



FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN BRISTOL

FLAT 7, THE GLEBE, GLEBE ROAD, BRISTOL, ENGLAND, BS5 8LU
TEL. / FAX NO. 0117-9414672

S. A. R. I Reflection

(Support against Racist Incidents)

As a young professional Filipino migrant, we seek to raise the profile of our ethnic community, which has remained invisible in mainstream society despite many of us working in the NHS authority. There may be no quick solutions to this matter but Filipinos in Bristol hope they are taking the right preliminary steps by identifying specific issues like racism; racism in workplace and racism in the community.

The Chairman of Filipino Community in Bristol (Mr. Gil Natividad) and I had the chance to attend the Bristol's S.A.R.I. (Support Against Racist Incidents) annual general forum / meeting at circomedia, Portland Square, St. Paul's. We were keen on attending this forum for the reason that we want to explore and understand the issues of racism and its social, emotional and spiritual repercussions. And that, by knowing the elements involved in tackling this issues, we might somehow collect our negative experiences and turned them as a tool to shield us from rancid racial predecessors.

S.A.R.I. was established in 1988 with the aim of offering dedicated support for victims of racial harassment and / or racist incidents and encouraging agencies to respond better. The organization is a voluntary (with many members and staff serving as volunteers), autonomous charity organization funded and supported by the Bristol City Council, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, the big lottery fund, South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol Neighbourhood renewal and many more various individual corporations and business establishments. With the resources collected from funding, they provide professional counselling; consultancy and training which is aim at helping the victim of racist incidents get back with their normal lives. The people in the organization I must say were highly motivated and talented individuals, because they are able to withstood for years the challenge of the enormous task of battling inequality. Their numerous achievements and cases of hate crime handled and resolved have given them the merit as a credible refuge for victims of different ethnicity.

Now and again, and no matter where we are, we are able to experienced / recognized racism in its various manifestations, including the most blatant forms bigotry to its most subtle, unaware and sometimes passive forms. This experience has limited our social and professional interactions and has bound our community to grow like a cocoon respiteful of the unforeseen world of racism. We might take a cultural, religious, ethical and political stand but the struggle can be daunting if we don't take into account the need for cooperation among the different minority groups living in and out of Bristol. Not only that we need cooperation and unity to tackle racial inequality, but the realisation of the importance of educating the younger generation the value of generating an integrated, educated and efficient minority. After all, what at stake are the younger generation that precedes the success of each and every one of us.



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And as we gear up towards productive inclusion into the larger community, let us not forget it is our duty of care as well, to support and contribute to the welfare and progress of this host country abiding to its own custom, social norms and way of life. So that in the end, we are not only living as individual cultural groups but we are creating one whole integrated community of different ethnicities.

By: AJ Lapitan