

On Friday 8 December 8 LBTS students met the Prime Minister

Three of the students were asked to give a
speech about diversity

Afterwards Tony Blair gave a speech on
diversity



Nathan, Gerson, Samuel, Babatunde,
Michelle, Ana, Senaria & Sudi entering No10



Senaria's speech

- **Good morning. My name is Senaria Karim and I am 14 years old. I am here today with 2 fellow students to speak on behalf of the students of Lilian Baylis Technology School.**
- **We are going to talk about our views, the views of young people about diversity in the UK. Lilian Baylis Technology School is based in Kennington, London. It has 630 students from a wide range of backgrounds and our new building was opened by the Prime Minister in 2005.**
- **I was born and raised in London. My parents are from Iran. At school I have a range of friends from all over the world including Africa and Asia. My best friend has a totally different background to me. She is Chinese. Through her I have discovered and learnt about another culture which I would not normally have found out about.**
- **As part of the next generation I believe that understanding diversity is a positive thing. It will help to wipe out racism and allow us all to understand the world from different points of views. This will make Britain a better place for all of us to live in**

Michelle's speech

- **My name is Michelle Nicholson and I am 15 years old. I live in South London and I was born in Jamaica.**
- **I want people in the UK to know that inequality affects everyone - the young and the old. I believe that I sometimes have to work harder than white young people to succeed because I come from an ethnic minority. This can sometimes make it harder for me to be enthusiastic about working hard. It also sometimes stops me from aspiring to be the best I can be.**
- **I want to tell you about a recent personal experience. A few weeks ago I went into a shop with a group of friends who are also black. There were several groups of white girls already in the shop. Although we were very well behaved the security guard decided to follow me and my friends around the shop. We all felt we were being treated like criminals because of our ethnicity.**
- **My school has an equality policy. We are all treated the same, regardless of our colour, religion or gender. This means we are all able to succeed.**
- **In conclusion I believe that inequality is a major problem in the UK. If things do not improve the UK's thriving economy will start to slow down. This will be because we cannot appreciate the diverse backgrounds of people in other countries who we are trying to work with or sell things to.**

Babatunde's speech



- **My name is Babatunde Adedayo and I am 15 years old. My family are from Nigeria. I was born and raised in the UK.**
- **I do not think that there are enough opportunities in Southwark and Lambeth for people of different cultures and ethnic backgrounds to mix. I get the opportunity to mix with young people of different religions and ethnic backgrounds through my basketball team. I have learnt a lot about diversity through playing basketball with people from different backgrounds.**
- **If young people from diverse backgrounds do not mix we will not know about different religions and ethnicities and will not respect each other. It is therefore vital that there are more opportunities for people of different backgrounds to mix together, for example youth clubs which encourage young people to come together.**

In summary all of us believe that:

- 1. Diversity is a very good thing and we need to know more about different ethnic backgrounds and religions**
- 2. There should be more opportunities for children of different backgrounds to mix.**
- 3. Inequality must stop.**

Tony Blair's response to the LBTS students

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/6219626.stm

CLICK on WATCH. Speech in full
Play first 30 seconds