



ETHNIC MINORITY NATIONAL RESILIENCE NETWORK

Prime Minister Boris Johnson
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

28 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: No recourse to public funds (NRPF)

As community organisations that work directly with individuals and families who experience the direct consequences of having ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF), we urge you to timeously respond to your commitment made at the UK Parliament Liaison Committee on Tuesday 27th May 2020 to ensure that citizens “who live and work here should have support of one kind or another.”

Our members, networks and clients are more likely to live in poverty and overcrowding and work in zero-hours contract and low paid jobs.

Despite our membership, clients and networks contributing significantly to frontline public services like the NHS and fulfilling key-worker positions maintaining the nation’s infrastructure, cleanliness and sustenance supplies, these workers affected by NRPF do not have access to the same state rights and support as their friends, neighbours and colleagues.

For those in employment, this is case for ‘child tax credit’. For those whose employment has collapsed due to Covid-19 and who were already engaged in precarious self- or zero-hour contract employment, there is no safety net of furloughing or state support. These people, including a significant number of young families presently, have no income and no formal state support.

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We remind the UK and devolved Governments that the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) to which the UK is a signatory prohibits discriminatory treatment on the basis of nationality and conclude that the continuation of this policy, enhanced at a time of national emergency, represents a material and unjustifiable denial of the human rights of some workers, students and others on an equal basis with other citizens due to their nationality.

Thus, we call on the UK Government to immediately discard the NRPF policy and enable everyone in the country to access state support on an equal and fair basis, on the basis of need, to the benefit of our entire society.

On behalf of the Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network Scotland (EMNRS):

Micheline Brannan – Chairperson,
BEMIS Scotland

Margaret Gibb – Refugee Survival
Trust

Vicky Wan – Children in Scotland

Ephraim Borowski – Scottish Council
of Jewish Communities

Justyna Majewska – Fife Migrants
Forum

Magdalene Enearu – NAJRA Helping
Hands

Dr Raj Bhopal – Emeritus Professor of
Public Health Edinburgh Migration,
Ethnicity and Health Research Group,
University of Edinburgh)

Asma Abdalla – Chairperson,
Empower Women for Change

Peter Ross – Minority Ethnic Carers
of People Project (MECOPP)

Nina Munday – Fife Centre for
Equalities

Consolata Ogbemor – Stronger
Together Enterprise

Emeka Onyekwere – Friends for All
Project

Virginia Radcliffe – CEO & Artistic
Director, Licketyspit (Children &
Families Network)

Thomas Buik – Chairperson, SAPC
Community Sports Hub

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Khaleda Noon - Founder and Executive Director, Intercultural Youth Scotland

Patrick Callaghan - Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Janos Lang - Ando Glaso, Roma Community Cultural Organisation

Davie Donaldson - Scottish Traveller Advocate and Social Justice Campaigner, Progress in Dialogue

Trishna Singh OBE - Founder/Director Sikh Sanjog, Punjabi Junction Social Enterprise Project

Dave Black - Grampian Regional Equality Council

Magda Czarnecka - FENIKS Counselling, Personal Development and Support Centre

Jenni Keenan - PKAVS, Perth and Kinross Minority Communities Hub

Carol Alexander - Poverty Truth Community

Adnan Miyasar - Fife Arabic Society

Rajnish Singh - President, Scottish Indian Arts Forum, Edinburgh Diwali Board member

Subhash Sethy - Jhankar Beats

Dr Elwira Grossman - GRAMNet; Polish Community Scotland

Dr Clare Daly - Project Manager, Highland Migrant and Refugee Advocacy (HiMRA)

Margaret Lance - Women in Action

Fariha Thomas - Youth Community Support Initiative (YCSA)

Fiona Crombie - Freedom from Torture

CC: Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland

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Scottish Indian Arts Forum



HiMRA
HIGHLAND MIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVOCACY



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The Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network (Scotland)

The Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network (EMNRN) was set up on Friday 20th March 2020 in response to the national emergency. The network is coordinated by BEMIS Scotland and has 75 member organisations across Scotland.

Full network details and access to funding, counselling and other support are available here: bemis.org.uk/emnrn

The network is a collaboration of organisations who all fall within the scope of Article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination protections on the basis of colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, thus no exclusions are permitted on the basis of a racial characteristic or on the basis of communities' immigration status.

The network includes long standing ethnic minority communities (Pakistani, Jewish, Irish, Indian, Polish and others), what are termed newer 'migrants' (Polish, Romanian, Roma, African [various] and others) and what are termed as asylum seekers, refugees and some organisations who support undocumented migrants. Our evidence indicates that all of these communities are facing challenges as a result of the social and medical impact of this public health crisis and as such we are committed to supporting each other and Scottish society more broadly.

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