

Brexit & Belonging

Impact on BME Children and Young People in Wales



**Ethnic Minorities
& Youth Support
Team Wales**

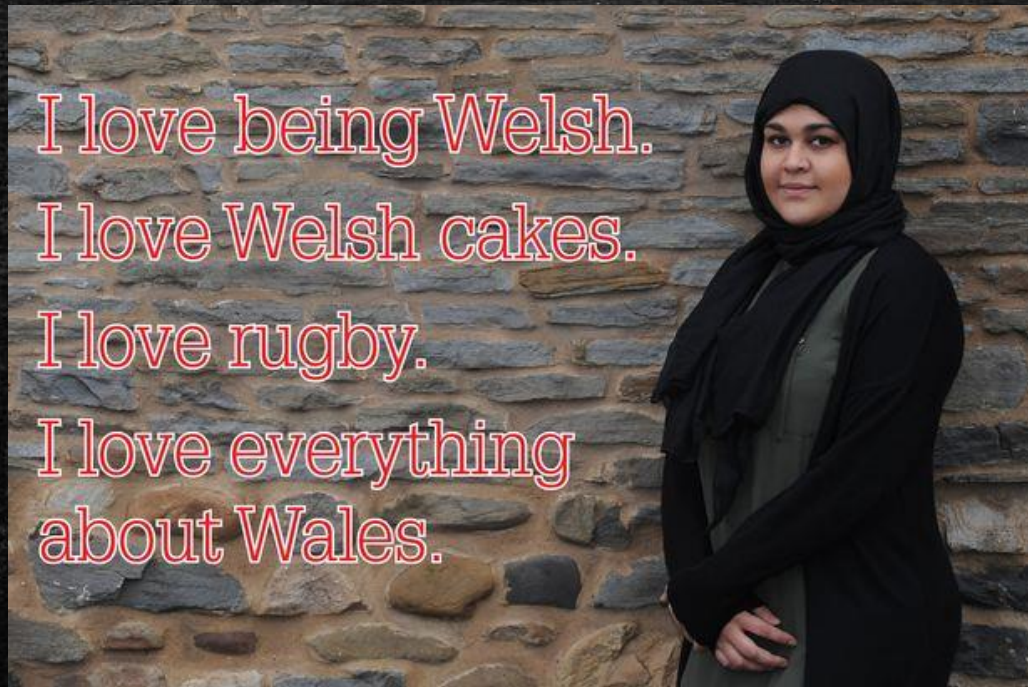
Tim Cymorth
Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig
& Ieuenctid Cymru

About EYST

- Registered Charity, Est. 2005
- Support BME young people, families and communities:
 - Education, Employment, Training
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Family Support
 - Community Safety & Cohesion
- Culturally Sensitive Approach
- Diversity Awareness & Education
- Challenging Racism & Extremism
- Wales wide with 40 + staff



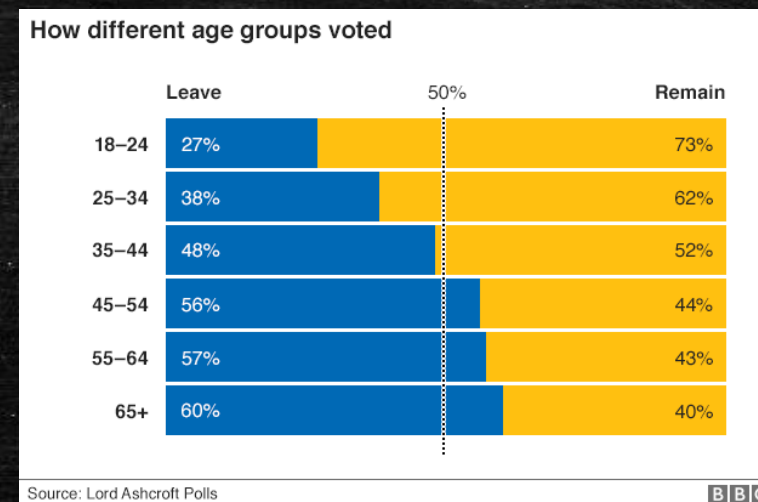
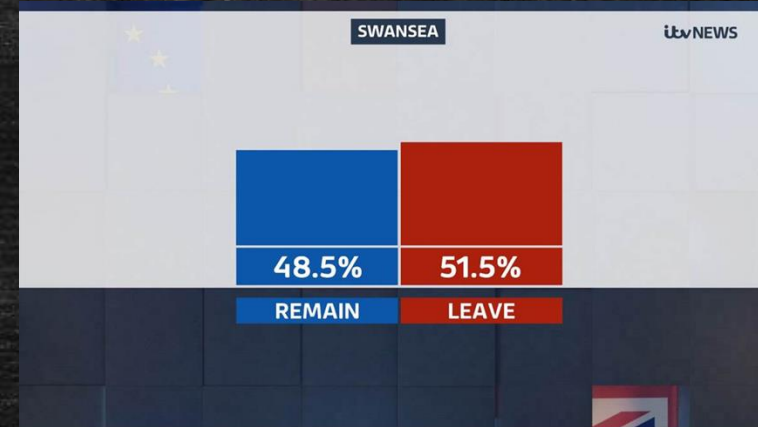
Demographic Context



- BME Population – 6% of Wales (2011 Census)
- Very diverse – including more settled (3 or 4 generations) and newer communities, including refugees, asylum-seekers and economic migrant groups.
- Younger age profile and geographically concentrated
 - 14% of Swansea’s school age population is non-British, non-white
 - 32% of Cardiff’s school age population
- Around two-thirds of Wales’ BME Population is Muslim

Initial impact on BME Young People

- Sense of Belonging
- Identity
- Racism
- Incidents of Hate Crime
- Intergenerational Divide



Young People's Views on Brexit



Further Impact of Brexit

- Brexit has widened challenges for CYP
- Racist incidents and hate crimes in schools – everyday experience for ethnic minority CYP
- Focus group evidence



Schools” Focus Groups
Cardiff/Newport/Swansea/Wrexham, Dec '17

Brexit as Symptom

- Brexit – a shock, but not a surprise?
- Anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim feeling has been growing at least since 9/11 - for most young people today, a post 9/11 world is all they know
- A lack of effective education on issues of diversity and the three R's? – Racism, Religion and Refugees?
- A lack of strong counter-narrative to the idea that all Muslims are terrorists and all asylum-seekers are bogus?
- Brexit and Trump as inevitable outcomes of this deficit of education and leadership?



If Brexit is a moment, what next?

- Danger of ever-shrinking notions of identity
- Increasingly polarised society – Us and Them
- A post-fact era, No more experts, no more intelligence? The end of Enlightenment?



Recommendations

- Ensure CYP have access to quality information & education around all strands of equality including race, religion, gender, disability, sexuality are provided is needed- clear links to Children's Measure, Donaldson Review, UNCRC, Future Generations Act
- Urgent need to challenge inflammatory media
- Ensure Opportunities for European Travel, Volunteering and Exchanges in the Future
- Young People's Right to Vote