



Policy which effectively responds to race disparity must have empirical data at its heart.

The Research Action Coalition for Race Equality (RACE) (formerly the Bristol Race Equality Network (BREN)) is a collaboration between Black South West Network and the University of Bristol established to support the development of more evidence-based approaches to influence policy on race disparity.

Research, data and evidence are critical to the campaign for race equality but those who need information do not always have access to it. Whilst there is much evidence on race disparities, this does not always reach or connect with those who are campaigning to overcome them.

RACE's research will provide evidence on outcomes in areas such as health and wellbeing, education and unemployment which can enable strategic partners to identify the most impactful strategies to support their needs. This will involve both providing better access to existing data and developing new evidence where that is needed. We also aim to establish new mechanisms for communication and evaluation to enable more effective responses to race disparity in the region.

We are looking to develop a shared partnership space including communities, City Office, Race Equality Strategic Leaders Group, CoRE, Bristol Digital Futures and other academic and non-academic partners. This will allow us to effectively support ongoing and new initiatives to address race disparity in the region.

By placing the principles of co-production at our core, we put ideas of empowerment into practice by working *with* communities and non-academic organisations and offering greater control over the research process. RACE aims to connect research and data to community-led approaches, in ways that recognise, value and respond to communities' lived experiences and diverse forms of knowledge and expertise, through partnership, collaboration and co-production between academics, community groups and policy-makers. Ensuring research is better informed by communities' preferences and needs enables us to enhance its effectiveness.

Our current work relates to four broad areas:

1. Documenting the nature of race disparities in the region. Following a valuable investigation of regional data available through the Government's [Race Disparity Audit](#), we are currently considering data held by the WECA, ONS and BCC. Future work will consider evidence from other sources, including national surveys and research conducted by local organisations. This will provide a valuable baseline from which to map progress towards race equality and also identify evidence gaps which we will then

work to address through our own research. As part of this, we are keen to discuss and respond to data needs identified by key strategic partners, including the RESLG, and have begun a dialogue with other race equality organisations in the city.

2. Mapping the race equality space in the region. We are developing a comprehensive picture of the race equality activity being undertaken by local individuals and organisations – who they are and what activities they are engaged in, as well as their data needs.
3. Making data accessible. It is clear that there is not only a problem with missing data but also with the way existing data is often presented (particularly in academic circles). Our conversations with local race equality organisations are exploring what works well and not so well from their perspective. We will incorporate these insights into our practice.
4. Effective evaluation. As well as establishing the nature of race disparity in the region, there is a need to establish the effectiveness of initiatives designed to address it. The first stage of this work is to explore the evaluation methods adopted by local organisations and consider whether/how they might be valuable in other contexts.

We ask that members of the Race Equality Strategic Leaders' Group consider whether there are ways in which the RACE may support your work. Whether there are particular data needs which we can help address, or other ways in which this coalition might be useful to you and your colleagues and collaborators.

We see a culture of partnership and co-creation as an opportunity to build meaningful evaluation frameworks of effective policy and to make data more accessible to those who need and want it in the drive to achieve race equality.