



# BLACK LEADERS CONFERENCE REPORT

<b>For the attention of:</b>	Executive Committee	<b>Taking place on:</b>	09/12/15
<b>Name:</b>	Uche Nwosu	<b>Action:</b>	To note

**Summary:** *This paper provides an overview on the conference attended by the Executive Committee member*

## Conference purpose(s)

This is a report of the national union of students (NUS) Black leaders conference , I attended on the 11 of November 2015 , at the Royal holiday inn in great city of Sheffield .I have never thought about how far this place was, but after about four hours of constant driving I arrived at these beautiful place .

The conference which was first of its kind in the long history of the NUS, was conceive from the highly controversial topic RACE MATTERS.

The tone of these conference was one that got many student unions (SU) all across the united kingdom to attend. There was a good mix of academician, senior NUS staff, senior members of various SU, sabbatical officers, presidents of SU, BME reps and black student delegates.

## Feedback on the session(s) attended

The registration of delegates got off the way at the set time of 9am and the conference was officially open with a welcome address from the NUS Black Students officer Ms Malia Bouattia. She highlighted the struggles of inequality and the urgent need for institutions to ensure that equality and diversity policies are overhauled to meet the very status of our current world. In her speech she further submitted that NUS as an institution were also lacking in addressing these issue of inequality for years and calls for an immediate action in these regard.

The keynote speakers for me was one of my high point. Linda Bellos OBE, seek to inspire us to take pride in who we are and our heritage. To step up and be counted and never sit on the sideline watching , in other words get involve ,be it issues of now or the future . Her message was the we must see ourselves as equals, and take active approach in promoting equality in all we do.

Following the keynote talk, Dr Singh and Dr Kwhali both senior lecturers from Coventry university, presented their papers titled "How can we make not break black and minority ethnic leaders in higher education?" I brought a copy of these paper for the union to keep. The report exposed the almost non-existent of equality and diversity in the leadership of our universities and especially in senior management in higher education institutions .The findings of these paper is so damaging that its call for a swift drive to address this inequality .equality and diversity should be high on every agenda and policies of all universities and higher institutions. The report also recommended 18 ways institutions can implement or improve equality and diversity.

There were four different workshop stations setup and run throughout the day but one could only attend three out of the four. The workshops were on ;

1How to successfully mobilise Black student in election.

2Conflict resilience.

3 Understanding and developing your leader identity.

4 Advancing your career in the student movement.

I attended the first three workshops, they were very interesting and properly delivered. The one I enjoyed the most was that of leadership identity.

There were ample breaks between sessions, with hot and cold refreshment readily available, and the lunch break was great, as we were treated to buffet style of a very large varieties of appropriate hot and cold food. It was difficult to stay awake after lunch.

The concluding part of the meeting was yet another interactive session, where we had a five person panel from senior SU members including; head of policy, CEO and deputy CEO. The plenary was on increasing and supporting Black leadership in the student movement.

Matters for the attention of the Executive Committee to note from this conference

I travelled all night and had very little sleep, then endured what was a very long and packed day. Then waited around after the conference till about midnight to set out again back to London, but all this was WORTH IT. The things that I learnt on these little journey will stay with me for the rest of my life. The friendships that were forged, the interactions, the exchange of ideals. I am grateful.

I want to say a very big thanks you to the Anglia Ruskin student union for the privilege extended me to attend these meeting, and a very special thank you to Mr Dan Login, for his relentless effort in getting me a place on this conference even after the closing date.