



## RUTH CADBURY MP

Member of Parliament for Brentford & Isleworth

8 June 2020

Dear Student,

We hope you and your family are keeping safe and well during these strange and difficult times, and this must be particularly true if you are currently looking beyond school to your future options. We know that the wider school community is working hard to keep you engaged with school and ensuring you are able to learn during lockdown.

We wanted to let you know how shocked and angered we are by George Floyd's death by US police. His killing has yet again shone a light on the racism and hatred experienced by many across the world, including here in the UK.

As Hounslow borough's two MPs, we are proud to represent such a multi-cultural community where there is a strong sense of togetherness. However, there is still long way to go to eradicate the racism often faced by young people.

You may know the poem "Caged Bird" Maya Angelou wrote over 50 years ago about the struggles of the black slaves:

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

Yet today more than 50 years on we have still not eradicated the racism that exists, we are reminded by Dave in "Black"; his words equally as powerful as Maya Angelou.

Black is beautiful, black is excellent  
Black is pain, black is joy, black is evident  
It's working' twice as hard as the people you know you're better than  
'Cause you need to do double what they do so you can level them

Having met many young people locally and heard how some have been treated differently because of their skin colour, we know we have a lot to do. So we want to hear from you about how we can work together to make black lives matter here in Hounslow.

We will keep standing up to make sure our Government not only calls out racism across the world but also that racism and discrimination is tackled here in the UK. Now more than ever, it is for us all to face up to, understand and address the systemic racial discrimination that exists in our own communities, and especially to address the reality and impact of anti-Black racism raised by the Black Lives Matter movement across the world.

We have been appalled by the response of President Trump and the failure of our own government to condemn his actions in the wake of George Floyd's killing, and supported the call to stop arms exports of crowd control equipment up the USA.

If you would like to share your views with us, we would be more than happy to hear from you. If you are not sure which of us is your MP – type your postcode into <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Our contact details below.

#BlackLivesMatter

Yours

*Ruth*

Ruth Cadbury MP  
Brentford & Isleworth  
(including Chiswick, Osterley,  
Hounslow Town and Heath)

*Seema*

Seema Malhotra MP  
Feltham & Heston  
(including Hounslow West, Cranford  
Bedfont & Hanworth)

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