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BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

**AN UPDATE FROM  
VICE CHANCELLOR,  
PROFESSOR PETER SLEE**

Dear ,

I hope this finds you well.

On 8 March, MPs held a debate in Westminster Hall about racism in schools. 49% of young black people say racism is the biggest barrier to their success at school. 95% said they had witnessed racist language and behaviours including discrimination about their personal appearance. The MPs agreed that racism in schools is a serious issue which must be addressed if all children and young people are to thrive. They recommended that schools develop anti-racist policies and improve their levels of racial literacy.

But how?

Five years ago, our Carnegie School of Education (CSE) established the Centre for Race, Education and Decoloniality (CRED). CRED is now working to support 210 schools from more than 75 local authorities to achieve its Anti-Racist School award. 67 educational leaders from schools and colleges in Leeds have joined CRED's Anti-Racist Schools' Network, designed to create a powerful forum for the dissemination of good practice. This week, Liverpool City Council announced they too want to establish an Anti-Racist Schools' Network in the city, and has commissioned CRED to help them develop an anti-racism policy for Liverpool schools and support the development of anti-racist practice. You can read more about the initiative [here](#).

A good education is the only way to ensure everyone has a good start in life. A good education is inclusive and helps build a fair and tolerant society where everyone can thrive. This work, led by Professor Vini Lander, Director of CRED and Rachel C. Boyle, Dean of CSE, is ground-breaking and potentially transformational. It is a wonderful example of the way our university seeks to make a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities.

With my best wishes,

Peter

**Professor Peter Slee, Vice Chancellor**

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