

Case Study 3: Critical Thinking (White working class)

You are a senior officer in your local council. Your Comms department has been contacted by the local media. The press are planning to print a story about your area's white working class being forgotten by the council and how this is showing up the data. **You have been asked to draft a briefing report to inform a 'lines to take' document for a councillor in preparation for the interview with the journalist. Below is a note of the issues that the journalist discussed with the Comms lead. To help inform your briefing for the councillor make comments on the text below, in relation to areas where you perceive evidence of a lack of critical thinking.**

White working class boys are falling behind in education, traditionally white working estates are spoken about in disparaging terms, even by council staff, investment in traditionally white areas is pretty much non-existent compared with BAME areas. The council runs festivals and events for all kinds of groups but nothing for white working class people who are the indigenous community. Nowadays any BAME person can say anything racist about white people and nothing happens but then all that a white person needs to say is that they want recognition and it's seen as racist. To display the St Georges Cross flag is to be racist nowadays. The pendulum has swung way too far the other way.

Case Study 4: Critical Thinking (Religion)

You are a new teacher at a school and at lunch time you overheard a conversation amongst teaching staff (summarised below). You decide to write to them as a group because you did not wish to start a confrontation on your own when you had no idea who your allies might be. **Draft a note to your colleagues. To help inform your reply make comments on the text below in relation to areas where you perceive evidence of a lack of critical thinking.**

The conversation went along these lines:

I agree that Religion should be respected but if we are honest with ourselves we have to admit that if we respect religion we are basically against women's rights. We are against the right of LGBTQ people to be who they are. Religion tells women they should be subservient. Religion tells boys they are all powerful and turns them into monsters – no wonder there is so much domestic violence. The common theme across religions is that people are taught what to think and can't think for themselves, which doesn't really help with academic achievement – to be fair, I don't understand how so many of these South Asian girls do so well at school. Let's not even get onto the Roman Catholic church. I can't see how you can be intelligent and love your children and still be Roman Catholic....