

WE Party Conference

15 - 18 October 2020

Amendment Title: Expand the scope of the motion to ensure it is intersectional and addresses the overlapping discriminations that take place in schools

Proposed by: Sellisha Lockyer on behalf of the BAME Caucus

Signatories: Aliyah Dunbar-Hussain

Valerie White Christine Dean Olivia Vincetti

Proposer: Sellisha Lockyer

Type of amendment: Amendment to Policy motion

Title of motion you wish to amend:

Ending sexism in schools: Curriculum, culture and environment

Motion text you wish to amend:

Line 2–4 Believes that all children and students should receive a gender-balanced education in all settings, where women's voices and experiences are an equal part of the curriculum and embedded within the institution's culture;

Line 13-16 Produce statutory guidance to: Require schools to undertake a gender audit, develop a whole school/organisation strategy and implementation plan to deliver and maintain gender equality within three years, to be reviewed and updated annually.

Line 27–28 the development of in-depth gender-balanced lesson resources to support schools in moving to a gender-equal curriculum

Wording of amendment:

Line 2-4 Believes that all children and students should receive a gender-balanced intersectional education in all settings, where all women's voices and experiences are an equal part of the curriculum and embedded within the institution's culture.

Line 13-16 Produce statutory guidance to: Require schools to undertake a gender audit that takes into account the intersections of gender and the protected characteristics, develop a whole school/organisation strategy and implementation plan to deliver and maintain gender equality within three years, to be reviewed and updated annually.

Line 27-28 the development of in-depth intersectional gender-balanced lesson resources to support schools in moving to a gender-equal curriculum.

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Amendment rationale:

 It is important to ensure that any attempt to tackle gender inequality within the education system must be made intersectional, to address the multiple discriminations that affect women of colour, LGBTQ+ women, women with disabilities and more. There is the danger that a policy that does not have intersectionality embedded, may end up focusing on a narrow realisation of gender equality.

Whilst schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation, this does not necessarily translate into an inclusive curriculum. For example, in 2015/16 GCSE and A-Level English Literature, texts by writers from black, Asian, and ethnic minority backgrounds had been "marginalised" with some courses only having five per cent of texts represented by authors of these backgrounds, despite them accounting for 14 per cent of the UK population.

We therefore propose the above amendments to the motion to ensure that a genderbalanced education encompasses all women.