

## **Racial Inequalities & Discrimination in the United Kingdom – Modern Studies**

- Like the majority of countries the UK faces racism between its diverse ethnic groups. Especially the relations between non-White immigrants and indigenous population of the UK. Various racially motivated crimes have taken place in the UK perpetrated by those of all races.

### Riots

- Racially motivated riots have taken place all over Britain since the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, especially in highly populated cities such as Glasgow and London.
- In the 1980's, natural racism, discrimination and poverty sparked many riots in areas with high population of African-Caribbeans.
- In 2005 there were riots between Asians and Blacks, as a black teenager had allegedly been raped by South Asian men.
- In 2011 riots broke out in London after a protest in Tottenham following the death of Mark Duggan, a young black male shot dead by a police officer.

### Politics

- Since WW1, expressions of racism have been limited to far-right political parties such as the British National Front and the BNP.
- Mainstream politics has tended to condemn racism
  - Some argue racism remains common in politics as politicians have been accused of excusing racial attitude in the media particularly towards immigration.
- The race relations act of 1965 outlawed public discrimination.
  - Further acts in 1968 and 1976 outlawed discrimination in employment, social services and housing.
  - The Human Rights Act 1998 made all organisations in Britain including public authorities, subject to the European Convention on Human Rights.
  - Race Relations Act 2000 extends legislation through public sector to police force and requires public bodies to promote equality.
- Employees of the public sector are less likely to discriminate based on race as they are required by law to promote equality and reduce racial discrimination.
- The private sector on the other had have very little anti-discrimination regulator.

### Racism Within the Police and Prisons

- Police forces have been accused of institutional racism since the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- During the 2011 riots, a police officer arrested and attempted to strangle a male of African origin and used various racial insults towards him.
  - Case was passed to the Crown Prosecution Service who dropped charges against the officer, however they reconsidered their decision after the victims lawyer threatened to escalate the case to the High Court.
- The National Black Police Association has been accused of being a racist organisation as it has selective membership criteria based on ethnic origin.
- Prison guards are almost twice as likely to be reported for racism than inmates in the UK.
  - UK prisons are described as a breeding ground of racism.

Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racism\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racism_in_the_United_Kingdom)

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### Recession

- High unemployment in the UK, sees more people admitting to be racially prejudiced.
- Ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately from the lower job market.
- According to research by the London School of Economics, racial prejudice increases slightly when the economy is in a worse state of affairs.
  - Researchers found that there was a particularly big increase in prejudice during recessions among the highly educated. Especially full time, employed white males.
  - However in general highly educated individuals are less likely to express racial prejudice than any other group in the population.
  - The 4% increase in employment during the recent recession matches a 16% increase in the number of highly educated white males admitting racial prejudice.
  - Dr Grace Lordan, lecturer in Health Economics at LSE states:  
“During a recession people who are normally in secure, well-paid jobs suddenly find their position under threat. Our study suggests that this increased insecurity may turn into an increase in prejudice towards 'others' who could be perceived as competitors.”
- Research also suggested that growth in racial prejudice may lead to greater inequality for ethnic minorities.
  - Wage data for Native-born British workers show non-white individuals suffer in terms of lower wages and lower chances of securing a job.
  - Ex. Estimations say that when the rate of unemployment increases by 4%, the existing wage gap between highly educated Black and White men increases about 10%. Likewise a four percentage point rise in the overall unemployment rate leads to highly-skilled Black men being five percentage points more likely to be unemployed than highly skilled White men.
  - Dr Grace Lordan, lecturer in Health Economics at LSE states:  
“As well as lowering the standards of living and wellbeing generally, recessions disproportionately harm Black and other ethnic minority communities, who are less likely to be employed or fairly paid at the baseline.”

Source:

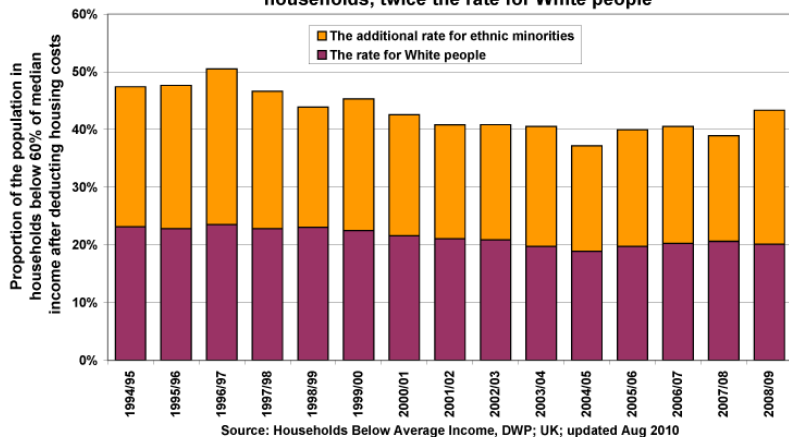
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/newsandmedia/news/archives/2014/03/recessionprejudice.aspx>

### Poverty

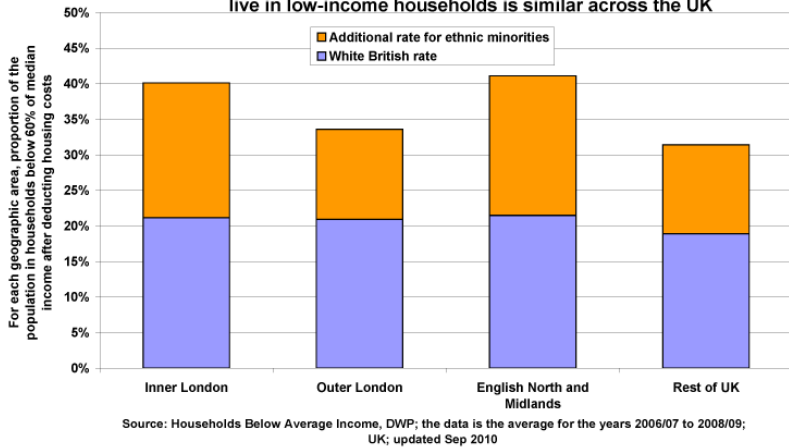
- Around 2/5 of ethnic minorities live in low-income households, this is twice the rate for Whites.
- There are big variations in the proportion of people from ethnic groups in low-income households.
  - 20% of White People
  - 30% of Indians and Black Caribbean's
  - 50% of Black Africans
  - 60% of Pakistanis
  - 70% of Bangladeshi's
- The proportion of those from ethnic minorities who live in low-income households declined during the late 1990s and early 2000s but has been rising since then.
- Each ethnic group has seen a small fall the proportion of people from ethnic minorities who live in low-income households.
- For all family work statuses, people from ethnic minorities are, on average, more likely to live in low-income households than White people.

- Among those in working families, around 65% of Bangladeshis, 50% of Pakistanis and 30% of Black Africans are on low income. These rates are much higher than those for White British at 10%, White other, Indians and Black Caribbeans all at 15-20%.
- In all parts of the country ethnic minorities are more likely to live in low-income households however this is much more likely in inner London, and the English North and Midlands than the rest of the UK.
- More than 50% of those living in low-income households in London are ethnic minorities.

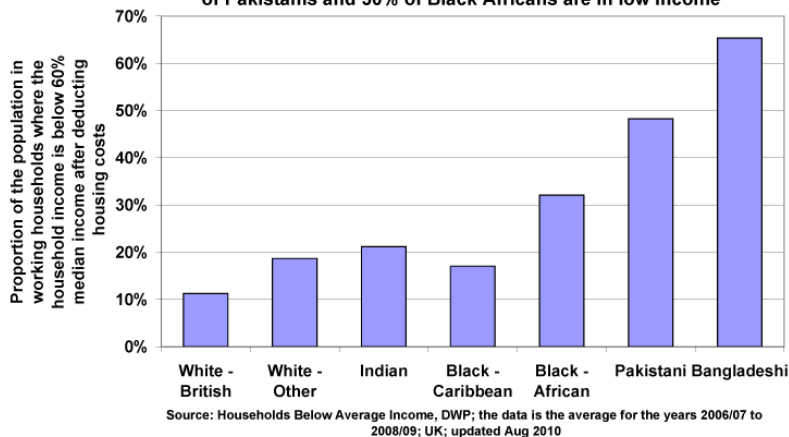
**Around two-fifths of people from ethnic minorities live in low-income households, twice the rate for White people**



**Unlike ethnic minorities, the proportion of White British people who live in low-income households is similar across the UK**



**Among those in working families, around 65% of Bangladeshis, 50% of Pakistanis and 30% of Black Africans are in low income**



Source:

<http://www.poverty.org.uk/06/index.shtml#g5>