

Dr Tony Sewell,  
Chair  
Commission on  
Race and Ethnic Disparities

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Dear Tony

### **Tackling Race and Ethnic Disparities**

I warmly welcome the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities' initiative in reaching out to councils and communities, to help better understand and tackle ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK.

London is proud to be the most diverse city in the UK – we embrace our ethnic and cultural diversity, which is central to our city and essential to enabling our communities to thrive and prosper. However, evidence suggests that people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds continue to experience disparate outcomes alongside discrimination and exclusion. London local government recognises the importance of addressing this as part of our leadership of place and is committed to understanding what more could and should be done across our sector, and in partnership, to tackle ethnic disparities and inequality.

Earlier this year, in part as a response to the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement and the disproportionate impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, London Councils Leaders' Committee agreed the attached statement, committing London Councils to lead and support boroughs on this issue.

I feel strongly that an important window of opportunity is within our grasp - to align system leadership with local initiatives to drive change, working with the grain of our communities' appetite for progress in tackling disparities.

I am encouraged by the promising early outcomes from the programme of work that London local government is now taking forward, including the Technical Evidence Submission which the CELC Tackling Racial Inequality working group, led by Kim Smith, has sponsored. I hope this will be useful to the Commission and want to emphasise that London Councils would really welcome the opportunity to be a key partner, working with the Commission and wider Government, on this important agenda and help to deliver tangible improvements and pilot any new initiatives.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Muhammed Butt, Executive Member for Welfare, Empowerment and Inclusion  
London Councils**  
**CC: Cllr Georgia Gould (Chair of London Councils), Cllr Osman Dervish, Cllr Emily Davey**