



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 0.01AM FRIDAY 23 JULY**  
**“BLACK PUPILS ARE STILL DISPROPORTIONATELY EXCLUDED**  
**ACCORDING TO RACE THINK TANK”**

Black boys and girls are still disproportionately excluded from school according to a new collection of essays by race think tank Runnymede. The report also warns that education reforms proposed by the coalition government could result in an even greater number of exclusions in Britain's schools, with the burden falling greatest on Black pupils.

Highlighting that Black Caribbean pupils are three times more likely to be permanently excluded from school than their white counterparts, the report also argues that proposals made by the Conservative party when in opposition to scrap the right of appeal for excluded students could disproportionately impact on black pupils if implemented.

The aim of the report – which contains essays by exclusions experts such as Diane Abbott MP, Val Gillies and Cecile Wright – is to outline the considerations needed when developing exclusions policy, as well as highlighting policy proposals to tackle exclusion levels.

In her essay, Diane Abbott MP calls for the findings of a 2006 Department for Education and Skills report on the issue to be re-visited. Not implemented at the time, the report argued that the disproportionate levels of black exclusions could not be solely attributed to culture, class or home life and also proposed that targets should be introduced for the 100 worst schools for black exclusions.

Val Gillies of London South Bank University outlines how she spent two years in school behaviour support units as part of her research in school exclusions and argues that whilst the schools involved had zero tolerance policies on unambiguous racism, a more confused and troubled relationship to race took place under the surface.

Cecile Wright calls for the provision of full alternative education for pupils excluded for more than 15 days, and also argues that a re-integration policy of excludees back into mainstream education is needed.

Other issues covered in the document including the exclusion of girls; family life and exclusions; and a perspective from teaching unions.

Commenting, Runnymede director Rob Berkeley said: “In a period of reform, we should be particularly mindful of the most marginalised. This collection of essays

aims to sketch out the considerations needed when developing any intervention that would seek to create change”.

- 1) For press inquiries, to arrange interviews with Runnymede’s senior education researcher Debbie Weekes-Bernard or to obtain a copy of the report please contact Vicki Butler at [vicki@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:vicki@runnymedetrust.org) or 020 7377 9222/ 07534 929275
- 2) Runnymede is a social policy research organisation focused on race equality and race relations. We work by:
  - Identifying barriers to race equality and good race relations
  - Enabling effective action for social change
  - Influencing policy at all levels through providing thought leadership and robust evidence

Further information is available on our website:

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/>