

Newsletter



Network News:

Recognition of SMEWN is improving as we continue to promote the network through the funder's channels - Inspiring Scotland's Equality and Human Rights fund and the Scottish Government's Race Equality Team.

With intersectionality issues arising, space is being made for the voices of ethnic minority women in Scotland in the public sector! This is welcome news, among the exhaustion of repeating the same matters over decades.

This pandemic has changed everyone's life. Public policies are being shaped to help communities recover, and we need to be involved in this transformation. We want to know:

What are YOUR **top 3 priorities**?

IN PERSON MEET-UP

in September
Watch out for our email!



**NETWORKING &
COMMUNICATIONS
NOW ON WHATSAPP**

Contact Farah for details on how to join | Members only

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cemio | Race
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SCOTLAND

**Equality and
Human Rights**

Follow us on...



About SMEWN

The Scottish Minority Ethnic Womens Network (SMEWN) has been developed by CEMVO Scotland in order to address the issues of intersectionality and to ensure that women of colour living in Scotland have a voice in shaping the issues that affect them.

Network members are not only ethnically diverse but also, diverse in terms of skills, experience, and knowledge that they bring to the Network, with a mixture of professional and individual women with different needs.

The purpose of the Network is to:

- To develop a Network led by Minority Ethnic Women for Minority Ethnic Women, providing a safe place to discuss the issues that affect them and empowering them to tackle those issues through engagement, support, training and mentoring.
- The vision of Scottish Minority Ethnic Network is to provide a recognised platform for their inclusive participation across the political, social and economic landscape of Scotland.

Please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/F543ENL7N5>

Do you have something to share in the SMEWN newsletter?
Please email smewn@outlook.com

To build on the professional networking opportunities of ethnic women in Scotland, follow, like and share our posts on social media platforms (link below):

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Scottish-Minority-Ethnic-Womens-Network-1354244751366726>

Twitter: @SMEWN1

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/scottish-minority-ethnic-womens-network>

Elevate Your Voice

*"We need to control the narrative" and be at the forefront of policy design.
But how?*



We promote **diversity**, by highlighting the need to have **US** at the table,
We promote **inclusion** by empowering *each other* to use our voices,
and now it's time to **belong**, and use those platforms to *have our voices heard*.



**JOIN THE ALLIANCE'S
WOMEN'S HEALTH PLAN
(WHP)
LIVED EXPERIENCE
STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**FEED INTO
THE DESIGN OF
THE NATIONAL
CARE SERVICE**



Colleagues in the National Care Service team are looking to speak to specific communities about their experiences of social care. If you can contribute, please contact:

Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed
Partnership Development Officer,
Coalition of Carers in Scotland
07751576680 |
shubhanna@carersnet.org
www.carersnet.org

The WHP Lived Experience Stakeholder Group will use their lived experience to:

- Engage with Scottish Government and NHS Scotland officials within the WHP's governance structure, to shape policy and practice
- Identify the strategic priority objectives to involve lived experience within the implementation of the WHP
- Provide perspectives to help bridge gendered data gaps in experiences of healthcare and services in Scotland
- Identify and promote examples of good practice with regards women's health in Scotland
- Raise awareness of the importance of closing a gender health gap and empower other women and girls around their health and wellbeing

Entails:

- Meeting virtually **twice** annually.
- Opportunities to participate (an ad) in external meetings, consultations and focus groups.

The first meeting of the Group will be 23rd
August 12.15-13.30 .

If you are interested then please email
whp@alliance-scotland.org.uk

How can we make Scotland a safe place for women and girls?

Share your ideas and stories to help shape our strategy.



Your opportunity to influence Police Scotland's new strategy to end violence against women and girls. They want to hear from all communities, so that your experiences and ideas inform what they do.

If you are aged 16 or above, we want to learn more about your experiences. Share your story via ➡ <https://bit.ly/3lBJtgC>

Share your ideas about what we can do within and with Scotland's communities to end violence against women and girls. Let's all work together. To take part, visit ➡ <https://bit.ly/3cfsPr9>

Professional Development Opportunities

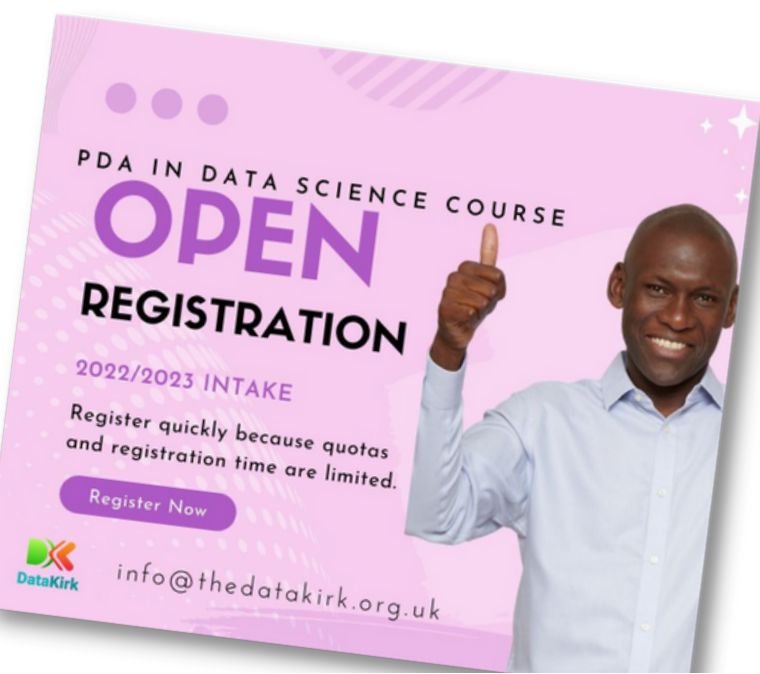


SMEWN met with Esther Abida and Chuks Ododo, this month to learn more about the organisation.

DataKirk is a grassroots community movement focusing on data science and analysis training with our focus to upskill ethnic minorities within this sector. "We (our communities) have talent that needs to be involved work together to focus on our professional development and evolving".

DataKirk are unique because they have a cross diversity and inter-generational approach.

"WE ARE IN A DATA DRIVEN ECONOMY. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ETHNIC MINORITIES ARE BEING ACTUALLY REPRESENTED IN THE DATA THAT IS BEING USED TO FORM POLICIES THAT AFFECT ALL OF OUR LIVES."



MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Name: Farah Farzana

Occupation: Race Equality Mainstreaming Officer, CEMVO Scotland. Board Member of Al Masaar SCIO, Chair of SNP BAME Network, mum, graduate of MSc (merit) in Education, Public Policy and Equity.

Hobbies/Interests:

Farah thrives as a community activist, which is a source of motivation in her life; she has a blog to publish her creative writing pieces and views on a variety of matters (www.lifeinthefazlane.home.blog) and a YouTube channel (Life in the Faz Lane). Farah also enjoys the outdoors, DIY and joining in her children's activities.

What inspirational message would you like to share that has contributed to your success?

"I found my voice once I educated myself about my rights as a Muslim woman. Increasing our knowledge and connections helps us to understand our place in the world. If we keep to ourselves and stuck in the home, we cannot progress (and keep up) with the next generation."

"Motivation to improve your quality of life can only be driven by you, not anyone else and not your circumstances – although they can influence you."

"Keep your expectations low, but your standards high."

"Lived experiences are equally important as professional experiences, as a mum, I have developed my skills in active listening, negotiating and leadership! As a survivor of domestic abuse, I have learned to accept my 'new' self and become a resonating leader."

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Follow us on...



Results/Outcomes

As part of a Human Rights Approach, it is crucial to apprise members and contributors to consultations they have participated in. This space will be used to communicate outcomes/results of the input of SMEWN