

Building Stronger Britain Together

Agents for Change: Young People Raising Awareness of and Combating Islamophobia

EqualiTeach have secured funding from Building Stronger Britain Together to run a programme of work with young people in Luton. Agents for Change: Islamophobia will see students from four secondary schools and four primary schools working together to raise awareness of and combat Islamophobia in their schools and communities.

The programme empowers young people to become active citizens, raising awareness of an issue that impacts them, and/or their friends, family and community.

The project will run from July 2019 to December 2019 and will build on a successful pilot that EqualiTeach delivered in Tower Hamlets from November 2017-May 2018. Two programmes (Primary and Secondary) will run separately, side by side, but all pupils will come together for the awards ceremony at the end of the project.

Each school will select six students and one teacher to take part in the project.

Consultation and Planning Day

The young people will come together for an initial consultation and planning day. The day will feature a carousel of group discussions, workshops and action planning, so that the young people have the opportunity to bring forward the issues that they face and the ways in which they would like to address these. At the end of the planning day, pupils will be supported to action plan ways in which they would like to challenge Islamophobia, in their schools and local community. The three areas that young people will work around are:

1. Creating awareness raising resources

An artist from Bedford Creative Arts will work with the young people to develop an advertising campaign, which will feature on posters, leaflets and in

newsletters and magazines to raise awareness of the harm of Islamophobia and Hate Crime more generally and what people can do about it.

2. Educating their peers

The young people will work with EqualiTeach to develop workshops and assemblies which can be delivered to their peers. EqualiTeach will support the young people to deliver these workshops in their schools. Secondary pupils will have the opportunity to visit local primary schools to deliver the workshops.

3. Creating ways in which pupils in their school can easily report identity-based bullying and receive support

Pupils will work with their teachers to come up with new ways in which their reporting systems for identity-based bullying and their support systems for those targeted, can be strengthened and implement these in their schools. EqualiTeach will meet with the young people at regular points to provide additional guidance and support in developing and delivering their initiatives.

Teacher Training

In order to ensure that schools are providing the best possible environments for the young people to implement their initiatives. EqualiTeach will provide twilight teacher training sessions for the staff at the partnership schools. The aims of this training will be to:

- Illustrate the reality and impact of Islamophobia on young people
- Remove barriers and combat myths which can prevent successful engagement with work to counter Islamophobic attitudes
- Identify ways to effectively challenge negative attitudes to create positive change
- Equip participants to recognise and respond effectively to Islamophobic incidents
- Help participants understand the importance of recording prejudice-related incidents and support schools to ensure that their reporting systems are effective

Sessions will be interactive and participatory and adapted to the needs of each school.

Awards Ceremony

At the end of the programme, all pupils will come together for a celebratory awards ceremony where they will be presented with a trophy and a certificate and have the opportunity to showcase their work to an invited audience of teachers, parents and carers, local authority representatives, local politicians, community reps and press.

Working in Partnership

EqualiTeach will work in partnership with local community organisations in the development and delivery of this programme. The role of the partner organisations will be to contribute to and review the materials for the consultation and planning day, to support delivery of the consultation and planning day and to work with EqualiTeach to support the young people to develop and deliver their initiatives. Luton Borough Council will work closely with EqualiTeach to facilitate this partnership working.

If you would like any further information about this project, please contact Sarah Soyei, Head of Strategy and Development, 07740364715, sarah@equaliteach.co.uk