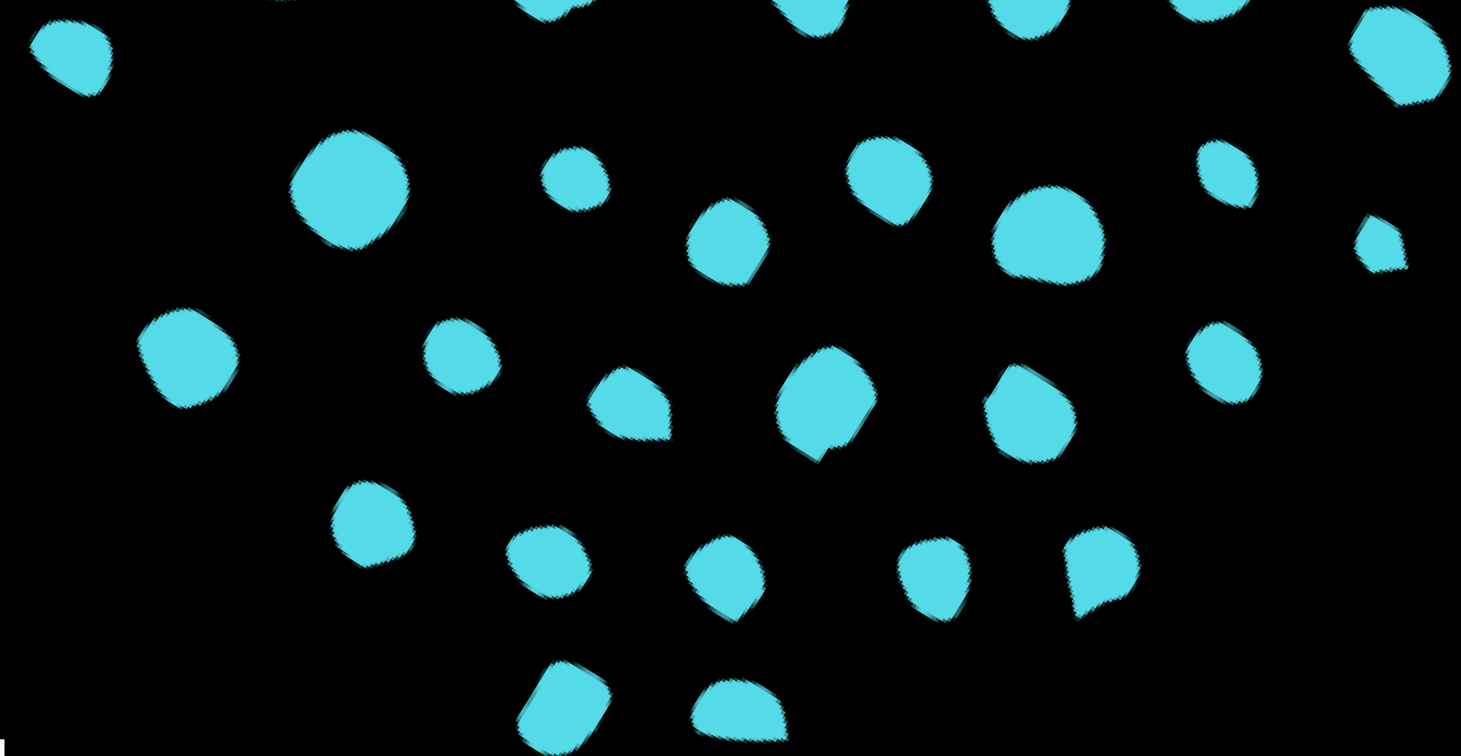


Levelling up the socio-  
economic duty and the  
equalities agenda

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# Levelling up and the equality agenda





# The good

For years, successive governments have either pretended that all opportunity was equal or failed to come up with proper solutions, paying lip service to a problem that has festered for decades.

Now is the time to root the equality debate in the real concerns people face, like affording a home, getting to work, going out safely at night, ending discrimination in our offices, factories and shop floors and improving our schools so every child has a good chance in life.



# The 'new approach'

- It will be about individual dignity and humanity not quotas and targets, or equality of outcome.
- It will reject the approach taken by the Left, captured as they are by identity politics, loud lobby groups and the idea of 'lived experience'.
- It will focus fiercely on fixing geographic inequality addressing the real problems people face in their everyday lives, using evidence and data.
- We will move well beyond the narrow focus of protected characteristics





# The ideology

- ... the soft bigotry of low expectations, where people from certain backgrounds are not expected to reach high standards.
- This diminishes their individual humanity, dignity and agency. And it hasn't delivered the progress it promised.
- This means some issues – particularly those facing **white working-class children** – are neglected.



# Questions

Are we seeing the construction of an artificial conflict between 'white working class' and 'fashionable minorities'?

How do you deliver on any plan without 'targets'?

What does it mean to move beyond the 'narrow focus of protected characteristics'?

What are the implications for attempts to address long standing issues faced by groups with protected characteristics (including race)

# Black MP Dawn Butler 'mistaken for cleaner' in Westminster

🕒 29 February 2016



MP mistaken for cleaner, friend stopped for 'driving while black'





Barrister  
mistaken for  
defendant





**The National Trust**

# National Trust chairman Tim Parker to step down

**Parker faced opposition from ministers over trust's examination of UK's legacy of slavery and colonialism**





# BRITAIN'S RACE REVOLUTION

By **Daniel Martin**  
Policy Editor

**BRITAIN** is a model to the world of a successful multi-ethnic society, a major review concluded last night.

It found no evidence the UK is institutionally racist – in a rejection of the common view among activists.

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, set up by Boris Johnson in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests, concluded that although Britain is not yet a 'post-racial society', its success should be a model for white-majority countries. Commission chairman

**Landmark report says UK 'a model to world' on diversity – and finds NO evidence of institutional racism**

Tony Sewell said the UK had progressed into a 'successful multi-ethnic and multicultural community' which was a 'beacon to the rest of Europe and the world'. He warned ministers must also consider

the needs of the white working class, saying his report had uncovered how 'stuck' some groups were.

The landmark review found children from many ethnic minorities do as well

or better at school than white pupils, which was creating fairer and more diverse workplaces. It called on firms to phase out 'unconscious bias' training

**Turn to Page 2**



# Sewell Report

- Implied 'cultural choices' are responsible for disadvantage in outcomes
- Speaks of the need to tell a 'new story' about the transatlantic slave trade
- Opposes the use of unconscious bias training
- Does not like the term BAME.



# Institutional/Structural racism

- A young Black mother is four times more likely to die in childbirth
- A young Black man is 19 times more likely to be stopped and searched by the Metropolitan Police
- People with Black or Asian 'sounding surnames' have to send in twice as many CVs.
- Young white men with lower educational attainment have higher rates of social mobility and employment





**A narrative of,  
division or unity in  
post industrial  
communities?**





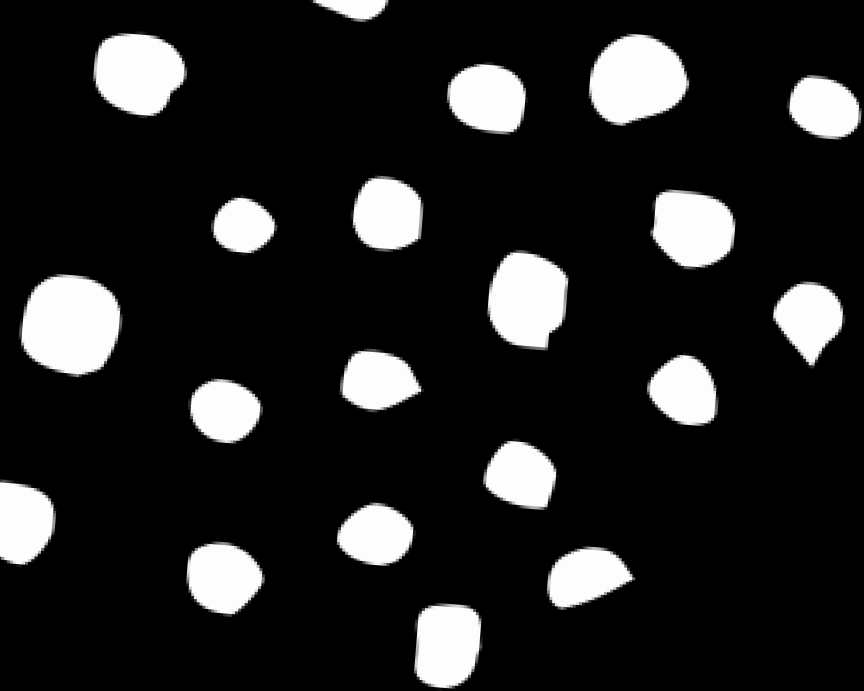
NORTH WEST  
INTERNATIONAL  
FRONT

ME

INTERNATIONAL FRONT

RESISTANCE





**We have seen it all  
before**

**We know how this  
story ends**





S

Strengths

W

Weaknesses

O

Opportunities

T

Threats

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## **Section One Equality Act 2010**

An authority to which this section applies must, when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.

# A 'JOINED UP' APPROACH

## **Socio-economic duty**

A mechanism to force public sector bodies to consider the impact of their actions on socio-economic inequality

## **Levelling up**

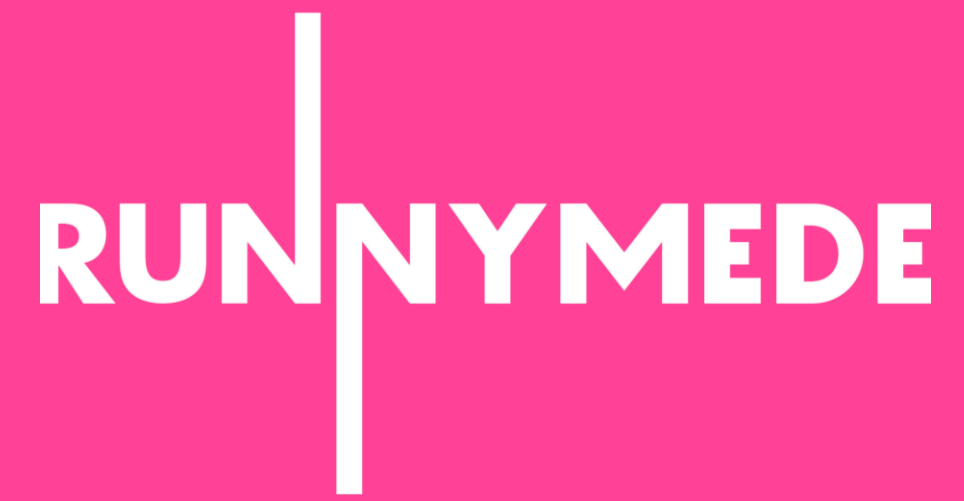
Addressing the long-term structural inequality that has arisen, or been exacerbated by successive generations of de-industrialisation

## **Equality**

There is clear evidence that people with certain protected characteristics are disproportionately impacted by poverty.



# How you can help?



- **Help create functioning ‘coalition of practice’ in divided communities.**
- **Promote new narratives within divided communities leading to unified action to advance their needs**



# Who are the players?

## Trade unions

Even the most deprived communities have a town hall, a hospital, a bus garage and a sorting office.


## Faith groups

Have traditionally been a cornerstone of communities. While their presence is often diminished, they still have deep roots.

## Voluntary sector

The food banks, the Mutual Aid groups and the advice centres. .





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