

# THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN OF COLOUR IN SCOTLAND: VISIONS FOR CHANGE



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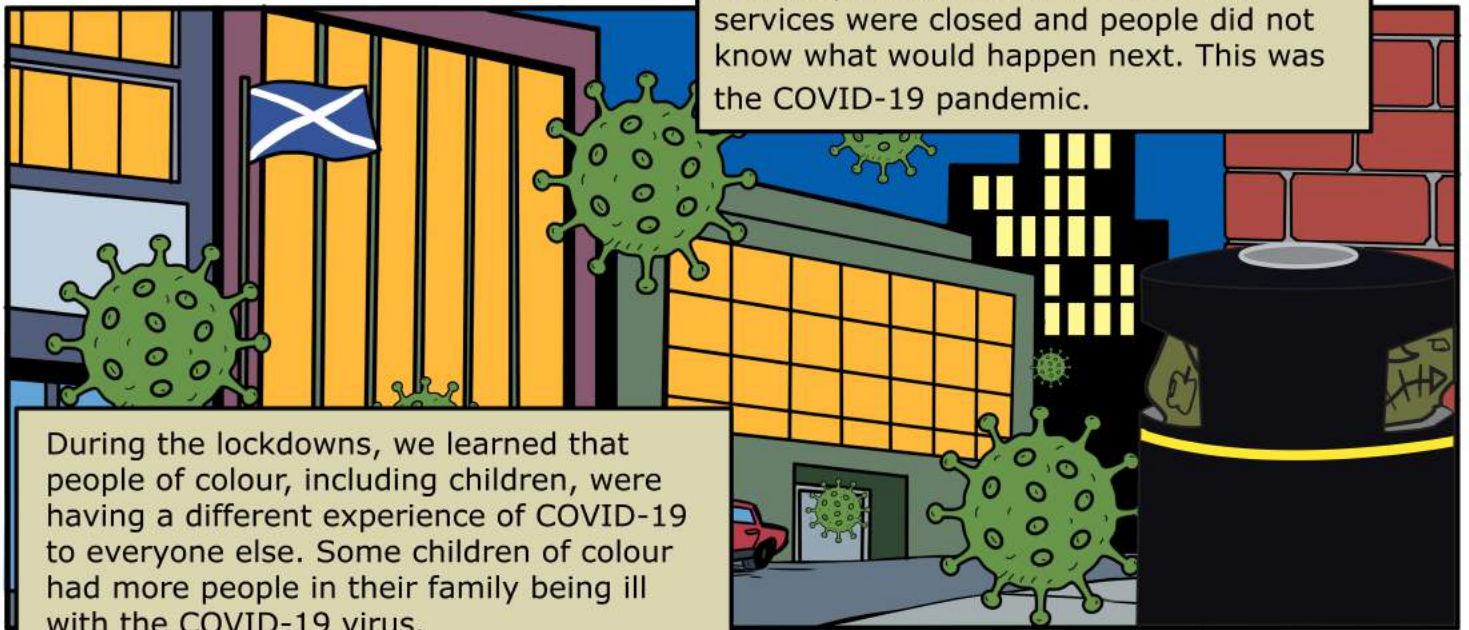
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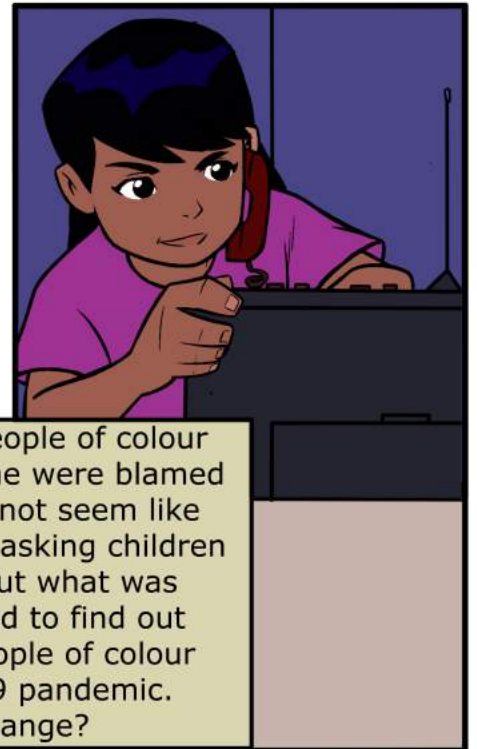


In the year 2020, a new virus emerged. The virus made people sick.

In Scotland, to keep everyone safe, there were lockdowns. This meant that people could only leave their house for very specific reasons. The streets were empty. The shops and other **non-essential** services were closed and people did not know what would happen next. This was the COVID-19 pandemic.



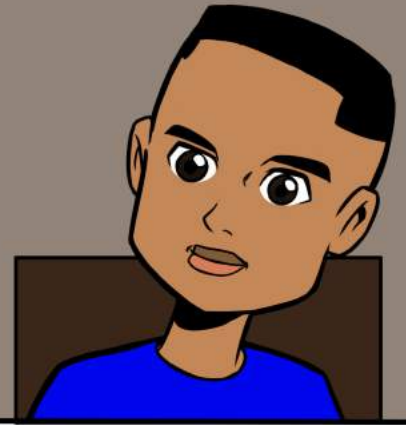
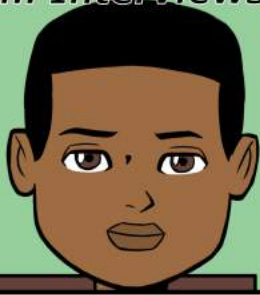
During the lockdowns, we learned that people of colour, including children, were having a different experience of COVID-19 to everyone else. Some children of colour had more people in their family being ill with the COVID-19 virus.



Some children and young people of colour experienced racism and some were blamed for the pandemic. But it did not seem like many people in power were asking children of colour for their views about what was happening. Our team decided to find out what children and young people of colour thought about the COVID-19 pandemic. What were their ideas for change?



## Zoom Interviews



We needed to find a way for children of colour to express their views while still being safe from COVID-19. Here's how children took part...

## Voice Recordings



## Writing & Drawing



## Support From Adults

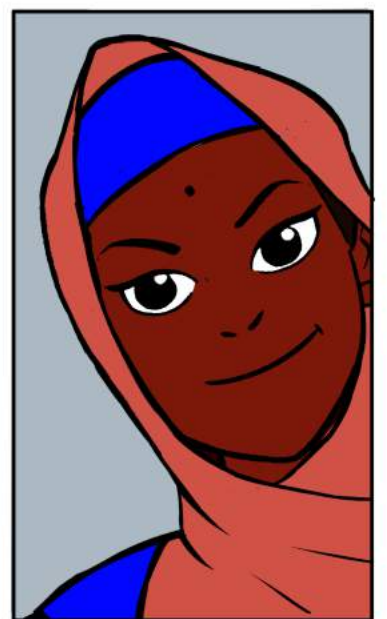
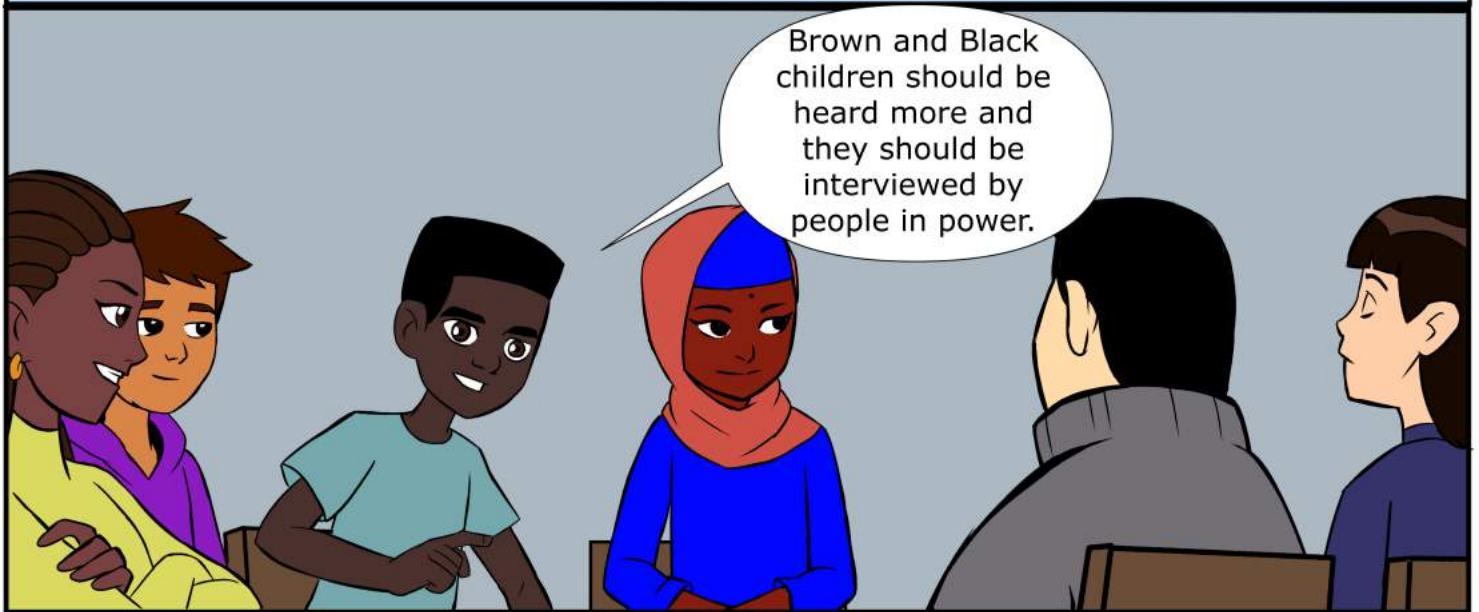


By the end of the project **35 children and young people** had taken part.

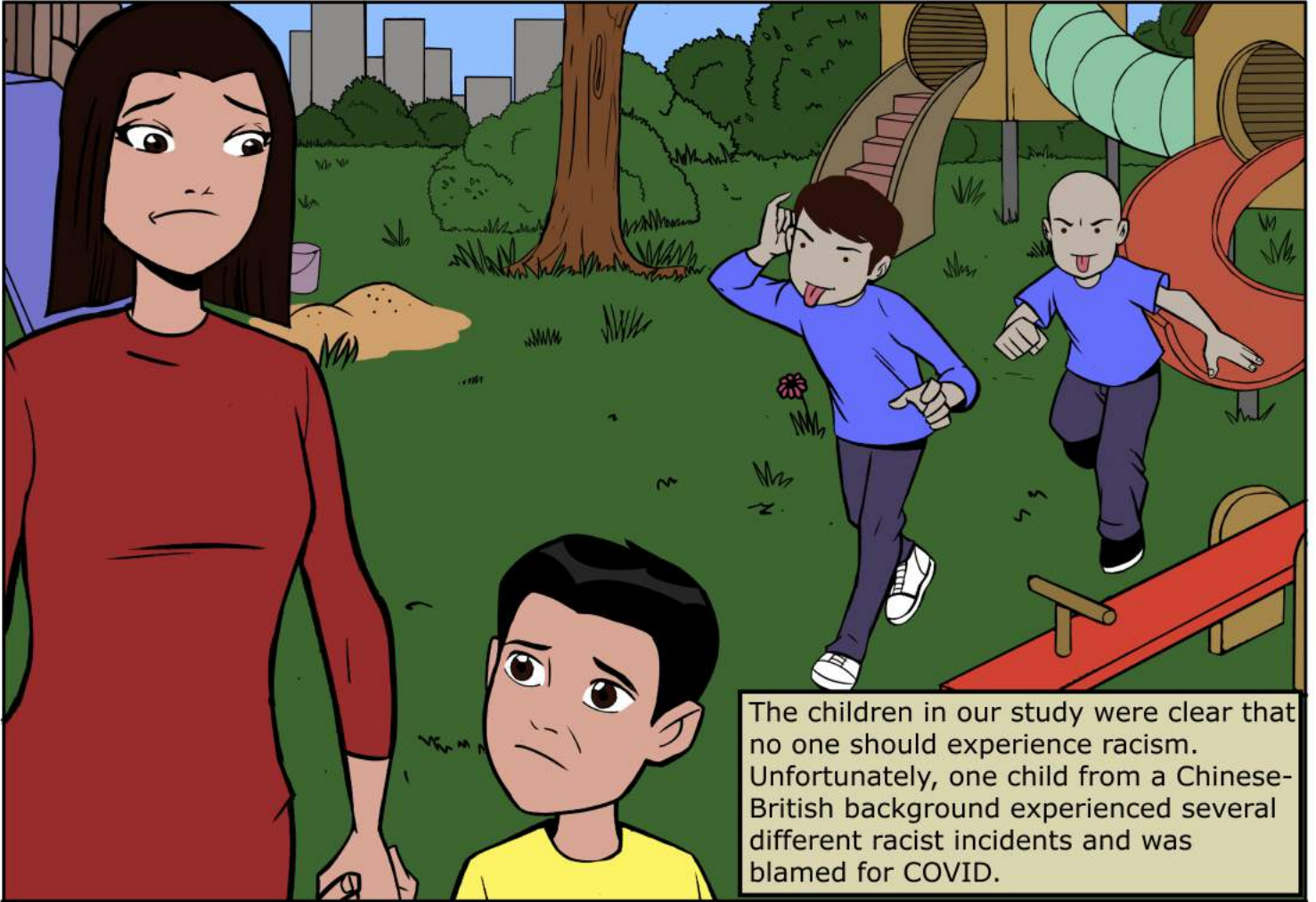


Thank you to all of the children and young people who took part in the project. Here are the key messages from the project:

# Children should be heard!








The children in our study were clear that no one should experience racism. Unfortunately, one child from a Chinese-British background experienced several different racist incidents and was blamed for COVID.

# Children should not experience racism!




Our mothers told us you are not invited to our birthday party because you are Chinese!

I wish some people would stop thinking that we have COVID because we are Chinese.



New single mothers who are seeking asylum found themselves in very difficult situations.

## Refugees and asylum seekers and their children should have support.



The isolation of the lockdowns, the lack of active help taking care of their children left these mothers feeling alone, depressed, and scared. There was little help offered, with only phone consultations available.

We can have social services come...

The only suggestion for respite was that social services could be called. This left the mother scared as she thought her baby might be taken away.

My experience with social services has not been good. I don't want them to take my child away. I only need a little bit of help



# Children do not want to be isolated.



I sit on my Xbox.

Now that we're not able to hang out and have fun...

I sit on my phone.

During the lockdowns in Scotland, children missed their freedom and especially missed being able to see family and friends. The closure of parks, clubs, museums, and other community services and resources had a strong impact on children.

Even when schools returned, children felt socially isolated by the 'bubble' system.



When schools returned, we could only play with the people in our bubble.

People in my class mostly would like to play football or something. And I'm not a sporty person.

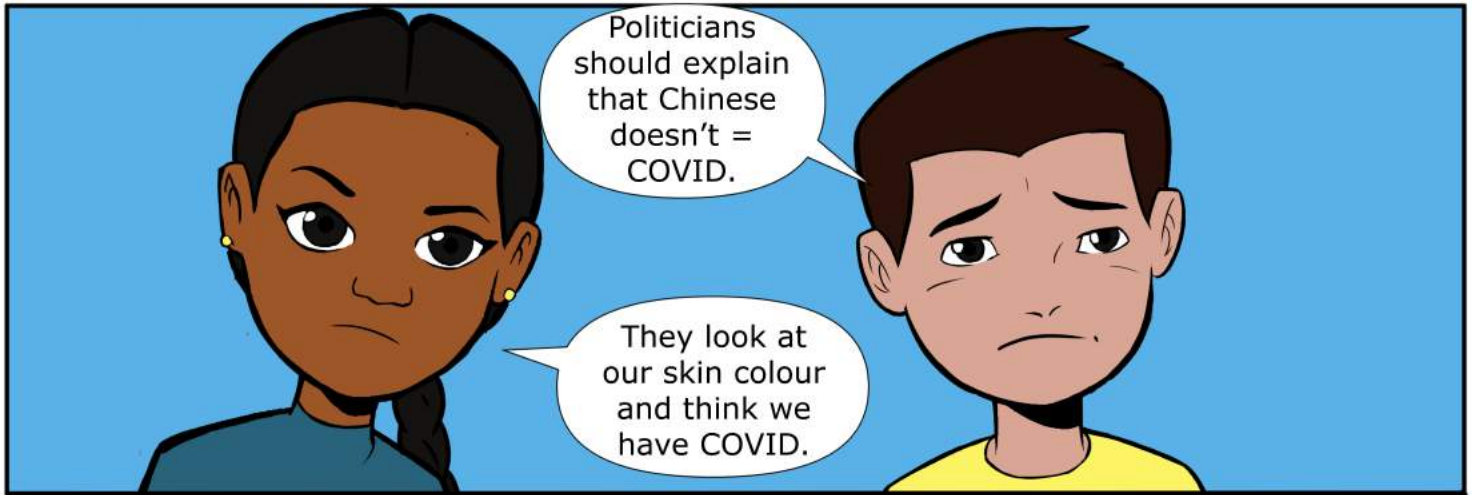


I would like that all classes could mix. I don't have time to hang around with my buddy. I don't like we can't go close to people

Children suggested that more outdoor activities would help.







Politicians should explain that Chinese doesn't = COVID.

They look at our skin colour and think we have COVID.

**People in power should learn about racism and take an active role in fighting racism.**



TEACHERS SHOULD BE EDUCATED ABOUT RACISM, AS ANTI-RACISM TRAINING WILL IMPACT A CHILD'S LEARNING

THE GOVERNMENT, LAWYERS AND TEACHERS SHOULD HAVE BETTER TRAINING AROUND RACISM

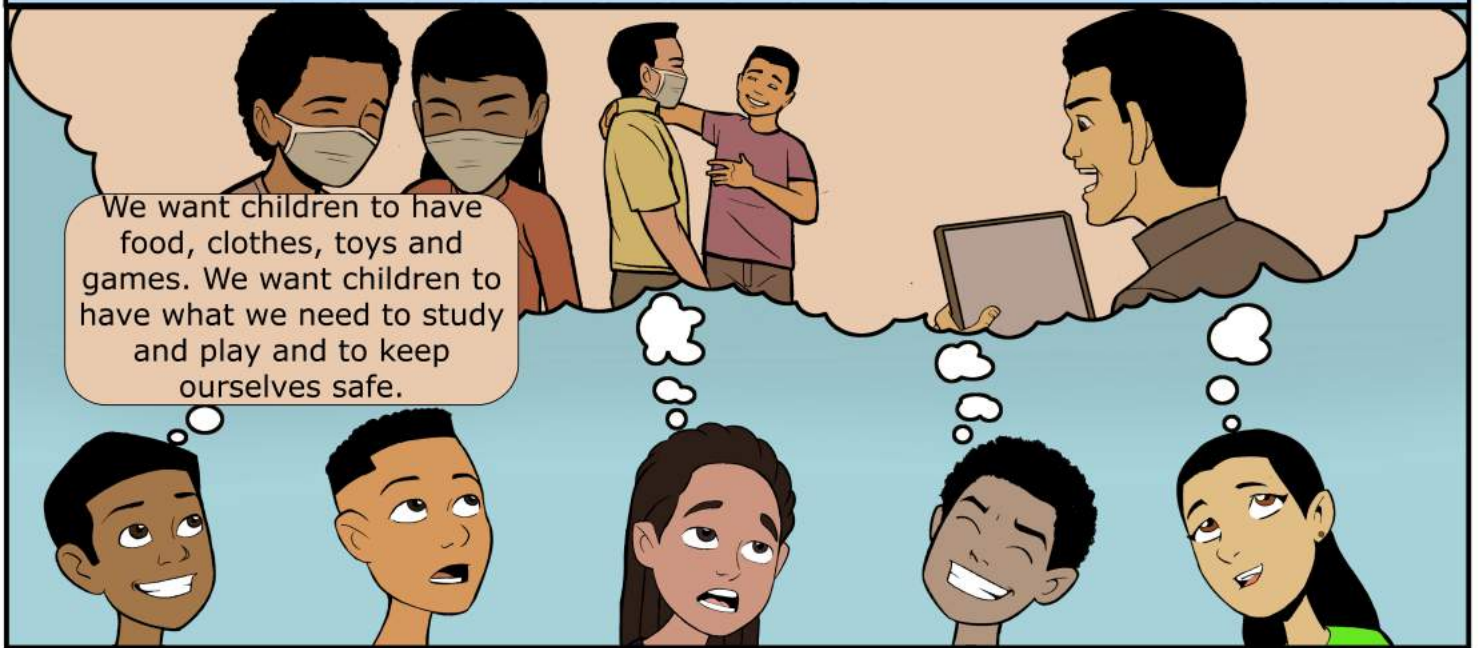


We need a more diverse workforce in hospitals, GPs, politicians teachers. Recruitment should happen with this in mind.

We need more activities and communication for Education in our own languages.



# People in power should invest in services, to support children of colour and their communities to thrive.





# People in power should fight COVID!

Roll the vaccines out faster!

Fund doctors and scientists to work on vaccines!

Maybe kids could start getting vaccines!

Give people clear messages about how to stay safe!







Thank you to all the children and young people who took part in this project, and the adults who supported them.



Thanks to our Community Advisors Tamzin McDonald and Benitha Iradukunda who gave us valuable feedback throughout the project.

Thank you to our young advisors Ashaanka Sarma and Jamal Imran.

And thank you to the artists at New Africa Comics (NAC) for bringing this research to life.

# NAC

To create this comic book, we used direct quotes from children themselves, which were then visualised by the artists at New Africa Comics. In some places we have paraphrased children's quotes, for clarity. Sometimes parents gave their own perspectives, and we have included these at times.



