

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE REPORT OF THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE  
INQUIRY**

**REPORT BY THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL**

1. In July 1999, Bishop John Sentamu addressed the General Synod about the work of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, to which he had been an adviser, and the lessons for the Church. In November 1999, in its second report to the General Synod, the Archbishops' Council set out the first stage of an action plan to follow up the Inquiry Report. The plan had a particular focus on gathering the reality of where we stand, in terms of statistics and the perceptions of minority ethnic people, and in increasing our own awareness of the issues through racism awareness training.
2. The staff group which has overseen this work has produced a lively report (GS Misc 625) which sets out the fruits of this work and proposes some themes for the next stage of this work. The report contains some sharp comments and statistics which reveal how far we have to travel if we are truly to purge ourselves of institutional racism and embrace cultural diversity in our mission to the world. In doing so, we need to be open to change to ensure people do not miss the Gospel because of the way we are Church. We need to hear and take action in faith rather than despair.
3. We support the staff's analysis and would add to the themes set out in para. 65 that of employment within our own national Church institutions, where we would like to build on the equal opportunities work described in para. 15. We look forward to hearing the views of Synod members about the wider issues and the issues raised in the staff report. We will then produce a second stage action plan which sets out what we think should be done and how it should be resourced. We continue to believe – building on all the work of CMEAC and others – that we should aim for measurable long-term change which is realistic and achieves credibility through results.
4. We invite the Synod to reflect on the lessons of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and on how we can – to use the words of Bishop John Sentamu – take these into our own “lifeblood” in our own attitudes to and treatment of different minority ethnic groups in the body of the Church.

On behalf of the Archbishops' Council

+ George Cantuar:  
October 2000

+ David Ebor