



BFF Media Release

Consequences of race hate crimes

The consequence of race hate crimes are impacting ethnic communities a new report found.

The BFF, who have consistently raise awareness of racism and discrimination in grassroots football; have said that their latest research shows people are concerned about the mental health of ethnic communities at a grassroots level.

The forum, who recently completed research via their latest survey, *Grassroots and Race: Racism and Discrimination in Local Football*, have said that three quarters (74%) of respondents had revealed they were concerned that mental health in ethnic communities members may be suffering from witnessing/ experiencing racism or discrimination in local football. This figure rose to 81% when looking at those who identified as black, Asian or minority ethnic. And when parents were asked if their child/children had faced racism or discrimination in football, the stark reality is that 41% of those from an ethnic background said yes.

Ivan Liburd, Chair of the BFF has said,

"As we continuously work to reduce discrimination, it is important that members who are involved in ethnic communities also continue to raise their voices and share their experiences. Parents are becoming even more concerned about their children suffering from racial trauma, which can result from experiences of racism in football, like having to return to a football ground where they previously received racial abuse, which can cause anxiety. However, looking at how adults are feeling and their nervousness around the mental stability of those from an ethnic background is concerning. Until we see a difference on the ground to ease some of the worry people have about the handling of racism, their concerns and frustration will remain."

Taking the knee

66% of overall respondents agreed that taking the knee had been an effective way of highlighting racism in football. When this was broken down in to ethnicity, 80% of those who identified as White agreed taking the knee had been effective. This number dropped dramatically to 51% for those who are ethnically diverse.

"As our research shows, taking the knee and the benefits of that exercise means different things to different people. Those who are more vulnerable to receiving racial abuse are more sceptical about what it will achieve."

Under 18's also a target

The full report also showed that 1 in 2 respondents (59%) said they had witnessed or experienced discrimination of a racial kind in local football in the last 3 years. When those under 18 were asked the same question, the figure rose slightly to 62%. This is further compounded by 25% of those under the age of 18 stating that they had experienced racial discrimination from the *same club* in past 3 years.

The full report can be found at: <http://www.bamefootballforum.com/no-to-racism/>

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