

EXEPOSÉ

— THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1987 —

AMPLIFY – NEW SECTION

2020-21

What is *Amplify*?

***Amplify* is a new section of *Exeposé*, providing a journalistic intersectional platform to focus on anti-racism, uplift the narratives and experiences of BIPOC students and highlight the role and engagement of white students.**

Our university has an extensive history, both past and recent, with racism, colonialism and whiteness. *Exeposé* has frequently covered these topics before however, *Amplify* would better ensure that all areas of our paper consistently include BIPOC voices, both within this new section and our 11 existing ones. Representing our students, we feel that the current level of coverage and diversity on our platform can be improved. We need to do better, especially as a representative of both the University and its students.

The purpose of this new section is to amplify the voices of BIPOC at our university. Their experiences, their culture and their narratives. To address our whiteness, it is also important that this section has an educational role, providing resources as well as a platform. Importantly, having our white students also engaging in this section is key in order to not speak over BIPOC voices but to also use privileged voices to create change.

Amplify is an inclusive and intersectional platform - it is not exclusive to any one group. It is key, as we are seeing every day, that white people and non-black POC are engaging, educating themselves and, in this case, writing. With such a predominantly white student body, this engagement in issues unlikely experienced and often unnoticed is key to progression. Therefore, this will be a collaborative work with existing sections and other societies. *Amplify* needs to be representative and inclusive.

This section cannot be used as a way to decentre BIPOC voices and box them in one section. It is a collaborative effort of all sections to create intersectional, inclusive content.

Unless we confront, we can't change.

Section outline

The scope for *Amplify* is extensive with the focus being inclusivity of every voice engaging in and practicing anti-racism. To attain this, we hope to see work including but not limited to:

- News articles
- Events coverage
- Personal experiences/testimonials
- Reviews
- Educational resources
- Academic perspectives
- Interviews

Amplify has the aim to be a collaborative hub of content from Exeter, bringing our past and present into the spotlight, in a way *Exeposé* hasn't done before.

Amidst Covid-19, *Exeposé* has moved online with both our print and online editors working to keep the paper going. Therefore, *Amplify* will debut online and make its way into Print in the new academic year. It will be a section that platforms BIPOC narratives within the university but also collaborates with intersectional content in other existing sections.

Authorship:

Usually, *Exeposé* works on a membership basis which gives you access to having your own WordPress account crediting you as an author. However, as a committee, we will not provide a platform for BIPOC voices and issues that can only be used if people pay. Therefore, we will upload articles and pieces under a new email, amplify@exepose.com. Authors will then be credited in subtitles and at the end of works as normal.

Content production:

For our 11 other sections, *Exeposé* works on biweekly content calls where section editors come up with article ideas. However, as this is a new section which is being built collaboratively with other committees, we suggest that we start with pitches from members of African-Caribbean Society, FemSoc, LGBTQ+ Society and Queer and BAME Society and a content call for the *Exeposé* committee. We hope this will start a foundational balance between news based and opinion-based pieces, as well as personal experiences as listed above. We have never before worked in this way so this idea is a suggestion which can be adjusted over time to find the best strategy to create content for *Amplify*.

Collaboration

Collaboration will be one of the key cogs for *Amplify*. With a predominantly white committee, we are aware of not speaking for any groups which is why we have set up *Amplify* in a collaborative effort from African-Caribbean Society, FemSoc, LGBTQ+ Society and Queer and BAME Society to make sure this is intersectional. Finally, we will also be reaching out to other international and BIPOC societies to widen our network and be inclusive of all communities.

Additionally, to integrate this into the rest of *Exeposé*, we will not only encourage current writers and editors to write for *Amplify*, but to have collaborative works between the current sections and *Amplify*. E.g. a review of *Selma* (film) would come under both *Screen* and *Amplify* and it could also be the work of two or more writers to gain both the film review and the BIPOC/cultural perspective.

From talking to African-Caribbean Society, some feedback included,

'further representation, so perhaps having in more Guest Writers during Black History Month and around serious topical events to provide coverage with our own voices.'

*'This is probably asking a lot- but we want **understanding!** So many microaggressions and discrimination faced by ACS members is due to ignorance and lack of understanding of cultural differences. So with this new section it should **embrace and educate on different cultures** for those who don't necessarily get to interact with them. I think it could be a*

learning experience for everyone, but most significant for the white privileged population at the University.'

The need and excitement for this section is there and *Amplify* is the answer to this.

A long-term effort

As a committee, we endeavour to create long term change that lasts even after our tenure. Exeter needs a culture change and an educative platform outside of our degrees. We want a plan that works consistently and continuously.

Amplify is that plan.

However, in order to achieve this, we will need to create a really strong foundation this year, building up a body of work that makes the purpose of *Amplify* clear. We also hope that in the collaborative efforts of multiple societies, this will also help to create change and intersection within the Exeter student body, beyond of *Exeposé*.