Dear [insert name]

On April 22nd 2021, we will celebrate the life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, for the third time. Stephen had his life cut short simply because of the colour of his skin. Like any other young person, he had dreams and aspirations – but his were denied. The impact of his death has been profound in this country; laws have been changed. It led to profound cultural changes in attitudes towards racism, to the law and to police practice. It also paved the way for a greater understanding of discrimination of all forms and new equalities legislation.

Stephen Lawrence Day is a day dedicated to Stephen’s memory that also allows people to reflect upon the part we all play in creating a society in which everyone can flourish. There are still too many young people who do not have a sense of hope, who just don’t get the chance to live their dreams.

We want all our children and young people to feel inspired, be confident and have hope in their future. We are building hope, but there is more to do. The lessons of fairness and respect must start early if we are to have a truly fair and civilised society, free from discrimination, where we all play our part as active citizens.  We believe that these values are strongest when anchored and embedded into a school’s culture and explicitly taught through the curriculum. Whether you are in an early years, primary, secondary, special, sixth form or other school setting, or in an urban or rural location, the vision of Stephen’s family is that Stephen’s annual National Day will serve as a focus for your school community to engage in activities that empower young people to live their best life.

Through the activities provided by the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, our hope is that all pupils will value cultural diversity and develop the skills and confidence to challenge racism and discrimination and to embrace inclusion.

Stephen’s memory and legacy is to be an annual event and will hopefully become part of your curriculum and culture. Building on each year’s events by showcasing and sharing curriculum resources and related activities will strengthen and deepen children’s understandings related to living our best life.

As a [member of the community/parent] I’m writing to see if you will consider participating in Stephen Lawrence Day 2021 to use the memory of Stephen’s life and legacy as an opportunity for influencing the lives of the children and young people in your care.

For more information, visit <https://www.voicetheunion.org.uk/news-media-issues/stephen-lawrence-day-2021> or email equalities@community-tu.org.

Best wishes,

[insert your name]