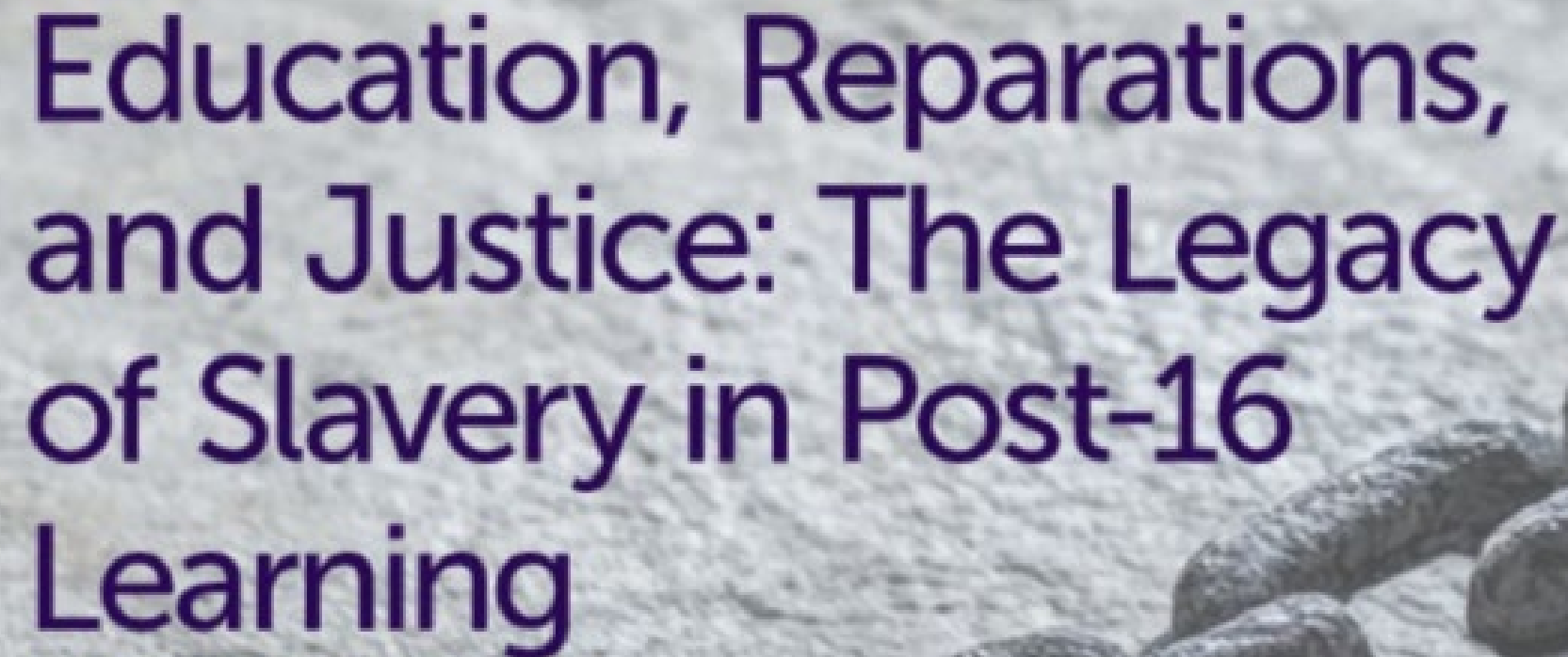


Education, Reparations & Justice



Education, Reparations,
and Justice: The Legacy
of Slavery in Post-16
Learning

Dr Leona Vaughn

Education, Reparations & Justice

International Day of Remembrance of Slavery
Victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Acknowledge the past

Repair the present

Build a future of dignity and justice

'It is about taking action today to dismantle the structures that continue to hold back people of African descent' United Nations, 2025

Caricom Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice 2014

European Governments to:

- Engage in reparatory justice programmes in the Caribbean
- Apologise for harms of slavery; restore 'historical memory'; and address intentional under-development: including repair to health/education/knowledges

2025 is also

African Union 'Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations'

The Second United Nations International Decade of People of African Descent

Acknowledge the Past

Between 15 and 19 million African victims kidnapped, trafficked & enslaved

1761-1807 UK profit approx. £8 billion

Reparations: \$100–131 trillion, including up to \$23 trillion post-enslavement, *plus* 'Unquantifiable Harm'

UK alone: \$18 trillion owed to 14 countries

***Over 400 years of slavery,
the wealth generated and
calculations of reparations
for generations of harm***

Acknowledge the Past

Ipsos MORI Black History Month Polling: Britain's involvement in the Slave Trade

October 2021

Government
Petition
2021

268,772

Teach Britain's colonial
past as part of the UK's
compulsory curriculum

Ipsos Poll

60%

Always teach Britain's
involvement in slave trade
at primary school

Ipsos Poll

65%

Always teach Britain's
involvement in slave trade
at secondary school

Repair the Present

Without education on past harms and continuing damage to people of African descent, support for repair is low

Financial Reparation

Ipsos MORI Poll, 2021

21% agree 'The UK govt paying compensation to governments of the countries where people were kept as slaves under British rule'

32% agree 'The UK govt apologising for things which past UK govt did wrong, even if they happened long before anybody who is alive today was born'

23% agree 'The UK govt paying compensation to people living in Britain whose ancestors were enslaved.'

£1.25 billion – today's value of

compensation to enslavers. This Government loan was repaid in 2015

Acknowledge the Past, Repair the Present

Enslavers used their profits and compensation to, amongst other things, build churches, schools, colleges and universities in the UK

Universities Studying Slavery – “sharing best practices and guiding principles as they engage in truth-telling educational projects focused on human bondage and the legacies of racism in their histories”

➤ *11 of 104 members are UK Higher Education Institutions*

Is there no legacy of racism in academia?

Repair the Present

210 Black Professors (61 women) out of 24,430 in UK

(2022/23 figures - [Higher Education Statistics Agency](#), 2024)

2 out of 164 UK Vice Chancellors are Black, both men ([Awolowo, 2024](#))

1.2% of 19,868 UKRI studentships were awarded to Black or Black Mixed students ([Leading Routes, 2019](#))

Black Caribbean, African & Any Other Black Background demographics “are more likely to go on to higher education than average, but less likely to obtain high grades, enter 'prestigious' universities, end up in a highly-skilled job, study further or have career satisfaction” ([House of Commons, 2023](#))

Repair the Present

What is happening in Higher Education to Black and other racialised and minoritised staff and students?

Education, Reparations,
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24% - students experienced racial harassment on their courses

20% - students experienced physical racial attack

Over 50% of staff described being racially excluded in work

Over 25% staff experienced racial jokes, insults, and name-calling

1 in 20 students left courses due to racial harassment

3 in 20 staff left employment due to racial harassment

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (2019) TACKLING
RACIAL HARASSMENT: UNIVERSITIES CHALLENGED



Race, Ethnicity & Equality in UK History: A Report and Resource for Change

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2018

Hannah Atkinson, Suzanne Bardgett, Adam Budd, Margot Finn,
Christopher Kissane, Sadiya Qureshi, Jonathan Saha, John Siblon
and Sujit Sivasundaram

Repair the Present

*Universities Studying Slavery
attempts to repair historical
memory, in order to shape acts
to repair present harms – what is
UK History makeup?*

0.4% Historians are UK Black

2.7% undergraduate History students
are UK Black

Less than 3% of Postgraduate History
students are Black

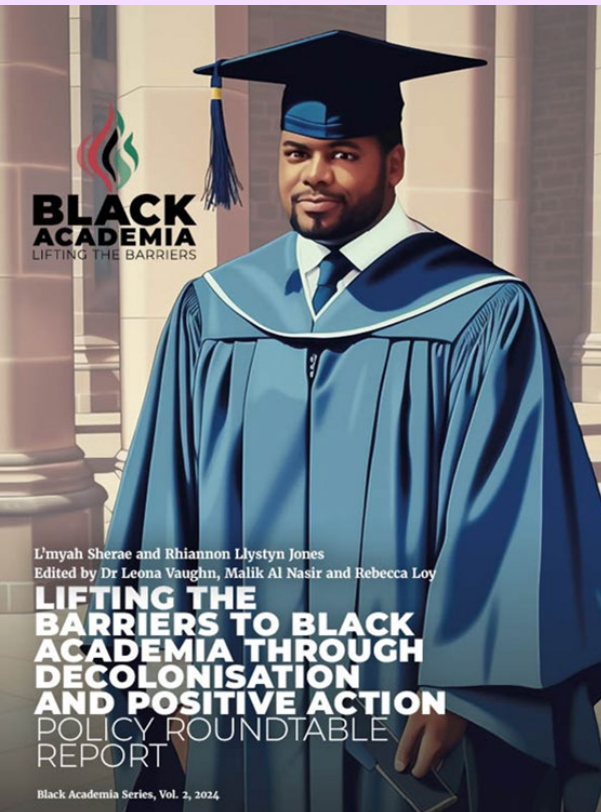
(RHS, 2018; Advance HE, 2024)

IMAGE: ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

Universities & Reparative Justice

Universities Studying Slavery outlines the concept of reparative justice for universities – but can we afford to wait for members to sign up?

- Promote reconciliation practices as institutions seek to move beyond acknowledgement and atonement to working towards equity in the present
- Create and sustain multi-university collaborations addressing systemic reconciliation and repair



WWW.BLACKACADEMIA.CO.UK

Repair the Present

Barriers to Black Academia Policy Paper - Key Recommendations

- 1. Mandate collection and intersectional analysis of disaggregated diversity monitoring data for all HE staff and students**
- 2. Mandate the use of Positive Action legal provisions for e.g. scholarships, bursaries and employment**
- 3. Mandate race equality actions**