

Newsletter



Network News:

We have had meetings in May and June to further scope out the remit and plans of SMEWN. The resulting outcomes are:

- Using our experiences to **Elevate Your Voices** in Public consultations and working groups (pg 3-4)
- Professional Development Opportunities (pg 5)
- A code of conduct to uphold professional standards within the Network, acknowledging inter-generational and intersectionality amongst members.
- Use our collective knowledge, experiences and voices to influence high level decisions
- Focus on **top 3 priorities** for ethnic minority women in Scotland



**NETWORKING &
COMMUNICATIONS
NOW ON WHATSAPP**

Contact Farah for details on how to join | Members only

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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

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



ALLIANCE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
ALLIANCE SCOTLAND
people at the centre

The WHP is in its implementation phase, and aims to improve women's health inequalities by raising awareness around women's health, and improving access to health care. The ALLIANCE is therefore setting up a Lived Experience Stakeholder Group to support the implementation of the WHP.

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

The WHP Lived Experience Stakeholder Group will meet virtually twice annually, with opportunities for members to participate on an ad hoc basis in external meetings, consultations and focus groups. **The first meeting of the Group will be 23rd August 12.15-13.30.**

The ALLIANCE is committed to ensuring that the Group is representative of a range of experiences, and will ensure the involvement of women across Protected Characteristics, backgrounds and locations.

We are looking for **20 people** to join the Group, but recognise that people may wish to withdraw as their circumstances change and new members added on a rolling basis.



If you are interested then please email whp@alliance-scotland.org.uk by **20th July 2022** telling us why you wish to join the Group. We will then provide joining forms, privacy statement and equalities monitoring forms.

Colleagues in the National Care Service team are looking to speak to specific communities about their experiences of social care. If you would like to feed into the design of the National Care Service, please contact:



Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed

Partnership Development Officer, Coalition of Carers in Scotland

07751576680 | shubhanna@carersnet.org

www.carersnet.org

The independent strategic review of funding and commissioning of violence against women and girls services: **call for evidence**

The review will only succeed if it can draw on a broad range of views and evidence which looks at the experiences of individuals and organisations. Your input will be invaluable in shaping the development of a new funding model that will ensure better outcomes for women, children and young people experiencing all forms of gender based violence.

<https://consult.gov.scot/violence-against-women-team/violence-against-women-and-girls-services/>

Farah will have an online drop in session on Friday 15 July.

Please email FarahFarzana@cemvoscotland.org.uk for more details.

1 August
2022

Entries for the Saroj Lal Award for a Pioneering Spirit in Equality and Diversity is OPEN

Considering the lifetime achievements of Saroj, and her ongoing pioneering endeavours to fight for equality and diversity, it is with great pleasure that GTC Scotland honours The Saroj Lal Award for a Pioneering Spirit in Equality and Diversity. The Award has been created to identify and celebrate the efforts of colleagues who, like Saroj, actively challenge discrimination, demonstrating a pioneering spirit and determination, in a bid to promote and facilitate a culture and ethos of equality and diversity. **The deadline for submissions is 1 September 2022.** More info: <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/news/saroj-lal-award/>

Professional Development Opportunities

Dechomai has partnered with School for Social Entrepreneurs and PwC to bring you the Black Entrepreneurs Start Up Programme Scotland.

Kick start your journey and maximise your impact with this free learning programme in partnership with PwC and Dechomai. Over three years this programme will support 30 Black entrepreneurs in Scotland to start up and grow their business and impact.

You will get:

Regular learning sessions

Facilitated group work

Virtual Action Learning sets

1:1 support from a PwC mentor

PwC Masterclasses

Access to a thriving network of Black social entrepreneurs in Scotland.

<https://www.the-sse.org/courses/black-social-entrepreneurs-start-up-scotland/>



Black Social Entrepreneurs Start Up Programme Scotland

- Free learning programme and virtual action learning sets
- 1:1 support from a PwC mentor
- Join a network of Black social entrepreneurs

Applications open May 16th



school for
social
entrepreneurs



Black Social Entrepreneurs



Start Up Programme Scotland



school for
social
entrepreneurs



There are 45 spaces available in our fully funded **Data Science Training & Future of Work Skills Training** specifically designed for BAME aged 16 – 24 living in Edinburgh.

We are offering eligible BAME individuals the chance to undertake SCQF Level 4 training from 01 July 2022 to 30 March 2023.



Interested participants, please email esther.idowu@thedatakirk.org.uk

<https://www.thedatakirk.org.uk/>

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



stand with Human Rights Consortium and other 124 civil society organisations across Scotland against the #RightsRemovalBill.

As a signatory of the joint statement to the UK Government, we will continue to amplify the voices of the communities we represent.

COVID-19 and Children of Colour in Scotland: Visions for Change



The findings of this research project can now be found here: <https://www.qmu.ac.uk/research-and-knowledge-exchange/qmu-research/covid-19/impact-of-covid-19-on-children-of-colour-in-scotland/>

About this research

This project centred the views of children of colour living in Scotland. It explored their lived experiences of the pandemic and their visions for change. It was conducted by researchers from Queen Margaret University in Scotland.

This project was funded by the Scottish Funding Council (Research Funding to Mitigate the Effects of COVID-19 on the Research Base). Thank you to Pavitra Sharma for highlighting this research to the SMEWN.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Name: Niharika Noakes



Occupation: Policy, Advocacy and Communications Lead, Scottish Business Resilience Centre; Board member, Feniks Centre; Co-founder, 16 Days of Action Against Gender-based Violence Edinburgh Chapter; Diversity & Inclusion Specialist – Consultant

Hobbies/Interests: Niharika enjoys talking all things diversity, equality and inclusion in her spare time. When she's not doing that, or working as full time mummy, Niharika is working as a human rights defenders to protect the rights of women and children in distress through various third sector organisations. In her spare time, she enjoys long walks in the woods, cooking her cultural food painting, reading and backpacking across Europe and her country India.

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

In this day and age of free speech and freedom of expression, nothing can and should stop us voicing our opinions when it comes to advocating equality, a fair society and human rights. This has been my mantra since I was 16 years old and starting working with various charities because the injustice that I could witness around me was not okay with me. I started my journey with small charities in Punjab (India) and looked up to my role models (Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, John Lewis, Greta Thunberg to name a few) that has helped me stay motivated to continue working towards the cause of equality for all. My message to everyone who feels the same way is to not lose hope and to stay inspired because every little effort counts and nothing in the world is more rewarding than helping and supporting those who cannot do it themselves, and providing a voice to the voiceless.

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