

GM VCSE Leadership Group BAME Statement

All Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, and BAME-led organisations, are an integral part of the fabric that makes up Greater Manchester (GM).

Many BAME communities face injustice and are not given a fair chance to do well. There is a huge challenge to change the economic, social and political inequalities. We recognise these problems are caused by all of us and must be resolved by all of us, working together.

We are at a juncture where we can improve things - or allow them to get worse. We must work together with communities and across all sectors to create a better future in which everyone enjoys the same freedoms, rights and opportunities in Greater Manchester.

The GM VCSE Leadership Group welcomes the GMCA proposal to establish a Race Equality Panel (3 June 2020). We also support a GM-specific review of the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities. We pledge to play our part in ensuring this agenda moves from words to actions.

We recognise that there is systematic and structural racism in our own sector.

To address this, we pledge to:

- prioritise candid and honest conversations about racism and structural barriers in our sector
- actively value and enable the voices of BAME people and communities in decision-making across GM
- support our own BAME staff and volunteers, actively encouraging BAME people in leadership
- play our part in educating and empowering the VCSE sector so we can tackle racism in all its forms
- support local and national campaigning for racial justice
- promote access to funding for BAME-led groups and organisations, and promote new funding and organisational models that redress financial inequity.

Support this Statement

If your organisation would like to join us in supporting the pledges above, please [sign here](#) and show your commitment to facilitating change. We will update this statement with all signatories in due course.

Supporters as at 22nd July 2020

Simone Spray	42nd Street
Liz Windsor-Welsh,	Action Together
David Haynes	Age UK Salford
Julia Savage	Asylum Matters
Priscilla Nkwenti	BHA
Michele Scattergood	Breakthrough UK
Charles Kwaku-Odoi	CAHN, Faith Network for Manchester (Co Chair)

Rachel Howley	Citizens Advice GM
Lynne Stafford	Gaddum
Atiha Chaudry	GM BME Network (Chair)
Hayley Lever	GM Moving/Greater Sport
Graham Whitham	GM Poverty Action Group
Alex Whinnom	GMCVO
Khadija Tily	Kashmir Youth Project
Paul Martin	LGBT Foundation
Mike Wild	MACC
Stewart Lucas	Mind
Joanne Walby	Mustard Tree
Alison Page	Salford CVS
Priti Butler	The Big Life Group
Gail Heath	The Pankhurst Trust
Chris Dabbs	Unlimited Potential
Warren Escadale	VSNW