



## Written evidence from Girlguiding May 2016

### About Girlguiding

1. Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, with over 500,000 members. Thanks to the dedication and support of 100,000 amazing volunteers, we are active in every part of the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun. We run Rainbows (5-7 years), Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) and The Senior Section (14-25 years). Registered Charity No 306016. [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

### About Girlguiding's Evidence

2. Girlguiding's submission focuses on evidence from the Girls' Attitudes Surveys - our annual research into the opinions of girls and young women throughout the UK aged 7-21 and the personal testimony of young members.
3. The Advocate panel is Girlguiding's national youth panel. The panel consists of Girlguiding members aged 14-25 who discuss the issues girls and young women care about and seek change.
4. The Girls' Attitudes Survey canvasses the opinions of over 1,500 girls and young women, inside and outside guiding across the UK each year. We commission expert child research agency Childwise to conduct this survey. For more information and data see [www.girlguiding.org.uk/girlsattitudes](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/girlsattitudes)

#### Awareness and Education

How prevalent do you think racism and religious discrimination are?

5. The Girls' Attitudes Survey has found that bullying is a real problem for girls and it can have a significant effect on their well-being. Girlguiding's 2014 Girls' Attitudes Survey found that 42% of girls aged 11 to 21 know girls their age who have experienced racist bullying.

*'I believe that every human deserves to be treated with respect regardless of their religion or race. Blatant racism is definitely experienced today, but indirect racism is also a huge problem. The assumptions we make about people based on the colour of their skin or how they dress are hugely damaging, and prevent us from creating a progressive society.'* Girlguiding Advocate, Katie, 15

What role do, and should, the Government and other organisations play in educating and in enabling young people, parents and the wider community to explore racism and religious discrimination?

*'Education is the way to end discrimination. If we educate young people about different cultural practices, they will grow up to be considerably more accepting of diversity. Embracing the subtle differences between humans is a beautiful thing and we need to ensure that young people are taught to do this.'* Girlguiding Advocate, Katie, 15