



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS

Interdisciplinary Research Unit on Crime, Policing
and Social Justice Seminar Series

'The Rise of Discrimination, Extremism and Intolerance: Critical Perspectives'

Wednesday 25th October 2017

Room D145, Paisley Campus | 4.00 - 6.00pm

Muslim Youth: A Scottish Narrative | Dr Nighet Riaz

In a political climate where racism has become normalised through the rise in right wing rhetoric across Europe and the USA, with a focus on 'the other', the school space in which BME Muslim children and young people are situated is becoming increasingly unstable, through the levels of state control via monitoring and measuring by policy strategies, and where discrimination by the dominant community becomes more evident. In nations which put 'social justice, equality and equity' at the heart of their policies, with a priority to engage with 'young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and a place in society' (what is the name of the report?? Scottish Government, 2004, p1) what does this mean for a BME Muslim young person who is labelled by policy and literature through a deficit discourse of failure, on their identity and their sense of belonging? Dr Riaz's research, albeit a small scale study exploring policy and practice, reflects similar findings to the recent Social Mobility Commission report (Stevenson, Demack, Stiell, Abdi, Clarkson, Ghaffar and Hassan, 2017) across education, community and employment.

Words matter: Why history shows that remaining silent and false equivalence are not an option for President Trump | Dr Allan Moore

On 14th August 2017, what appeared to be a reasonable statement was released from the White House on behalf of President Trump: "We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence... No matter the color of our skin, we all live under the same laws, we all salute the same great flag... Racism is evil. And those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans." However just one day later at a press briefing, President Trump's sentiments were quite different, arguing that: "You had a group on one side that was bad and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent. And nobody wants to say that, but I'll say it right now. You had a group, you had a group on the other side that came charging in without a permit...". This presentation will be based upon an article submitted to Peace Magazine that looks to the highly debated issues linked to the Charlottesville violence including the removal of statues, allegations rewriting of history, and in particular the issues of silence and false equivalence. A comparison is drawn with the events that led up to the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, before returning to the Charlottesville incident and discussing the highly contentious issue of whether or not far right extremist groups ought to be allowed a public platform to discuss their ideologies, with specific reference to the paradox of tolerance noted by philosopher Karl Popper.

**If you would like to attend this seminar please email:
jane.caffrey@uws.ac.uk by Friday 20th October 2017.**

For further information on the Interdisciplinary Research Unit on CPSJ,
please contact: ross.deuchar@uws.ac.uk or denise.martin@uws.ac.uk