where dialogue about race can flourish and where educational initiatives can spearhead long-lasting change.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25229383.race-council-cymru-racial-justice-five-years-newport-protest/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53011856)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25229383.race-council-cymru-racial-justice-five-years-newport-protest/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.gov.wales/anti-racist-wales-action-plan-2022)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25229383.race-council-cymru-racial-justice-five-years-newport-protest/?ref=rss), [[5]](https://www.gov.wales/anti-racist-wales-action-plan)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25229383.race-council-cymru-racial-justice-five-years-newport-protest/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.ysgolcalon.cymru/anti-racism)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25229383.race-council-cymru-racial-justice-five-years-newport-protest/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/18564770.black-lives-matter-newport-calls-welsh-government-tackle-racism/), [[7]](https://racealliance.wales/manifesto-launch/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25229383.race-council-cymru-racial-justice-five-years-newport-protest/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/18564770.black-lives-matter-newport-calls-welsh-government-tackle-racism/> - In June 2020, Black Lives Matter Newport presented a manifesto to the Welsh Government, urging improved anti-racism policies in schools, mandatory racial bias training for public servants, and the establishment of permanent exhibitions in major museums to celebrate the nation's Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) history. Organiser Andrew Ogun emphasised the need for both short-term and long-term actions to address systemic racism in Wales.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53011856> - On 11 June 2020, over a thousand people gathered in Newport to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Demonstrators marched from the civic centre to the University of South Wales building, carrying placards and kneeling in silence. Organiser Andrew Ogun highlighted the event's success and the collective vision for justice and equality, noting the diverse participation of attendees.
4. <https://www.gov.wales/anti-racist-wales-action-plan-2022> - Published in June 2022, the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan outlines the Welsh Government's commitment to creating an anti-racist nation by 2030. The plan includes actions to address systemic racism, promote equality, and ensure that Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities are valued and included in Welsh society.
5. <https://www.gov.wales/anti-racist-wales-action-plan> - The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, first published in June 2022 and updated in June 2024, details the Welsh Government's strategy to combat racism and promote equality. The plan sets out specific actions and commitments aimed at creating an anti-racist Wales by 2030, addressing issues such as systemic racism and the inclusion of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities.
6. <https://www.ysgolcalon.cymru/anti-racism> - Ysgol Calon Cymru has committed to implementing the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, aiming to become an anti-racist institution by 2030. The school plans to develop a vision and policy, engage with stakeholders, provide professional learning, develop the curriculum, monitor and report, and collaborate with external partners to address racism and promote equality.
7. <https://racealliance.wales/manifesto-launch/> - Race Alliance Wales published their 'Manifesto for an Anti-Racist Wales', presenting 54 recommendations for change to achieve race equality in areas such as hate crime, education, employment, representation, and access to healthcare and housing. The manifesto calls for political parties in Wales to commit to specific actions to address systemic racism and promote equality.